

# WOMEN CREATING CHANGE

## The Women Creating Change Leadership Council

Columbia University's Women Creating Change Leadership Council is comprised of individuals who are committed to the exploration of issues which affect women and the ways in which women address global gender challenges. The mission of the Council is to promote interdisciplinary collaborative research and to sponsor events that publicize this important work. Council members will assist the faculty in framing how their academic endeavors can create greater impact. The WCC Leadership Council will provide a critical link between the University's faculty-led projects and the global business, academic, and civil society.

### About Women Creating Change

Women Creating Change engages distinguished feminist scholars from diverse fields throughout Columbia University and the world who focus on contemporary global problems affecting women and on the roles women play in responding to these problems and influencing solutions.

### Council Membership

WCC Council members represent a cross section of thought leaders in business, law, education, government, non-profit organizations, and civil society. A diversity of perspectives is an important aspect of the Council's leadership and thus members will represent a wide range of experience, background, and geographic location.

### Responsibilities Include:

1. Participating in discussions on current and proposed new projects.
2. Working with the faculty of WCC in determining how to enhance the impact of WCC research.
3. Serving as an ambassador and advocate for the programs by facilitating connections to and encouraging the ongoing exchange of information and ideas with practitioners, potential research sponsors, interested community organizations and other appropriate external constituencies.
4. Attending and inviting other interested parties to panel discussions, lectures, and performances sponsored by WCC.
5. Assisting in the identification and recruitment of new Council members.
6. Providing objective guidance and feedback on development strategies.
7. Supporting the upcoming 10th Anniversary event to be held September 27-28, 2018.

### Projects

- The **Gender and the Global Slum** research project explores how gender relations are impacted by material impoverishment and social segregation. This project looks at the social hazards of urban informality and its disproportionate effects on women.
- The **Women Mobilizing Memory** research project explores the politics of memory in the aftermath of the atrocities of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries in comparative global perspective. The international working group analyzes the strategies by which women artists, scholars and activists have succeeded in mobilizing the memory of gender-based violence to promote redress, social justice, and a democratic future.
- **Gender Religion and Law in Muslim Societies** research project studies the unique forms of women's activism across the Muslim world, looking at how efforts by women to work within an explicitly religious framework enable them to participate more fully in public debates

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## Publications

- The published essay, “**The Politics of Feminist Politics**” compares the work of feminist scholars in South Asia and the Middle East and highlights the silences and exclusions that mark the hallmarks of how “feminism” and “Islam” are understood in those regions. [*Lila Abu-Lughod, December 2015*]
- The book, “**Toward an Intellectual History of Black Women**” is collection of essays by scholars which establishes black women's places in intellectual history by engaging the work of writers, educators, activists, religious leaders, and social reformers in the United States, Africa, and the Caribbean. [*Mia E. Bay, Farah J. Griffin, Martha S. Jones, Barbara D. Savage, April 2015*]
- Exhibition catalogue, “**Collaborative Archives: Connective Histories Exhibit Catalogue**” documents an exhibit in Columbia’s Neiman Gallery in conjunction with Women Mobilizing Memory. [*Işın Önel, Katherine Cohn, curators, September 2015*]
- Walking tour guide, “**Mobilizing Memory: A Walk Through Harlem**” directs our gaze through history to spotlight stories that risk being engulfed by the evolution of time and by current politics shaping Harlem, New York. The intersectional lens brings to light conflicts not only over race but also class, gender, and sexuality, all of which have defined the communities and the arts of Harlem. [*Ertuğ Altınay Henry Castillo Andrea Crow Nicole Gervasio Alyssa Greene Leticia Robles-Moreno, 2015*]

## Courses

- Lila Abu-Lughod’s course, “**Women and Gender Politics in the Muslim World**”, explores how practices like veiling, seclusion, and the honor code that are central to Western images of women and Islam are also contested issues throughout the Muslim world. This course examines the use of Islamic textual material in debates about gender, sexuality, and morality and explores the interplay of cultural, social, political and economic factors in shaping women’s and men’s lives in the Muslim world. This course emerges from the research project on Gender Religion and Law in Muslim Societies.
- Marianne Hirsch’s course, “**Narrating Rape: Testimony, Gender, Violence**”, explores how rape has been imaged, written and told in the face of the silences surrounding it, and how the act of bearing witness can become an act of resistance, rebuilding voice, subjectivity and community. This course emerges from the “Reframing Gendered Violence research project.