

Thursday, 4 December 2025,
10.00 to 18.00



Workshop
The Ambivalent
Politics of ‘Protection’:
Feminist Struggles in
Right-Wing Times

**LMU-NYU Research
Cooperation Program**

The Ambivalent Politics of ‘Protection’: Feminist Struggles in Right-Wing Times

The political demand for ‘protection’, along with calls for security and control, lies at the heart of right-wing populist discourse. Thereby, the defense of a culturally defined nation becomes inseparable from the proclaimed ‘protection’ of women. Across the world, the protection of minoritized populations from violence has likewise been a central concern of feminist movements. Yet, feminist struggles have always reached far beyond mere ‘protection’: they advocate self-determination, education and prevention, social justice, and peace - values that directly challenge right-wing agendas.

Against the backdrop of the current right-wing times, this workshop explores how the notion of ‘protection’ is shaped and contested in the U.S. and the European context in different political fields. How does the racist and anti-migration instrumentalization of ‘protection’ of women affect current feminist struggles? What strategies have they developed to resist such co-optation? To what extent can anti-racist and decolonial approaches shape a transnational feminist response that bridges the worlds of academia and activism?

10.00–10.30

Welcome and Introduction

Miriam Gutekunst (LMU)

Framing Comments

Radha S. Hegde (NYU)

10.30–12.00

‘Protection’ as (Feminist) Political Strategy?

Moderation and Comments: Ananya Mehra | LMU

- Miriam Gutekunst (LMU): The instrumentalization of ‘women’s protection’ and feminist counter strategies in the post migrant society
- Mona Aglan (Orient Express e.V., Vienna [AT]): A report on intersectional feminist struggles of and for migrant women in Austria

12:00–14:00 Lunch

14.00–15.30

Intersectional Feminist Activism in the U.S.

Moderation and Comments: Radha S. Hegde (NYU)

- Navneet Bhalla (Manavi, New Jersey [USA])
- Yin Quan (Red Canary Song, New York [USA])

15.30–16.00 Break

16.00–17.00

‘Protection’ as a State Policy in the Context of Labor Migration

Moderation and Comments: Valentina Moraru (LMU)

- Haneul Lee (NYU): Film “A Letter to the Letter” (2024, 10min): Presentation and Discussion

17.00–18.00

Building Bridges: Academia and Activism in Dialogue

- Final Comments: Gabriella Etmektsoglou (NYU Berlin)
- Open discussion
- Wrap up: Miriam Gutekunst and Radha S. Hegde

18.00 Dinner

Location:

Ludwig-Maximilians-University
Pettenkoferstr. 12 // D024
80336 Munich

Organizing team:

Dr. Miriam Gutekunst

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Prof. Dr. Radha Sarma Hegde

(Media, Culture and Communication |
New York University)