

# 3<sup>rd</sup> World Conference on Women's Studies 2017

*"Building Resilience: Dialogue, Collaboration and Partnerships across Our Differences"*

4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> May 2017 – Colombo, Sri Lanka



**Post Conference Report**

## Overview

The International Conference on Women's Studies 2017 (WCWS 2017) was held from the 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. WCWS 2017 was hosted by the Bridgewater State University, United States and the conference was organized by The International Institute of Knowledge Management (TIKM) Sri Lanka. Nepal Center for Contemporary Research - Nepal, Center for Women's Studies, University of Karachi – Pakistan, Graduate School of Christian Studies, Rikkyo University- Japan, International Centre for Research on Women - United States enriched the conference as academic partners.

The Conference witnessed the participation of 101 participants representing 25 countries across the world. The countries include: Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, China, Egypt, Germany, India, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Ivory Coast, Japan, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Spain, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Trinidad & Tobago, United Kingdom and United States.

## Welcome address was delivered by the Program Chair

Mr. Isanka P. Gamage  
Managing Director  
The International Institute of Knowledge Management  
(TIKM), Sri Lanka



## Speech by the Conference Chair

Professor and Chairperson,  
Department of Anthropology,  
Journal of International Women's Studies,  
Bridgewater State University  
United States



## Keynote Speeches were delivered by,

Prof. Patricia Mohammed  
Professor of Gender and Cultural Studies,  
Chair,  
School for Graduate Studies and Research at the University  
of the West Indies  
Trinidad and Tobago



Dr. Ravi Verma  
Regional Director  
International Centre for Research on Women's (ICRW)  
India



Ms. Neela Marikkar  
Chairperson/Managing Director  
Grant Group  
Sri Lanka



## Student Gathering at WCWS 2017

The Student gathering of the conference was held on the first day of the conference with student participants and it was conducted by Professor Diana. J. Fox (Conference Chair) Chairperson, Department of Anthropology, Journal of International Women's Studies, Bridgewater State University, United States. The occasion was a golden opportunity for international students who keen to address women's and gender related issues in single international platform. The conference was graced and enriched by students, new innovative views and ideas through this moment.



## Round Table Discussion at WCWS 2017

The round table discussion which was graced by participants from all over the world and they shared their knowledge and experiences at the moment.



## Session Best Presentation Awards

### Session 1

#### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

**A.N. Ahmad**

International Psychoanalytic University Berlin  
Germany

“Narratives of Suffering and Notions of Solidarity and Hope amongst Young Women in Afghanistan”



### Session 2

#### HEALTH AND WELL-BEING: BODY AND MIND

Yun Zhou  
Peking University  
China

“Gendered Care of the Elderly in China”



### Session 3

#### LEGAL CHALLENGES: GENDER AND SEXUALITY

Smita Gyan  
Neeva Foundation  
India

“An Effort for the Women, by the Women, to Empower Them and Create Awareness about Decreasing Child Sex Ratio in India”



### Session 4

#### SOCIAL MEDIA, FEMINISMS AND ENTERTAINMENT

B.A.H.C Mendis  
General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University  
Sri Lanka

“Seeker are You Protected: Facebook and Privacy Concern of Women in Sri Lanka”



### Session 5 and 7

#### WOMEN, GENDER, EMPOWERMENT AND THE LAW

Syed Tanveer Nasreen  
The University of Burdwan  
India

“Justice and Muslim Women: The Status of Triple Talaq in India Today”



## Session 6

### REPRESENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

Nima Mesbahi  
Doha Institute for Graduate Studies  
Qatar

“Western Representation of The “Muslim Woman”:  
From Obedient to Exotic”



## Session 8

### WOMEN'S LIVES IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Samia Khalid  
Islamia University of the Bahawalpur  
Pakistan

“Women Empowerment in the Bahawalpur State  
during Nineteenth Century”



## Session 9

### GENDER AND EDUCATION

Meher Beenita Landesa  
India

“Care Work by Adolescent Girls, A Major Determinant  
of School Drop Out in Odisha”



## Session 10

### UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF FEMINISMS AND WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS

Niveditha Menon, Priyanka Dutta and Neha Ghatak  
Centre for Budget and Policy Studies  
India

“The Individual and the Collective: Understanding the Empowerment Process of Mahila Samakhya in India”



## Session 11

### WOMEN'S STORIES: WRITING, LITERATURE AND RITUAL

Jannatul Ferdoush  
ASA University Bangladesh  
Bangladesh

“Edna’s ‘Moments of Being’ and ‘Wild Zone’ of Female Sexuality : A Gynocritical Study of Kate Chopin’s The Awakening”



## Session 12

### WOMEN'S LABOR AND MIGRATION

Vijayapala Sinnathamby  
University of Moratuwa  
Sri Lanka

“Involvement of Women in Municipal Solid Waste Composting in Sri Lanka”





### Session 13

#### POLITICAL ECONOMY AND WOMEN'S AGENCY

**R. Farhana**

University of Cambridge  
United Kingdom

“Narratives of Agency: Women’s Negotiations within a Gendered Third Space in Afghanistan”



### Session 14 and 15

#### WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT, POLITICS, AND THE PROFESSIONS

Deborah Menezes  
University of Edinburgh  
United Kingdom

“Struggles, Truces and Persistence: Everyday Experiences of Women Engineers in Sri Lanka”



### Session 16

#### WAR, VIOLENCE, AND STRUGGLES FOR PEACE

Bishnu Raj  
Nepal Centre for Contemporary Research  
Nepal

“Mapping of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Activities for Female Ex-Combatants in Nepal”



## STUDENT BEST

A.N. Ahmad  
International Psychoanalytic University Berlin  
Germany



## OVERALL BEST PRESENTATION

S. Barratt  
University of the West Indies  
West Indies

“Reinforcing Sexism and Misogyny: Social Media,  
Symbolic Violence and the Construction of Femininity-as-Fail”



## DEFINING MOMENTS

### PRESENTATIONS



### CULTURAL SHOW & THE NETWORKING DINNER





## Organizers and Partners

### Organizer



### Hosting Partner



### Academic Partners



### Media Partner



### Strategic Partner



### Tour Partner



### Event Partner



### Official Airline Partner



