



# Public Lecture by Professor Nadjé Al-Ali

*Brown University*

**Beyond exceptionalism and area studies:  
transnational feminist perspectives on anti-gender discourses and politics**

**Datum** 18. März 2025  
**Zeit** 16.15–18.00  
**Ort** Unitobler, F022

# Event Abstract

Global developments have illustrated that gender norms, discourses and policies can no longer be delegated to the sidelines of history and the backrooms of political analysis. At the same time, the rise and rhetoric of right-wing movements across regions as well as the polarization of societies have challenged our previously held ways of categorizing the world. In this talk, Professor Nadjé Al-Ali will explore how a comparative and transnational feminist perspective allows us to move beyond geographically bounded and epistemologically narrow approaches.

She asks:

What are some of the similarities and differences when looking at anti-gender/anti-feminist discourses and policies across the Middle East, Europe and the U.S.?

How do our respective positionalities impact on the ways we talk about and analyze right wing anti-feminist propaganda and mobilization?

What academic and political strategies might help to shift the mainstreaming of anti-gender discourses and politics?

Who are our allies?

Is the enemy of my enemy my friend, or do we need to nuance our position further?

**Nadjé Al-Ali** is Robert Family Professor of International Studies and Professor of Anthropology and Middle East Studies at Brown University.

Her main research interests revolve around feminist activism and gendered mobilization, mainly with reference to Iraq, Egypt, Lebanon, Turkey and the Kurdish political movement.

Her publications include *What kind of Liberation? Women and the Occupation of Iraq* (2009, University of California Press, co-authored with Nicola Pratt); *Women and War in the Middle East: Transnational Perspectives* (Zed Books, 2009, co-edited with Nicola Pratt); *Iraqi Women: Untold Stories from 1948 to the Present* (2007, Zed Books).

More recent publications include *Gender, Governance & Islam* (University of Edinburgh Press, 2019, (co-edited with Deniz Kandiyoti and Kathryn Spellman Poots) and *Resisting Far-Right Politics in the Middle East and Europe: Queer Feminist Critiques* (University of Edinburgh Press, 2024, co-edited with Tunay Altay and Katharina Galor).

Professor Al-Ali is on the advisory board of *kohl: a journal of body and gender research* and has been involved in several feminist organizations and campaigns transnationally.