

Invitation for lectures on conceptualisations of trafficking

The research institutes Fafo and the Rokkan Centre are inviting you to Fafo May 22 10.00-12.30 for lectures by Professor Julia O'Connell Davidson and Dr. Rutvica Andrijasevic on conceptualisations of trafficking. In the last ten years, the phenomenon of trafficking has received a great deal of attention in media, politics and research. This makes it interesting to focus on how the phenomenon and the people involved are portrayed, and on the consequences of this.

The first lecturer is Professor **Julia O'Connell Davidson**. O'Connell Davidson is working at the School of Sociology & Social Policy at the University of Nottingham. She has published extensively on the issue of prostitution and trafficking. Two of her most important publications are the books *Prostitution, Power and Freedom* (1998) and *Children in the Global Sex Trade* (2005).

New Slavery, Old Binaries: Trafficking, Mobility and the State

Dominant discourse on trafficking and new slavery reproduces a series of binary oppositions that have, for some three centuries, served as key pillars of the conceptual framework used to structure, explain and give meaning to the highly unequal social relations of liberal democratic societies, including subject/object, freedom/slavery, consent/force, public/private, modern/traditional, civilised/barbaric. It tells a story in which human rights are violated by barbaric, pre-modern mafias who use force to enslave women and children and trade them as objects in the public sphere of the market. Trafficking and new slavery are thus presented as the very opposite of the kind of freedom that is cherished and promoted in modern liberal democracies, where sovereign subjects freely enter into voluntary, consensual, contractual exchanges with one another in the public realm of economic life, and where children are protected within the private sphere of the family until they reach the maturity of their faculties and can claim self-sovereignty. The moral of the archetypal trafficking and new slavery story is the reassuring news that here in Western liberal democracies, we really are committed to the defence of freedom and human rights. Paying particular attention to the many legal and social fetters that have historically been and are today imposed upon individuals who are socially imagined as 'free', this paper interrogates the binary opposition between slavery and freedom that is so central to liberal thought as well as to contemporary anti-trafficking and anti-slavery campaigns.

The second lecture is held by **Dr. Rutvica Andrijasevic**. Andrijasevic is a Marie Curie Research Fellow at the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Oxford. Her PhD thesis, *Trafficking in women and the politics of mobility in Europe* (2004), was concerned with anti-trafficking campaigns, and she has since then published several articles on anti-trafficking campaigns, migration control and feminism.

(In)conceivable Agents: reconfiguring the political subjectivities in sex trafficking

In this paper Andrijasevic approach the phenomenon known as 'sex trafficking' in terms of articulations of subjectivities and bring to the fore the investments and negotiations trafficked women enact across material and symbolic terrains pertaining to femininity, prostitution and migration. By viewing 'sex trafficking' as a process of subject formation and by examining the agency that 'trafficked' women enact, this paper aims to extend the scholarly analysis of trafficking beyond the discussion that positions women as victims or agents on the basis of whether or not they have been forced into or have 'chosen' prostitution. This approach has broader implications for feminist theorizations of political agency as it points to the limits of the framework that understands agency in terms of the dichotomous logic of domination versus resistance that tends to result in the analytic simplification of subjectivity. The paper argues for an affirmative account of agency that, grounded in the understanding of subjectification as a generative process, permits scholars to theorize on how autonomous subjects emerge from constraint and to recognize the specificity of particular struggles whether articulated across discursive or material terrains. The paper hence engages both material and cultural feminist theories of agency in the effort to further the cause of feminism as a prepositional project capable of inspiring alternative forms of knowledge and action.

If you have any questions regarding the event, please contact **May-Len Skilbrei** (mls@fafo.no) or **Dag Stenvoll** (Dag.Stenvoll@rokk.uib.no).