

# Creating Spaces: Enhancing Multiversal Knowledge

## Production in Gender and Diversity Studies

Project duration in months: 36

Starting date: January 1, 2022

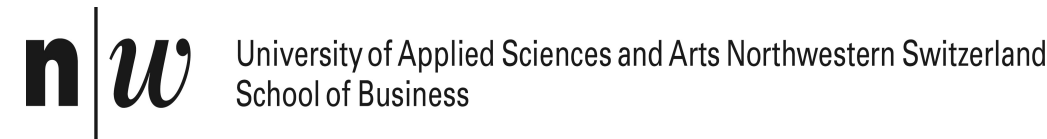
Project leader: Prof Bettina Dennerlein

Lead Institution: University of Zurich



## Swiss and MENA Partners :

- 1) University of Zurich, Department of Gender Studies and Islamic Studies, Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies
- 2) University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland Olten, School of Business
- 3) University of Geneva, Institute for Gender Studies
- 4) ISIS Centre for Women and Development, Fez
- 5) INLAC Centre for Arabic and Islamic Studies, Fez
- 6) Women and Memory Forum, Cairo



Centre ISIS Pour Femmes et Développement



## Objectives :

- 1) Experimental lab for innovative digital and analog spaces for collaborative dialogue and exchange in the field of gender, diversity and related studies
- 2) Participatory approach to learning and knowing; bottom-up teaching; finding creative, multiversal ways of building and disseminating knowledge beyond traditional academic paths; establish formal and informal structures for learning including academic and non-academic audiences
- 3) Rethinking ways of teaching and communicating vertically between students and teachers as well as horizontally among students
- 4) Facilitate and institutionalize bottom-up teaching and learning in the field of gender and diversity studies



## Main activities:

- 1) **Graduate Course** for students (MA level) including all partner institutions: Continuing and consolidating the previously established graduate course “Gender and Diversity in Transcultural Perspective” as a recurring module to be integrated into the regular teaching portfolio of our institutions. Hybrid format combining onsite and online sessions with a focus on transculturality, differentiation and context-sensitivity in the field of gender and diversity studies
- 2) **Peer-mentoring groups** for advanced students, PhD candidates and early career researchers: To form guided peer-mentoring groups between the participating institutions on an individual basis, supervised by our respective experts. Students will engage in writing and reading groups on-site and share their findings among each other. In a second step, the project aims at institutionalizing such formats of inter-university peer-mentoring by integrating them into existing infrastructures for young researchers.



## Main activities:

3) **Lecture series and local workshops:** Each partner institution organizes several such events with topics corresponding to their respective interests. Involves students and researchers to co-design these contents, with activities being organized multilingually. Aims at including both academic audiences as well as practitioners, activists and artists working on or with an interest in the field of gender and diversity.

4) **Sommer School “Transculturality, Gender and Diversity”:** To be held in Beirut at our associated partner institution Lebanese American University in 2023/24 (alternatively in Morocco). The Summer School brings together the different levels of experimental educational lab spaces into two intensive weeks for dialogue and exchange between students, practitioners and experts from Switzerland, Morocco, Egypt, and Lebanon.



## Expected Outcomes :

- 1) Create new dynamics in institutionalizing creative modes for learning and listening at all partner institutions
- 2) Enhance and visibilise gender and diversity studies across the involved institutions
- 3) Facilitating transcultural dialogue and exchange among students
- 4) Anchoring the aforementioned main activities and teaching / exchange programs within our university structures in a permanent and sustainable manner
- 5) Joint publications on the established learning processes plus specific teaching materials developed during the different formats of exchange via open access





## **Risk Management :**

- 1) Political, social and economic instabilities
- 2) Differences in educational systems
- 3) Terminologies and languages in producing and sharing knowledge on gender and diversity

