

call for participants

feminist no borders short course:

inhabiting the borderlands

presented by feminist researchers against borders + the feminist autonomous centre for research

to survive the borderlands
you must live sin fronteras
be a crossroads

- gloria anzaldúa, to live in the
borderlands means you

19-21 june 2019 athens greece



The Feminist No Borders Short Course : Inhabiting the Borderlands is co-organised by members of Feminist Researchers Against Borders, a network of academics and activists, and will be held at the Feminist Autonomous Centre for Research in Athens. Following the 2-day taster workshop held in July 2018 at the National Technical University of Athens, the short course will continue to lay the groundwork for the launch of the full, ten-day summer school in June 2020. Designed in a participatory, experimental manner across 3 years, the Feminist No Borders summer school is imagined as a space of emergent politics and creative socialities. Participants will develop their familiarity with intersectional feminist methodologies, no borders framework, decolonial theory, and queer arts and performance practice, by working collaboratively with community experts, organisers, artists, scholars, from all over the world, and those experiencing and struggling against injustice in their daily lives.

The theme for this year's Short Course is "Inhabiting the Borderlands." Inspired by the visionary words of Gloria Anzaldúa, her commitment to interconnectedness, and her own praxis of dismantling borders to survive borderlands, tarrying with ambiguity to heal open wounds. Anzaldúa defined writing as "gestures of the body." We will experiment with this idea, considering what it might mean for our political practices, our writing and other creative practices, and our relationships with each other to be shaped by a deeper interconnection with our embodiment.

how?

3 days of workshops, discussions, performances, and meetings. There are no participation fees. Most of the meals—since food, and nourishing ourselves and each other is so essential to our embodiment—will be created and shared together by all participants. We will also do our best to find solidarity housing and child-care for participants as needed.

The Feminist No Borders Short Course is made possible through the generous support of the Critical Social Policy Solidarity Fund. The Short Course is a labour of love of the organisers, who are volunteering their time, in the hope and anticipation of meeting, getting to know, and working with... you.

who?

20 participants, who may be researchers at any academic level, or working outside academic institutions, activists, artists, documentarians, journalists, etc. The short course will be of particular interest to those whose work reflects the intersections of no borders, queer, antiracist, anticapitalist, antifascist, and feminist commitments, or who would like to develop their practice in this direction. The Short Course is an LGBTQI+ affirmative space, and the participation of trans, intersex, non-binary, lesbian, gay, bisexual and queer people is encouraged.

what?

Participants will share a work in progress (in any medium) relevant to the theme of the short course. Each presentation will be no longer than 10 minutes, to allow time for discussion and synthesis amongst participants. The Short Course will culminate in a collaborative expression, which participants will co-produce, and a closing assembly, where future interventions may be planned amongst participants.

where?

FAC Research (Agiou Panteleimonos 7) and various locations in the centre of Athens.

when?

June 19-21 2019 (arrive 18 June and depart 22 June).

expression of interest

deadline: 24 april 2019, 11:59 p.m. (eet)

Please include the following in your Expression of Interest (Eol), sent as a single PDF file to criticalfeministnetwork@gmail.com AND feministautonomuscentre@gmail.com:

- 1) Personal information: name (make this also the file name of your Eol), e-mail address; telephone number; place of current residence; affiliation/organisation.
- 2) Background statement (100 words max): discussing your biography/your interest in the theme
- 3) A brief description/sample of work underway you want to share (200 words max, or a video clip of less than 5 minutes, or 5 images) during the short course. Show its connection to the theme, "Inhabiting Borderlands" (in a further 100 words max).
- 4) Any needed accommodations to achieve accessibility and/or childcare needs (number, names, ages, and interests of children), as well as dietary restrictions.

+ If you need solidarity housing, please list any needed accommodations in relation to sleeping arrangements (e.g., specify if you have any allergies, if ableist design creates barriers to your mobility, etc.) If you are a potential local participant who would like to offer solidarity housing, please describe the accommodations you can offer.

++ If you have a limited or no income, and no other sources of funding or travel support, and you want to be considered for a small scholarship, please indicate this in your expression of interest. We have a small amount of money to distribute as scholarships and will prioritise funding to residents of the global south and the european periphery, particularly activists with no academic affiliation, unwaged people, and others facing precarious circumstances.

tentative schedule

Feminist No Borders Short Course : Inhabiting the Borderlands
19-21 June 2019

Tuesday 18 : Arrival in Athens

Wednesday 19 : Breaking Down Borders Between Us

9 am - 10:30 am Yoga in the Park (for all bodies)

10:30 am - 11:30 am Discussion over Picnic Breakfast : Pedagogy

11:30 am - 2 pm Inhabiting the Cracks : Walking through Athens Centre

2 pm - 4 pm Zine Workshop

4 pm - 6 pm Unstructured Time

6 pm - 8 pm Sharing Work Underway

8 pm - 10 pm Deipnosophy

Thursday 20 : Organising Against Borders

10 am - 11 am Breakfast

11 am - 1 pm Community Experts' Workshops

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm Discussion over Lunch : Methodology

3:30 pm - 6 pm Sharing Work Underway

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Unstructured Time

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Presentation of Intersectionality Community Course Collective Text

9:00 pm - 11:00 pm Performance and Discussion

Friday 21 : The Body, the First Border

10 am - 11 am Breakfast

11 am - 1 pm Community Experts' Workshops

1 pm - 2 pm Discussion over Lunch : Embodiment

2 pm - 4 pm Unstructured Time

4 pm - 8:00 pm Collaborative Expression

8:00 - 11:00 Closing Assembly over Farewell Potluck Dinner and Drinks

Saturday 22 : Depart Athens (or not!)

* A finalised schedule will be sent to the registered participants by June 1, 2018

feminist researchers against borders

We are a network of feminist researchers and organizers. We work to dismantle the structures that produce, constrain, criminalise, control, and shape immobilities and mobilities, whether forced, coercive, elective, or otherwise. This includes the borders of the modern nation state and its management of human life and ecology through gender, class, sexuality, racialisation, ableism, citizenship, and colonialism.
<https://frabnet.wordpress.com>.

feminist autonomous centre for research

is a space for learning, reflection, collaboration, support, exchange, knowledge production, political interventions, and trouble-making. Working across and against nation-state and continental borders, disciplinary boundaries, and institutional barriers, we return to the feminist roots of autonomous knowledge production, challenging what counts as legitimate knowledge and who is granted the right to produce and receive it. Our feminisms are queer, trans, intersectional, antiracist, anti-authoritarian, always in plural, reflexive, and internally contested.
www.feministresearch.org.

The Fine Print: Applying for a scholarship, needing or offering solidarity housing, asking for child-care, or any other accommodations will have no relevance in the selection procedure, which will be completed by a committee of organisers according to criteria of (a) relevance of interests/work in progress to the theme and aims of the Short Course; (b) evidence of quality of the work to be presented; (c) internal diversity of the group. Results will be announced to all applicants by e-mail up to one week after the application deadline (May 2, 2019). Incomplete Expressions of Interest, or those submitted after the deadline will not be considered in the selection process. We reserve the possibility of increasing or decreasing the number of participants, without this being a reflection on the worth of the applicants.