

****Call for Papers****

Transforming Theory, Policy, and Practice: Decolonise Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Higher Education (HE)

Organised by: [FemIDEAS](#) & [FemDialogue](#)

Date: 4th – 6th February 2026

Venue: Online

We invite submissions for presentations at this transnational online conference organised by **FemIDEAS** and **FemDialogue**, focused on the topic of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in higher education (HE). This conference is grounded in victim-survivor-centred, feminist, intersectional, decolonial, and abolitionist approaches. We aim to bring together people with lived experience, students, academics, activists, and policymakers to bridge the gap between theory, policy, and practice. We welcome submissions that explore how HE systems, policies, practices, and activism can more effectively prevent and respond to SGBV via the implementation of inclusive and transformative victim-survivor-centred, trauma-informed approaches.

Who are we?

FemIDEAS is a transnational research project to decolonise dominant understandings of SGBV in HE by focusing on lessons from victim-survivor voices, institutional practices and feminist struggles in the Global South. We aim to develop a victim-survivor-centred approach to better understand and respond to SGBV by integrating insights from those with lived experience, activists, academics, and policymakers in South Africa, Nigeria, Brazil and Argentina. We focus on prevention, holistic responses and fostering cultural and structural change in HE institutions. FemIDEAS is an acronym for the frameworks and principles guiding the study: Feminism, Intersectionality, Decolonisation, Equality, Abolition, and Survivor-centred.

The FemIDEAS study has identified key ‘gaps’ in the understanding of SGBV in HE settings:

1. A lack of focus on empirical research, policies, and feminist activism from the Global South.
2. A lack of data on the prevalence and nature of violence, the efficacy of available support mechanisms and insufficient understanding of the needs of victim-survivors.
3. Inadequate understanding of how wider structural and colonial violences intersect with the formation, maintenance, and transformation of HE institutions.
4. Limited understanding of how transformative justice principles can address and prevent SGBV in HE, shifting the focus from criminalisation to prevention and cultural change.
5. Insufficient knowledge exchange among institutions, academics, activists and policymakers, including South-North and South-South.

The North-South Feminist Dialogue (FemDialogue) was started with the aim of creating a decolonial, intersectional, feminist, and safer space where people with lived experiences, academics, activists, and organisers working in the area of SGBV in universities could come together across borders to learn, support each other, and show solidarity. All previous reports and events can be found [here](#).

Submissions to *Transforming Theory, Policy, and Practice: Decolonise Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Higher Education (HE)* are welcome in [English](#), [Portuguese](#), and [Spanish](#). Live interpretation will be provided for all sessions.

The conference is free to attend for all presenters and attendees. There are no registration fees.

Presentation can take one of the following formats:

- Oral presentations, 15 – 20 mins ('traditional' paper presentation)
- 'Lightening' talk (1-5 slides, 5-10 mins)
- Digital poster presentation

Presentations which engage with or address one or more of the following broad themes are welcome:

- Victim-survivor-centred, feminist, decolonial approaches, policies and practices to addressing and preventing SGBV within HE spaces
- Abolitionist or transformative justice frameworks for addressing SGBV
- Application of an intersectional lens for addressing SGBV in HE, including understanding and responding to the needs and interests of minoritised students, academic and non-academic employees, including but not limited to gender identity, sexuality, race, class, and/or ethnicity.
- Perspectives or comparative insights from the Global South for addressing SGBV in HE, especially work that engages with learning from South Africa, Nigeria, Brazil, and Argentina
- Theories of how cultural norms and beliefs shape understandings and responses to SGBV in HE.
- The ongoing impact of colonial legacies and imperial histories in shaping university spaces, as well as their influence on the understanding of and responses to SGBV within this context.
- Student/activist movements or campaigns aimed at achieving systemic or cultural change in universities.
- Lessons learned from the implementation of SGBV-focused advocacy, pedagogy, sensitisation or training programmes, peer-led initiatives, activist campaigns, and student movements.
- Impact of SGBV on student wellbeing and or campus environments, including safety implications.
- Assessing the effectiveness of institutional programmes to address SGBV and evaluations of institutional responses, policies and practices to SGBV, especially victim-survivor-focused approaches.
- Theories, debates, and approaches to naming people who have caused harm (the 'politics of naming').
- The role and impact of anti-gender discourse on institutional policy and practice responses to SGBV in HE institutions.
- Institutional 'backlash' or retaliation against individuals or groups working to address SGBV in HE and its impacts.

At the end of each day, there will be entertainment (online), including but not limited to music, poetry, and spoken word, to bring participants together and share moments of joy.

If you are interested in contributing to these online creative activities, please tell us in the [abstract submission form](#), including the type of contribution (e.g. music, poetry, etc.).

Writing and Publishing Opportunities

The challenges of publishing for people with lived experience, students, academics, and activists while actively resisting SGBV in universities became apparent during the FemIDEAS study. With a lack of access to publishing opportunities, many are being pushed out of academia.

In response to this, and with a commitment to redistributing labour and resources as a core research ethic, we aim to create three conference publication opportunities. In all cases, contributions from people with lived experience, academics, activists, and practitioners from the Global South will be prioritised.

1. Feminist Media Studies – Special Issue

A Special Issue in the *Commentary and Criticism* section of *Feminist Media Studies* is planned based on presentations from the FemIDEAS Conference. It will feature selected papers that align with the Journal's scope and aims. Articles in this section are approximately 2,500 words.

For more details, please see the submission guidelines:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?show=instructions&journalCode=rfms20>

If your paper fits the scope of *Feminist Media Studies* and you would like to be considered for publication in the Special Issue, please tell us in the [abstract submission form](#).

2. Edited Collection

Also planned is an edited collection (subject to publisher approval) featuring 12-15 chapters, each ranging from 2,500 to 7,000 words (including bibliography). Contributions can take various forms, including 'traditional' academic articles, activist accounts, reflective essays, or interviews.

If you are interested in contributing to this collection, please tell us in the [abstract submission form](#).

3. Podcast

A selection of papers will be recorded and professionally edited for publication in a podcast series.

If you are interested in contributing to the podcast, please tell us in the [abstract submission form](#).

*****All abstracts should be submitted via this [online form](#).*****

The abstract submission form is also available in [Spanish](#) and [Portuguese](#).