

B/ordering the Global: Transnational Feminist Critiques from Asia

International Conference | July 9–11, 2026 | Ewha Womans University (Hybrid: In-person & Online)

Organized by the Asian Center for Women's Studies

Borders are not merely geographical boundaries of nation-states, but critical sites where hierarchies of race, gender, sexuality, class, ability, nationality, religion, and citizenship are produced and governed across global and local scales. Bordering is simultaneously an act of ordering: a set of classificatory and regulatory practices that determine whose mobility and settlement, whose labor and care, whose reproduction and health, and whose survival and futures are recognized as legitimate, desirable, or disposable.

Amid ongoing wars, accelerating climate crisis, the rise of right-wing politics and feminist backlash, and the emergence of AI technologies that operate upon—and through—existing structures of inequality and discrimination, border regimes are being reconfigured in fundamental ways. These conditions reshape how social hierarchies are enacted and intensified through borders, raising urgent questions about whether AI-driven transformations reinforce exclusionary logics, generate new modalities of control, or open ambivalent possibilities for resistance and contestation.

Borders operate not only spatially but also temporally, shaping uneven life chances by governing whose lives are imagined as sustainable, productive, and healthy, and whose lives are rendered exhaustible and disposable. This conference examines the ecological, social, and political inequalities produced through such border/ordering regimes, with particular attention to their implications for mobility and immobility, citizenship and exclusion, care infrastructures, reproduction, illness and disability, intimacy, and bodily autonomy. In doing so, it advances decolonial and transnational feminist critiques of dominant frameworks of security, belonging, and protection.

Rather than approaching Asia primarily as a site for theory application or as a collection of comparative cases, this conference positions Asia as a generative ground for feminist critique that unsettles the universalizing assumptions of border studies itself. Examining borders from and within Asia entails tracing how gendered and racialized bordering practices are shaped by intersecting historical formations—including colonialism, militarism, Cold War divisions, developmentalism, and neoliberal restructuring—and attending to forms of power and resistance that remain obscured within dominant frameworks of the nation-state, citizenship, and sovereignty. By centering research on and from Asia, the conference seeks not to assert Asian exceptionalism, but to demonstrate how diverse geopolitical and historical contexts transform our understanding of bordering as a global process.

We invite scholars, researchers, activists, and practitioners to propose panel-based contributions that critically examine the gendered, racialized, and embodied dimensions of border regimes; the politics of mobility, immobility, and waiting; and the organization of labor, care, and reproduction across borders, including the affective, technological, and algorithmic infrastructures that govern life, health, and futurity. We particularly welcome work that rethinks migration, citizenship, and world-making through attention to human and more-than-human mobilities, drawing on queer and trans studies, critical disability studies, and critical ecofeminist perspectives to reimagine borders and movement beyond human-centered and state-centered paradigms. We also encourage contributions that explore alternative feminist imaginaries of care, survival, solidarity, and collective futures under conditions of intensified bordering.

This conference is convened as part of the Asian Center for Women's Studies (ACWS) research initiative, "Race and Gender: Global Korea, Neo-Racialization and Intersectionality." Since 2021, the project has explored the intersectional dynamics of neo-racialization and gender in South Korea and across broader transnational contexts. The conference offers an opportunity to reflect on the project's major insights and contributions to date, and to collectively consider future directions for feminist scholarship in and beyond Asia.

Possible Topics Include (but are not limited to):

- Border Regimes and the Politics of Movement
- Labor, Care, and Reproduction Across Borders
- Citizenship, Belonging, and Legal Subjectivities
- Technologies of Bordering and Surveillance
- Bodies, Health, and Futures
- Cultures, Affects, and Representations
- Feminist Futures and Alternative Imaginaries

Panel Proposals

The conference accepts **panel proposals only**. Individual paper submissions will not be considered.

Each panel should consist of 3–4 papers and include:

- Panel title and a panel abstract (300–400 words) outlining the panel's intellectual rationale, shared questions, and collective contribution.

- 3–4 individual paper titles and paper abstracts (each 250–300 words).
- Names, affiliations, and contact information of all participants.
- (Optional) A proposed chair or discussant.

Panels that bring together participants across institutions, disciplines, regions, or career stages are especially encouraged.

Publication Opportunity

Selected papers from the conference will be considered for inclusion in a special issue of the *Asian Journal of Women's Studies (AJWS)*.

Timeline

- Submission Deadline: February 23, 2026 (KST)
- Notification of Acceptance: Mid-March 2026
- Conference Dates: July 9(Thu.)–11(Sat.), 2026 (Hybrid: In-person & Online) (KST)

Submission

Please submit all panel proposals through the [Google form](#)

Language Diversity

English is the primary working language of the conference. Presentations may be delivered in Korean; however, panel proposals, abstracts, and related materials should be submitted in English. To facilitate broader participation, we also recommend conducting Q&A in English where possible. *No interpretation services will be provided for panel presentations.

Travel and Accommodation

Due to budget limitations, the conference is unable to provide financial support for participants' travel or accommodation. However, a limited number of discounted rooms at Ewha Womans University-affiliated partner accommodations will be available for international participants, with further details to be shared at a later stage. Please note that room availability is limited and reservations may not be possible depending on accommodation capacity.

Light refreshments, including tea and coffee, will be provided during the conference.

Contact

For inquiries, please contact acwsewha@gmail.com
<https://acws.ewha.ac.kr/>

FAQ

1. Do you accept individual proposals?

A: No. We accept **panel proposals only**; individual proposals will not be considered.

2. What is the role of the panel organizer?

A: The panel organizer is responsible for planning and coordinating the panel, overseeing its overall operation, and serving as the primary liaison with the conference team on behalf of the panel.

3. Can the panel organizer also participate as a presenter, discussant, or chair?

A: Yes. The panel organizer may also participate in the panel as a presenter, discussant, or chair.

4. Does a panel need to choose only one participation mode (online or in-person)?

A: Yes. Each panel must choose either an online or an in-person mode of participation.

5. Is it mandatory to include a discussant or chair?

A: No. It is not mandatory to include a discussant or chair, and each panel is free to determine its own format.