

WOMEN AND THE PUBLIC SPHERE

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

**Baku (Azerbaijan)
18-21 June 2008**

The relationship between women and the public sphere is recognised as a site of critical inquiry and contestation in the struggle for women's empowerment. The public sphere is not only a discursive location that is historically constructed. It also comprises sets of physical spaces which reveal differences in representation at various levels. While new modes of participatory governance emphasize the importance of the public sphere as a space for democratic deliberation, it remains to be seen whether they also empower women to raise issues of particular interest to themselves. To examine these issues, a three day workshop is being organized to discuss the following:

- the history, structure and shifting dynamics of the public sphere;
- the changing frameworks for addressing women's participation therein;
- intersectionalities in different facets of identities such as race, gender, class, religion and sexuality and how these affect women's participation at local, regional, national and transnational levels;
- media representations of the public sphere;
- the models and forms of participatory democracy and how they take into account women's participation.

The workshop aims to compare perspectives across regions and to locate the Central Asian experience in a broader context. SEPHIS has been engaged

in networking among researchers across the South (Africa, Asia and Latin America) since 1994. The programme's objective is to create a South-South network on comparative historically oriented research and to encourage a new generation of researchers from the South to partake in global debates on development. This workshop offers the opportunity for scholars in Central Asia to engage in a dialogue with scholars from other regions in the global South and vice versa.

The workshop aims to attract scholars in the South working from different disciplines in the Social Sciences. Applicants are invited to submit a proposal indicating the scope, nature and approach of their intended papers. The one-page proposal and an academic CV of no more than three pages (in English) must reach the convenors of the workshop by email by February 15th, 2008. Papers (in English) must be submitted as hard copy by May 15th, 2008. SEPHIS will cover travel costs and other participation expenses of successful applicants from abroad. However air tickets will only be issued to participants upon timely receipt of papers.

Applications and requests for more information should be sent to:

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