

Mengia Tschalaer PhD
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Professional Summary

I am a social anthropologist with over 17 years of experience in leading qualitative research projects on the access to justice of minority groups. As the Principal Investigator on the Horizon 2020-funded research project “Queer Muslim Asylum” (2018-2020), I researched the vulnerabilities of LGBTQI+ asylum claimants within Germany’s asylum system, with a focus on lesbians. Over the last 4 years, I have been engaging in knowledge exchange on the protection needs of LGBTQI+ asylum claimants and devised 5 policy briefs in collaboration with LGBTQI+ NGOs, ILGA, Transgender Europe, and the Council of Europe, and Bournemouth University. In my role as Principal Investigator, I co-founded the Queer European Asylum Network (QUEAN), an umbrella organization that brings together NGO practitioners, LGBTQI+ refugees, activists, policy makers, and academics. I teach undergraduate courses in the area of law, gender, sex, race, intersectionality and culture at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York City.

Education

- 2013 **Ph.D. in Socio-cultural Anthropology**, University of Zurich, Switzerland
Project: *Muslim Women’s Quest for Gender Justice in Lucknow, India (2008-2013)*
fifteen months of empirical research on the way Muslim women’s rights organizations in Lucknow, India, struggle for gender justice pertaining to marriage and the family
- 2007 **Lic. Phil. (equivalent to combined BA and MA) in Social and Cultural Anthropology**, University of Zurich, Switzerland
Project: *A Tribal Women’s Court in Udaipur, India, (2005-2006)*
2005-2006 eight months of qualitative research on a unique tribal women’s court in Rajasthan

Current Positions

- 2021-2023 **Substitute Assistant Professor**, Department of Anthropology
- Developing and teaching online undergraduate course on law and society, culture and the law, gender and the law, and sex and culture, develop online model courses, co-facilitate faculty workshops, contribute to the department’s programming
- 2013-2021 **Adjunct Professor**, Department of Anthropology and Political Science
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York, USA
- Developing and teaching online undergraduate course on law and society, culture and the law, gender and the law, and sex and culture
- 2020- **Consultant and Board Member of the Gender Committee to the ITFLOWS Project**, Brunel Law School, Brunel University London
- Leading the drafting of a Gender Action Plan for the research on the prediction of migration flows to and within the EU
 - Supporting the drafting of the European legislative framework on migration and asylum for the European Commission
 - Evaluation and monitoring of the human rights and gender considerations relating to both asylum and migration law and the on-going actions of the project

Previous Positions (selection)

- 2018-2020 **Marie-Curie Research Fellow**, School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies
University of Bristol, UK

- Principal Investigator researching the experiences of LGBTQI+ Muslims and lesbian-identifying womxn with the asylum system in Germany, conducting, analyzing, and writing up research, organization of 4 high impact online symposiums, funded by the European Commission
- 22 publications; thereof 5 in peer-reviewed journals (incl. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* and *Ethnic and Racial Studies*), 4 policy briefs, and 4 op-eds in openDemocracy, Al Jazeera and the Tagesspiegel
- Research featured in news outlets such as The Independent, Gay Star News, Pink News, Queer.de, and San Diego Gay and Lesbian News

2016-2017 **Adjunct Assistant Professor**, Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Barnard College, Columbia University, New York, USA

- Developed and taught a course on practicing the intersectionality of race, gender, sexuality, and ethnicity

TEACHING

Undergraduate Courses

ANT310	Culture and Personality (Anthropology Department, John Jay College, Fall 2016-)
ANT210	Sex and Culture (Anthropology Department, John Jay College, Fall 2019-)
ANT 315	Systems of Law (Anthropology Department, John Jay College, Fall 2017-)
ANT 330	Cultural American Pluralism and the Law (Anthropology Department, John Jay College, Spring 2021-)
POL 319	Gender and the Law (Political Science Department, John Jay College, Fall 2013-)
LWS 200	Introduction to Law and Society (Political Science Department, John Jay College. Fall 2014-Spring 2017)
WMST 2150	Practicing Intersectionality: The interdisciplinary study of race, gender, and ethnicity (Barnard College Fall 2016)
WGS 244	Transnational Feminisms (Hunter College, Fall 2013)

Faculty Seminar

TLC Intersectional Futures: Re-Framing Career Readiness for CUNY Students (2022-2023)

Pedagogical Development

2022	Mellon Transformative Learning in the Humanities Faculty Fellow, Transformative Learning in the Humanities, CUNY
2022	John Jay OER/Open Pedagogy, Department of Online Teaching and Support, John Jay College
2021-2022	Practical Teaching for Resilient Learning
2021	Effective Practices in Hybrid Education, Department of Online Teaching and Support, John Jay College
2018	Improving Online Teaching for Students Success Seminar, Teaching and Learning Center, John Jay College

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

- 2017 Tschalaer, Mengia. Muslim Women's Quest for Justice. Gender, Law and Activism in India. Cambridge University Press. (Cambridge Studies in Law and Society).

Journal Special Issue

Tschalaer, M., and Fadi Saleh (eds.) Queer Liberalism and Marginal Mobility. Ethnic and Racial Studies. (forthcoming with Routledge as a Book)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Publications

- Forthcom. Saleh, F. and Mengia Tschalaer. Introduction to Special Issue: Queer Liberalism and Marginal Mobility. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.
- 2022 Tschalaer, M. Increasing Isolation of LGBTQI+ Asylum Claimants During Covid-19 in the UK. *Journal of Contemporary European Research*. In Press.
- 2022 Tschalaer, M. Queer Motherhood in the Context of Legal Precarity: Experiences of Lesbian Mothers Seeking Asylum in Germany. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.
- 2022 Tschalaer, M. Queering migration temporalities: LGBTQI+ experiences with waiting within Germany's asylum system. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, DOI: 10.1080/01419870.2022.2076566
- 2020 Tschalaer, M. Femininities and Victimhood in Black Lesbian Asylum Cases in Germany. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. Vol 47(15), 3531-3548.
- 2019 Tschalaer, M. Between Queer Liberalisms and Muslim Masculinities: The Assessment of Queer Muslim Asylum Quests in Germany. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. Vol 43(7), 1265-1283.
- 2015 Tschalaer, Hong M. Muslim Women's Rights Activists' Visibility: Stretching the Gendered Boundaries of the Public Space in the City of Lucknow. *South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal*, 11, 1-18.
- 2012 Tschalaer, Hong M. Competing Model–Nikahnamas: Muslim Women's Spaces within the Legal Landscape in Lucknow. *NAVEIN REET: Nordic Journal of Law and Social Research*, 3, 65–80.
- 2010 Tschalaer, Hong M. Women Entering the Legal Landscape: Negotiating Legal Gender Reforms in a 'Tribal' Women's Forum in South Rajasthan, India. *Journal of Legal Pluralism and Unofficial Law*, 60, 41–70.

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapter

- 2022 Tschalaer, M. Social and cultural politics of resistance and empowerment. In Martin Fotta, Cecilia McCallum and Silvia Posocco (eds.) The Cambridge Handbook of the Anthropology of Gender and Sexuality. Cambridge University Press. (In press)

Non-Peer-Reviewed Publications

- 2021 Tschalaer, M. Fighting for asylum, as a lesbian and as a mother. *Beyond Trafficking and Slavery, openDemocracy*. 8. December.
- 2021 Tschalaer, M. Queer liberalisms and marginal mobility – special issue and interview series. *Migration Mobilities Bristol Blog*. 7 April.
- 2020 Tschalaer, M. The Recognition of Queer Asylum Claims in Germany. *ncr-on the move Blog*. 4. November.
- 2020 Tschalaer, M. Experiences of Waiting for LGBTQI+ Asylum Claimants in Germany: A Form of State Control and Resistance. In: Maria Lis Baiocchi "Gender Politics in the Age of Patriarchal Authoritarianism". *Political and Legal Anthropology Review*. 15. September.
- 2020 Tschalaer, M. 2020. Fehlender Schutz für Schwarze lesbische Geflüchtete. *Tagesspiegel*. 23. June.
- 2020 Tschalaer, M and Nina Held and Danijel Čubelić. „Ich habe mich noch nie einsamer gefühlt“. *Tagesspiegel*. 30. March. (This article appeared in the print version of the *Tagesspiegel* under the title "Mein Leben ist eingefroren" on 6. April 2020.
- 2020 Tschalaer, Mengia, Nina Held and Danijel Čubelić. Coronavirus exacerbates LGBTQI refugee isolation and trauma. In: *Al Jazeera*. 22 April.

- 2019 Tschalaer, M. LGBTQI+ Asylum Claimants Face Extreme Social Isolation in Germany. In: *Beyond Trafficking and Slavery, openDemocracy*. 26. November.
- 2019 Tschalaer, M. Denied Victimhood of Lesbian Asylum Seekers Racialized as Black in Germany. In *Beyond Trafficking and Slavery, openDemocracy*. 14. August.
- 2019 Held, N. and Mengia Tschalaer. Better Legal and Social Support Needed for LGBTQI+ People Seeking Asylum in Germany. *Mobilities and Migration Bristol Blog*. 31.October.
- 2019 Tschalaer, M. Conforming to stereotypes to gain asylum in Germany. *Mobilities and Migration Bristol Blog*. 12. August.

Policy Briefs

- 2021 Tschalaer, Mengia and Christopher Pullen. Equality in the UK Asylum Process. Written Evidence submitted to the UK Parliament Women's Select Committee. Published on the UK Parliament Committees Website: 17. November 2021.
- 2021 Tschalaer, Mengia. The Istanbul Convention and Queer Women Seeking Asylum. Policy Bristol.
- 2020 Tschalaer, Mengia. Covid-19 and Queer Asylum. Policy Brief. June 29. PolicyBristol.
- 2020 Tschalaer, Mengia. The Recognition of Black Lesbian Asylum Claims in Germany. PolicyBristol
- 2019 Held, Nina and Mengia Tschalaer. Queer Asylum in Germany. Better Visibility and Access to Legal and Social Support Needed for LGBTQI+ People Seeking Asylum. Policy Bristol.

Report

- 2022 Boland, C. and M. Tschalaer. ITFLOWS Gender Action Plan, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and Brunel University London.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Invited Talks and Conference Presentations (selection since July 2019)

- 09/2022 Speaker: The Istanbul Convention Thought Intersectionally. Heinrich Böll Foundation. Berlin.
- 07/2022 Speaker/Discussant/Session Chair: Experiences with Motherhood of Lesbian-Identifying Women Seeking Asylum in Germany. *Law And Society Association Global Meeting*. Lisbon, Portugal.
- 06/2022 **Invited as a speaker: Experiences with integration of queer asylum claimants/refugees. Rethinking integration: Gender approach, equal opportunities and non-discrimination.** European Coalition of Cities Against Racism. Online.
- 06/2021 **Invited as a speaker: Queer Asylum: International Perspectives Between Activism and Academia.** Workshop. Nccr on the move. University of Neuchatel, Switzerland.
- 02/2021 **Invited as a panelist: Current Debates in the Protection and Study of LGBTQI+ Displaced People.** Hosted by the Oxford Department of International Development. UK.
- 11/2020 **Invited as a speaker by the German presidencies of the Council of the European Union and Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe** to give a talk on the lesbian asylum experience at the conference: Intersectionality and LGBTQI+-Policies in Europe: Lived Realities of Lesbian* Women and the Recognition of Rainbow Families. Berlin, Germany.
- 02/2020 **Invited for the Panel Discussion "Politics of Postcolonial Sexuality"** with Patricia Purtschert, Serena Owusua, and Stefanie Boulila. Theater Basel. Switzerland.
- 01/2020 **Invited as a speaker for a 3-day conference:** Access to asylum of queer refugees in Germany. Hohenheimer Tage on Migration Law, Stuttgart. Germany.
- 07/2019 **Invited as a panelist for a 1-day conference:** Panel: Intersectional perspectives on queer asylum. Under the European Asylum Rainbow: Intersectional Queer Challenges, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany.

Impact and Outreach Activities (selection)

- 06/2022 *Co-organizer of in-person conference:* The Istanbul Convention Thought Intersectionally. Hosted by the Gunda-Werner Institute, Berlin, Germany.

- 03/2022 *Co-organizer (with Eithne Luibhéid) of online speaker series. Transforming Systemic Violence: Experiences of Female and Non-Binary Identifying Queer Migrants. Hosted by the Barnard Digital Humanities Center. Columbia University. USA*
- 11/2021 *Co-Organizer of online conference. Queer Asylum and the EU-Dublin III System of Return: Challenges and Risks.*
- 06/2021 *Co-Organizer of the Roundtable: The Istanbul Convention and Queer Women Seeking Asylum. Attendees included representatives of civil society organizations in Germany, the German Ministry of Migration and Asylum and the German Ministry of Family Affairs. Germany.*
- 04/2021 *Co-Organizer of the Speaker Series: Queer Liberalisms and Marginal Mobility. Barnard College. Columbia University. USA.*
- 11/2020 *Organizer of online conference: Recognition and Prevention of Violence against LGBTQI+ Persons on the Move. Panelists include representatives of the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, Transgender Europe, the German Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, and the lesbian support organization LeTRa.*
- 04/2020 *Organizer of online symposium: COVID-19 and Queer Asylum. (co-organized with the Council of Europe and various LGBTQI+ NGOs in Germany). Over 5,600 people attended the symposium and viewed the live stream and recordings on Facebook.*

Awards

- 2022 Mellon Transformative Learning in the Humanities Faculty Fellow, Transformative Learning in the Humanities, CUNY
- 2020-22 Gunda Werner Institute, Foundation Heinrich Böll, EUR 40,000 (£33,807)
- 2019 ESRC Impact Acceleration Account Grant. Grant Nr. ES/M500410/1. (£ 3,000)
- 2018 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Individual Fellowship. Grant Agreement Nr. 793497. 1. September 2018 – 31. August 2020. (2 years, £163,057)
- 2012 Swiss National Science Foundation Fellowship for Prospective Researchers (6 months, £26,021)
- 2008-12 University of Zurich Candoc Dissertation Fellowship. Grant Nr. 56650301. 1. August 2008 – 31. July 2012. (3 years, £121,928)

Professional Activities

- 2021 Expert, Grant Proposal Evaluations, European Commission
- 2020 Guest Editor, Ethnic and Racial Studies

Memberships

- 2021- American Anthropological Association
- 2021- European Anthropological Association
- 2019- IMISCOE International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion Network
- 2018- Migration and Mobilities Bristol (MMB)
- 2011- Law and Society Association

Languages

German (native), English (fluent), French (proficient), Hindi and Italian (conversational)