

MENGIA TSCHALAER PHD

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Statement of Research and Teaching Interests and Expertise

I am a social anthropologist with a research and teaching focus on the relationship between dominant human rights regimes and access to justice of minority groups in the area of asylum, criminal justice, and family law. I have over 7 years of experience in undergraduate teaching in the area of gender and sexuality law, culture and identity, transnational feminisms and intersectionality. I am a certified online teacher with over 4 years of experience in delivering high quality online courses.

Education

- 2013 Ph.D. Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Zurich, Switzerland
2007 Lic. Phil. (Social and Cultural Anthropology and International Law), University of Zurich, Switzerland

Current Positions

- 2020- *Honorary Research Fellow*, School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies
University of Bristol, UK
2013- *Adjunct Assistant/ Associate Professor*, Department of Anthropology and Political Science
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York, USA

Previous Positions

- 2018-2020 *Marie-Curie Research Fellow*, School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies
University of Bristol, UK
2016-2017 *Adjunct Assistant Professor*, Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Barnard College, Columbia University, New York, USA
2010-2013 *Visiting Research Scholar* and *Visiting Research Fellow*, Center for Gender and Sexuality Law
Columbia University, New York, USA.

Publications

Monograph

- 2017 (sole author) Muslim Women's Quest for Justice. Gender, Law and Activism in India. Cambridge University Press. (Cambridge Studies in Law and Society). Nominated for 2018 Herbert Jacob Book Prize (Law and Society Association), 2018 Cohn Book Prize (Association for Asian Studies), 2019 Clifford Geertz Book Prize (Society for the Anthropology of Religion, American Anthropological Association).

Articles in International Peer-Reviewed Journals

- 2020 (sole author) Femininities and Victimhood in Black Lesbian Asylum Cases in Germany. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.
- 2019 (sole author) Between Queer Liberalisms and Muslim Masculinities: The Assessment of Queer Muslim Asylum Quests in Germany. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. DOI: 10.1080/01419870.2019.1640378
- 2015 (sole author) 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 (sole author) Competing Model–Nikahnamas: Muslim Women's Spaces within the Legal Landscape in Lucknow. *Journal of Law and Social Research*, 3, 65–80.

2010 (sole author) 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.

Special Issue

2022 Mengia Tschalaer, Bridget Anderson and Fadi Saleh (eds.). Queer Liberalisms and Marginal Mobility, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. (forthcoming)

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapter

In Press (sole author) *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.

Non-Peer Reviewed Work (selection)

- 2020 (sole author) 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*.
- 2020 Fehlender Schutz für Schwarze lesbische Geflüchtete. Tagesspiegel. 23. June.
- 2020 Op-ed: Coronavirus exacerbates LGBTQI refugee isolation and trauma. In: Al Jazeera. 22 April 2020. With Nina Held and Danijel Čubelić.
- 2020 Op-ed: Ich habe mich nie einsamer gefühlt. In: Tagesspiegel. 30 March 2020. With Nina Held and Danijel Čubelić.
- 2019 Op-ed: LGBTQI+ Asylum Claimants Face Extreme Social Isolation in Germany. In: openDemocracy.
- 2019 Op-ed: Denied Victimhood of Lesbian Asylum Seekers Racialized as Black in Germany. In openDemocracy.

Policy Briefs

- 2020 Tschalaer, Mengia. Covid-19 and Queer Asylum. Policy Brief. June 29. PolicyBristol. (also available in German)
- 2020 Tschalaer, Mengia. The Recognition of Black Lesbian Asylum Claims in Germany. Policy Brief. June 22. PolicyBristol. (also available in German)
- 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 Brief, October 2019. University of Bristol. (This brief is also available in German)

Research and Impact Grants (selection)

- 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, EUR 195,454)
- 2012 Swiss National Science Foundation Fellowship for Prospective Researchers. Grant Nr. 143439 (6 months, CHF 35,000)
- 2008-2012 University of Zurich Candoc Dissertation Fellowship. Grant Nr. 56650301. 1. August 2008 – 31. July 2012 (3 years, CHF 164,000)

Teaching Activities and Responsibilities

- 2013- Adjunct Professor – John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Anthropology and Political Science Department
ANT *Sex and Culture* (200-level undergraduate online course)
ANT *Systems of Law* (200-level undergraduate online course)
ANT *Culture and Personality* (200-level undergraduate online course)
POL *Gender and the Law* (300-level undergraduate in-person and online course)
POL *Introduction to Law and Society* (200-level undergraduate in-person lecture course)
- 2016 Adjunct Professor – Barnard College, Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
WMST BC *Practicing Intersectionality: The Interdisciplinary Study of Race, Gender, and Ethnicity* (300-level undergraduate lecture course)
- 2013 Adjunct Professor – Hunter College, City University of New York
WGS *Transnational Feminisms* (200-level undergraduate lecture course)

Organization of Scientific Meetings

- 11/2020 *Organizer of online conference: Recognition of and Prevention of Violence against LGBTQI+ Persons on the Move.*
- 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.
- 08/2018 *Organizer of a Conference Panel: Non-State Laws, Religion, and Gender, Panel, International Conference on Legal Pluralism, Syracuse University. University of Ottawa.*
- 06/2011 *Organizer of a Conference Panel: Interlegality in South Asia, Panel, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco.*

Research Experience

Queer Muslim Asylum Spaces in Germany (2018-2020)

2018-2019 seven months of research on the experiences of LGBTQI+ Muslim asylum seekers with bureaucratic asylum procedures in Germany

Muslim Women's Quest for Gender Justice in Lucknow, India (2008-2013)

2009-2011 fifteen months of doctoral research on the manner in which Muslim women's rights organizations in Lucknow, India struggle for gender justice in the area of marriage and the family

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

Invited Talks and Conference Presentations (selection since June 2019)

- 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.
- 06/2019 The Assessment of LGBTQI+ Muslim Asylum Claims Against the Background of Raising Islamophobia in Germany. *IMISCOE Conference*, University of Malmö, Sweden.

Impact and Outreach (selection)

- Co-organizer of Policy Discussion Forum on Queer Asylum and Covid-19. Attendees included representatives from the German Federal Ministries and parliamentary groups on integration and migration, the Green Party, Equality Officers from different cities in Germany, as well as NGO representatives.
- Founder and convener of the Queer European Asylum Network, an umbrella organization founded in 2019 that brings together NGO practitioners, LGBTQI+ refugees and activists and academics.
- Organized a virtual symposium on Covid-19 and Queer Asylum in collaboration with LGBTQI+ NGOs and the Council of Europe, attracting over 5,700 attendees
- High impact research featured in news outlets such as The Independent, Gay Star News, Pink News, Queer.de, and San Diego Gay and Lesbian News etc.
- 3 Policy Briefs: Covid-19 and Queer Asylum. Policy Brief. (in press with PolicyBristol); The Recognition of Black Lesbian Asylum Claims in Germany (in press with PolicyBristol); Queer Asylum in Germany. Better Visibility and Access to Legal and Social Support Needed for LGBTQI+ People Seeking Asylum (PolicyBristol)

Reviewing Activities

- 01/2020– present Reviewer for *Signs* (Journal)
- 06/2019– present Reviewer for the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* (Journal)
- 02/2019– present Reviewer for the *South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal* (Journal)
- 09/2018– present Reviewer for *Modern Asian Studies* (Journal)
- 11/2016– present Reviewer for *Cambridge University Press* (Books)
- 08/2016– present Reviewer for the *Law and Society Review* (Journal)
- 03/2014– present Reviewer for the *Journal of Legal Pluralism and Unofficial Law* (Journal)

Memberships

- 2019- Socio-Legal Studies Association
- 2019- IMISCOE International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion Network
- 2019- Association for German Studies in Great Britain and Ireland
- 2018- Migration and Mobilities Bristol (MMB)
- 2015- Accommodation in Pluri-Legal Europe
- 2011- Law and Society Association
- 2010- Law and Social Sciences Research Network

Languages

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