Abstract

Islamic Feminism: between Localism and Universalism

This paper postulates that the reductionism nature of western feminist writings, which treat Muslim women as a 'coherent' category, should be challenged. If we seek to understand the politics of women activism in Muslim world other context rather than Islam should be also considered.

The women question or '*quadyiat al-mara*' in Islam is highly debated among conservative, liberal and radical Islamist thinkers. The latter in their attempts to deconstruct the Islamic (con)texuality, somehow, develops what is called 'Islamic feminism'. Though I agree that labeling has predictive power and is politically loaded sometimes, yet 'Islamic feminism', in this paper denotes an attitude rather than identity. To situate the Muslim/Islamist women activism, the paper discloses that in the transnational politics of feminism, it is difficult for localism and particularism, which suggested by this group(s), growing and developing without some shared universal values.