

Decolonizing Rap: Tunisia's Muslim Feminist Rappers



Dr. Jyhene Kebisi

Gender Studies Program, Macquarie University, Sydney, NSW, Australia

My speech delves into Tunisian women rappers. It shows how these artists have carved a space for themselves in Tunisia's masculine rap scene. My presentation emphasizes the complexity of the intersectional issues depicted in female rappers' songs. I argue that Tunisia's feminist rappers defend women's rights while also stressing the multi-layeredness of Tunisian women's lives and struggles. My speech shows that feminist rappers' songs target multiple forms of subordination caused by poverty, classism, sexism, corruption, bad governance and lack of security and opportunities. Despite their opposition to male dominance, Tunisian feminist rappers do not reduce the challenge, which Tunisian women face in the post-revolutionary period, to patriarchy. Rather, they stress interlaced forms of marginalization and intertwined elements of oppression.

Biography:

Dr. Jyhene Kebisi is tenured Assistant Professor of Gender Studies. She is also the MRes Program Director at Macquarie University, Australia. Dr. Kebisi taught at multiple institutions in Australia in the United States. Dr. Kebisi has won prestigious fellowships from the University of Sydney, Macquarie University and Heidelberg University in Germany. She is currently writing a book under contract with Texas University Press.