

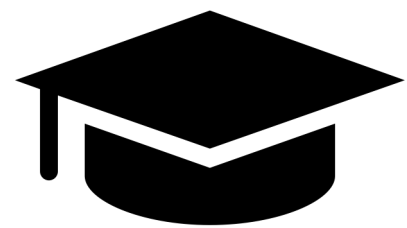


**Trespassing and Transgression:  
Arab Masculinities and Gender Equality Research**

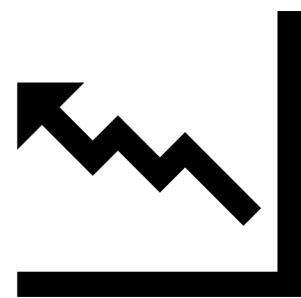
YASSER KOSBAR, UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX



# RESEARCH OBJECTIVES



**Intl. STUDENTS**



**GENDER**



**MOBILITY**



**KNOWLEDGE**



# RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This research seeks to answer the following questions...

## **MOTIVATIONS**

What were the main drivers or motives to undertake postgraduate study in UK?

## **CHALLENGES**

What are the main challenges of undertaking postgraduate study in the UK?

## **SUPPORT**

What type of support mechanisms are available during and after postgraduate study in UK?.

## **OUTCOMES**

What are the main outcomes of undertaking postgraduate study in UK?

# SAMPLE

24 interviews in total were conducted between October 2018 – August 2019

## LEVEL OF STUDIES

24 Post Graduate(s)

- 10 PGT
- 10 PGR
- 4 PhD EARLY CAREER ACADEMICS

## UNIVERSITIES

11 UNIVERSITIES – RUSSEL GROUP

## DISCIPLINE

13 STEM

11 SOCIAL SCIENCES

## OTHERS

- Location
- History of mobility

# RESEARCH METHODS



## Semi-structured INTERVIEWS

- 1. Require active and reflexive role from the researcher
- 2. Generate data that may not be available when utilizing surveys and questionnaire

### SITES

UK & EGYPT



## REMOTE

VIA SKYPE/ZOOM/PHONE

### ADVANTAGES

Convenience  
 Security  
 Privacy

### DISADVANTAGES

Connection  
 Censorship  
 Costs



## IN PERSON

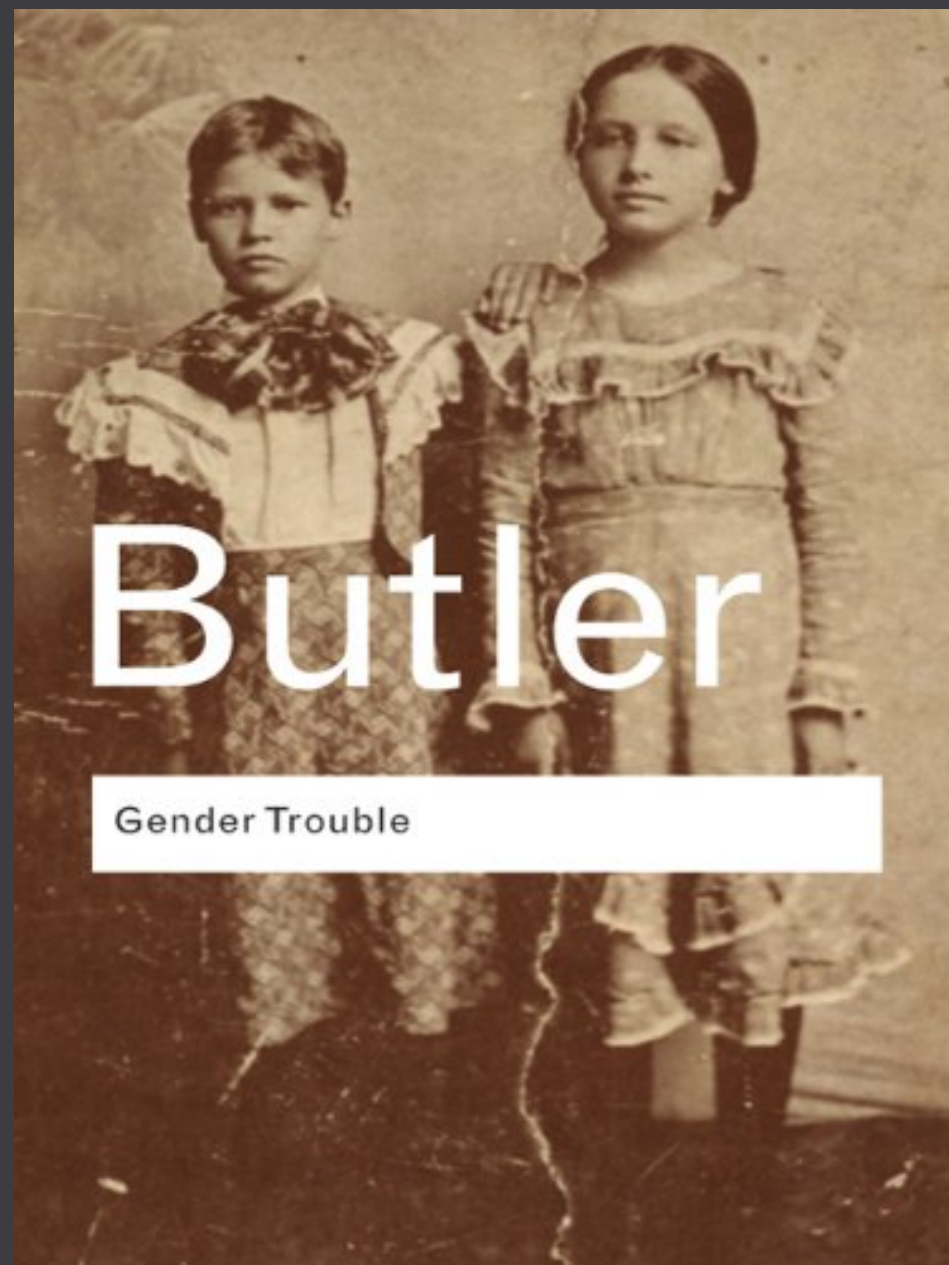
### ADVANTAGES

More personal  
 Rapport  
 relevant contexts are brought into focus

### DISADVANTAGES

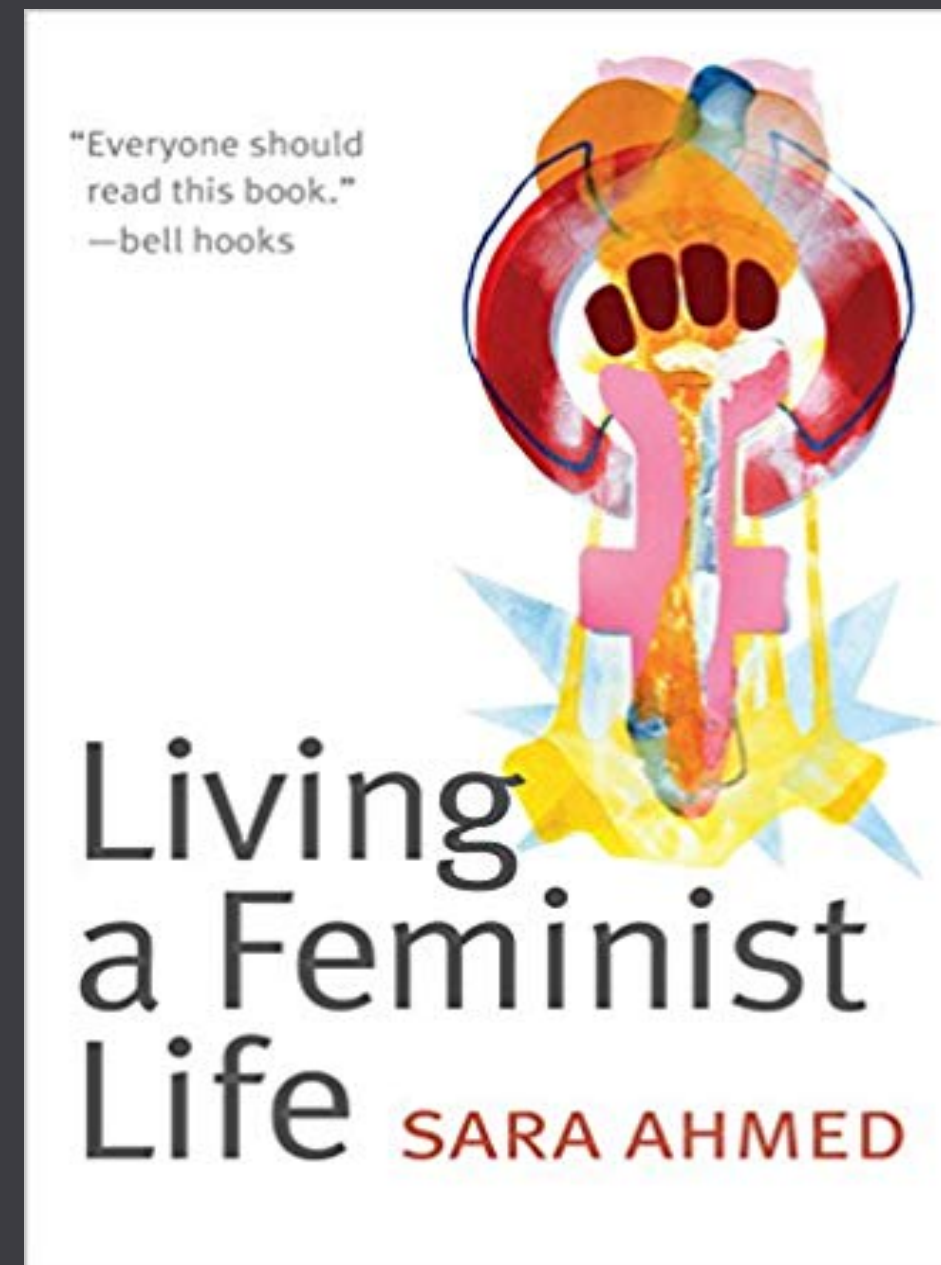
Disruptions  
 Logistics/Travel costs etc.

# THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK



## Gender Trouble

Judith Butler, 1990



## Living a Feminist Life

Sara Ahmed, 2017



## MASCULINITIES

R. W. Connell, 2005

# POSITIONALITY

These are few examples of reactions/comments/questions concerning my positionality as an Egyptian man interviewing Egyptian women, and whether this is appropriate and advisable?



“

very progressive for an Egyptian man to engage in Gender equality research

”



“

But...how are you going to interview them?

”



**these questions or these concerns would not have been raised if we were both white. It wouldn't have mattered that much at least but also because in my day to day i feel and even within academy, [..], i feel all the time exhausted in a way where "oh you are from Egypt, so we don't know what that means, but we so are going to evoke an assumption on what Egypt is and what women in Egypt are".**

**– Nasra, PGR**





**i think once somebody told me that she felt because I was wearing the headscarf that I was oppressed, and I told her why don't you let me make that judgment, why are you making this judgment on my behalf, she said yeah, because you are oppressed but you don't know that you are oppressed.... .”**

**– Rokia, PhD - Early Career Academic**

# Egypt gender regime

Egypt Rank rank 135 out of 149 countries on the global gender gap index of 2018 (WEF 2018).



Economic participation  
and opportunity - 139



Educational  
attainment - 99



Health and survival  
- 84  
High rate of sexual  
harassment



Labor force  
participation: 24.1%



**If it is not you, Yasser. Actually, if it was in Egypt I would have done more research about the guy interviewing me. I would have been suspicious in the beginning. I would support anyone who is doing research eventually, i would always expect the worst and then start from there**

**Sohair- PGR**



**here. wow. this is really binary! ..we are done deal with foreign men. I was really fine with that. But also I would say I would expect that some other women may be a bit hesitant. They wouldn't go for a private space to have this conversation with you. Very public space."**

**Horeya - PGT**

# ARAB MEN AND GENDER RESEARCH



**QASSIM AMIN**

1863-1908.

1. The liberation of women (1899) (Tahrir al-mar'at).
2. The New Woman (al-Mar'aa al-jadida, 1900)
3. Critics: imperialism, colonial feminism, and Orientalist imaginary about Muslim women,

# Men and GENDER EQUALITY

## GENERAL

roughly 90 per cent asserting that a woman's most important job is to care for the home, and that a man should have the final say in household decisions

## LEADERSHIP

men were almost as willing as women to work with female colleagues, though significantly less enthusiastic about having a female boss.

## LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Both men and women with higher education, as well as those whose mothers have higher education, scored higher on the GEM scale, women notably so.

## #Heforshe

International Development  
Organisations

El Feki, S., Heilman, B. and Barker, G., Eds. (2017)





**..about educated Egyptian men, my husband has a doctorate as well, is that they speak the feminist talk, so my cousins would say things that would support me and that they are feminist but they don't do that with their wives..**

**Zeinab - PhD - Early Career Academic**



**i remember my dad telling my mom 'I should not have let her travel abroad' and by let her ..it is just all in his hands, like he can control if I go or if I don't, like let me travel, like he approved of my travelling and he should not have approved of it''**

**Faten- PGR**



# FINAL REFLECTIONS

## **BINARIZATION**

Disrupting the hegemonic discourse of heteronormative binary of gender research in the global south

## **FEMINIST ENGAGEMENT**

bell hooks (2018:9) defines feminism as a “movement to end sexism, sexist exploitation and oppression”

## **DOUBLE RESPONSIBILITY**

where the researchers are made "responsible both to their women participants and to the broader world of women whose lives we hope to improve" (Preissle and Han 2012:594)

## **PATRIARCHY**

Liberate Arab masculinity from patriarchy

## **AFFECTIVE**

Understanding the power of context

## **ABSENCE**

Global south role in generating theory