This symposium brings together feminist scholars from around the world to discuss, offer, critique or disseminate a vision of transnational legal feminisms and the challenges and opportunities it presents.

In particular, we seek to explore three contemporary developments. First, we are interested in the rise, paths, success and challenges of transnational feminism. The far and wide reach of different feminist legal ideas changed the world wherever they touched. This transnational reach was, in part, the result of the efforts of U.S. feminists who used American international power to promote ideas of gender equality. Feminist theories about gender equality, travelling through multi-layered transnational feminist networks, were picked up, developed, adapted and at times transformed by local feminists in the different impacted locales. We are interested in exploring these paths and inquiring into their success, failure, North-South power dynamics, and the ways in which these ideas and theories reverberated back to the Global North.

A second development is the rise and maturation of critique within the feminist movement. Feminism has always been an introspective movement. Yet in recent years, some critical voices about feminist paths of power in the national and transnational sphere gained increased foothold within feminist thought. We are thinking, for example, about critique by post-colonial feminists, critical race feminists, the evaluative and critical study of governance feminism, and the call for contextual feminist analysis, to name a few. We see this as a positive development. Creating room for critique and internal reflective discussion within any movement is a sign of vibrancy and energy. We are interested in exploring how these different critiques interact, what commonalities they have, what are their differences and what tools they offer us to assess and develop transnational legal feminist theories.

A third contemporary development this symposium will explore, is the rise of right wing, populist, mostly conservative, politics, in many different parts of the globe, from center to periphery and back again. We are interested in exploring together the meaning of this political tidal wave to feminist politics, movement and national and transnational advocacy. How should feminist actors around the global respond to the rise of right wing politics and what opportunities do transnational feminist perspectives provide?