

Mengia Tschalaer PhD

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Education

- 2013 **Ph.D. in Socio-cultural Anthropology**, University of Zurich, Switzerland
Project: Muslim Women's Quest for Gender Justice in Lucknow, India (2008-2013)
fifteen months of empirical research on the way Muslim women's rights organizations in Lucknow negotiate gender justice, India, negotiate gender justice pertaining to marriage and the family
- 2007 **Lic. Phil. (equivalent to combined BA and MA) in Social and Cultural Anthropology**, University of Zurich, Switzerland
Project: 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

Current Position

- 2024- **Research Consultant**, Organization for Refuge, Asylum & Migration (ORAM), Berlin
- Establishing contacts and conducting outreach in five eastern European countries; mapping of LGBTIQ organizations and humanitarian and refugee-serving organizations in the region; conducting interviews and focus groups with mapped organizations and members of the displaced queer community; data analysis; drafting of a 20-page report on findings.
- 2023- **Adjunct Full Professor**, Department of Anthropology and Law and Society
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York, USA
- Developing and teaching online undergraduate course on law and society, culture and the law, gender and the law, and sex and culture, mentoring students to conduct focus groups on a TLC and OSRC-led project "Re-centering Student-Centered Teaching and Learning within Student Experience and Reflection"

Previous Positions (selection)

- 2018-2023 **Adjunct Associate Professor**, Department of Anthropology and Political Science
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York, USA
- Developing and teaching online undergraduate course on law and society, culture and the law, gender and the law, and sex and culture, develop online model courses, co-facilitate faculty workshops, contribute to the department's programming, reviewer for the Distinguished Teaching Prize at John Jay
- 2020-2023 **Research Fellow and Board Member of the Gender Committee to the ITFLOWS Project**, Brunel Law School, Brunel University London, UK
- Supporting the writing and coordination of the ITFLOWS policy briefs
 - Leading the drafting of a Gender Action Plan for the research on the prediction of migration flows to and within the EU
 - Supporting the drafting of the European legislative framework on migration and asylum for the European Commission
 - Evaluation and monitoring of the human rights and gender considerations relating to both asylum and migration law and the on-going actions of the project
- 2021-2023 **Substitute Assistant Professor**, Department of Anthropology
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York, USA

- Developing and teaching online undergraduate course on law and society, culture and the law, gender and the law, and sex and culture, develop online model courses, co-facilitate faculty workshops, contribute to the department's programming, evaluating Distinguish Teaching Prize portfolio

Fall 2022 **Andrew W. Mellon Transformative Learning in the Humanities (TLH) Faculty Fellow**

City University of New York, USA

- Participated in a cross-college collaboration on pedagogical innovation, antiracist curriculum strategies, creating equitable student learning that is a part of a three-year innovative teaching initiative at CUNY supported by a \$2 million grant from the Mellon Foundation; Co-organized and co-facilitated the creation of a student-led open education resource (OER) where students produced a [podcast series](#) that focuses on the lived experiences of CUNY students; Co-authored a [blog](#) for Transformative Learning in the Humanities.

2018-2020 **Marie-Curie Research Fellow**, School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies

University of Bristol, UK

- Principal Investigator researching the experiences of LGBTQI+ Muslims and lesbian-identifying womxn with the asylum system in Germany, conducting, analyzing, and writing up research, organization of 4 high impact online symposiums, funded by the European Commission

2013-2018 **Adjunct Assistant Professor**, Department of Anthropology and Political Science

John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York, USA

- Developing and teaching online undergraduate course on law and society, culture and the law, gender and the law, and sex and culture

2016-2017 **Adjunct Assistant Professor**, Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Barnard College, Columbia University, New York, USA

- Developed and taught a course on practicing the intersectionality of race, gender, sexuality, and ethnicity

TEACHING

Undergraduate Courses

ANT 310	Culture and Personality (Anthropology Department, John Jay College, Fall 2016-)
ANT 210	Sex and Culture (Anthropology Department, John Jay College, Fall 2019-)
ANT 315	Systems of Law (Anthropology Department, John Jay College, Fall 2017-)
ANT 330	Cultural American Pluralism and the Law (Anthropology Department, John Jay College, Spring 2021-)
POL 319	Gender and the Law (Political Science Department, John Jay College, Fall 2013-)
LWS 225	Research Methods in Law and Society (Political Science Department, John Jay College, Fall 2023-)
LWS 200	Introduction to Law and Society (Political Science Department, John Jay College, Fall 2014-Spring 2017)
WMST 2150	Practicing Intersectionality: The interdisciplinary study of race, gender, and ethnicity (Barnard College, Columbia University, Fall 2016)

WGS 244 Women's and Gender Studies, Transnational Feminisms (Hunter College, Fall 2013)

Master Course

Displacement and the Asylum Process. Master Seminar. (University of Zurich, Spring 2021)

Faculty Seminar

TLC Intersectional Futures: Re-Framing Career Readiness for CUNY Students (Teaching and Learning Center, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, 2022-2023)

Pedagogical and Professional Development

2022 *Mellon Transformative Learning in the Humanities Faculty Fellow*, Transformative Learning in the Humanities, CUNY, 1 semester

2022 *John Jay OER/Open Pedagogy*, Department of Online Teaching and Support, John Jay College, 3 weeks

2021-2022 *Practical Teaching for Resilient Learning*, Teaching and Learning Center, 2 semesters

2021 *Effective Practices in Hybrid Education*, Department of Online Teaching and Support, John Jay College, 3 weeks

2019 *Pathway to Impact*. Kings College, UK, 3 weeks

2019 *Grant proposal writing*. University of Bristol, UK, 2 days

2019 *How to create a successful podcast*. The Independent, UK, 1 day

2019 *Project Management*. University of Bristol, UK, 1 day

2019 *Policy Engagement*. University of Bristol, UK, 1 day

2019 *Research Impact*. University of Bristol, UK, 1 day

2019 *Introduction to Entrepreneurialism*. University of Bristol and University of Essex, UK, 1 day

2018 *Research and Public Engagement*. University of Bristol, UK, 1 day

2018 *Interview Confidence Training*. University of Bristol, UK, 1 day

2018 *Improving Online Teaching for Students Success Seminar*, Teaching and Learning Center, John Jay College, 3 weeks

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

2017 Tschalaer, Mengia. Muslim Women's Quest for Justice. Gender, Law and Activism in India. Cambridge University Press. (Cambridge Studies in Law and Society).

- Nominated for the 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)
- Very enthusiastic reviews in the Law and Society Review, Journal of Legal Pluralism and Unofficial Law, Verfassung und Recht in Übersee, Law and Social Inquiry, Book Review Literary Trust

Journal Special Issue

2023 Tschalaer, M., and Fadi Saleh (eds.) Queer Liberalisms and Marginal Mobilities. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. Vol 46(9).

Peer-Reviewed Journal Publications

2025 Tschalaer, M., Alexandra Xanthaki and Ermioni Xhantopoulou. Human Rights Risks of Migration Flow Predictions and Policy Implications Within the EU. *Human Rights Quarterly* (accepted)

2023 Saleh, F. and Mengia Tschalaer. Introduction to Special Issue: Queer Liberalism and Marginal Mobility. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. 46(9), 1769-1790.

- 2023 Tschalaer, M. Queering migration temporalities: LGBTQI+ experiences with waiting within Germany's asylum system. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 46(9),1833-1853. (Selected for the shortlist of eight articles for the Martin Bulmer Prize for Article of the Year Award 2023)
- 2023 Tschalaer, M. Queer Motherhood in the Context of Legal Precarity: Experiences of Lesbian Mothers Seeking Asylum in Germany. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. Vol 46(2), 233-253.
- 2022 Tschalaer, M. Queer Necropolitics: Experiences of LGBTQI+ Asylum Claimants During Covid-19 in the UK. *Journal of Contemporary European Research*. Vol 18(1), 115-132.
- 2021 Tschalaer, M. Femininities and Victimhood in Black Lesbian Asylum Cases in Germany. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. Vol 47(15), 3531-3548.
- 2020 Tschalaer, M. Between Queer Liberalisms and Muslim Masculinities: The Assessment of Queer Muslim Asylum Quests in Germany. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. Vol 43(7), 1265-1283.
- 2015 Tschalaer, Hong M. 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 Tschalaer, Hong M. Competing Model–Nikahnamas: Muslim Women's Spaces within the Legal Landscape in Lucknow. *NAVEIN REET: Nordic Journal of Law and Social Research*, 3, 65–80.
- 2010 Tschalaer, Hong M. 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.

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

- 2025 Tschalaer, M. The recognition of lesbian refugee protection claims within the EU's asylum regime. In: Yurdakul, Beaman, Mügge, Scuzzarello and Sunanta (eds.) Oxford University Press Handbook of Intersectional Approaches to Migration, Gender, and Sexuality. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (forthcoming/under contract)
- 2023 Tschalaer, M. "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 (Cambridge Handbook in Anthropology), pp. 313–335. <https://doi:10.1017/9781108647410.015>.

Non-Peer-Reviewed Publications

- 2021 Tschalaer, M. Fighting for asylum, as a lesbian and as a mother. *Beyond Trafficking and Slavery, openDemocracy*. 8. December.
- 2021 Tschalaer, M. Report from the Field: The Recognition of Queer Asylum Claims in Germany. *News From the Ninth Floor. Anthropology*. Vol 4(1).
- 2021 Tschalaer, M. Queer liberalisms and marginal mobility – special issue and interview series. *Migration Mobilities Bristol Blog*. 7 April.
- 2020 Tschalaer, M. The Recognition of Queer Asylum Claims in Germany. *ncr-on the move Blog*. 4. November.
- 2020 Tschalaer, M. 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*. 15. September.
- 2020 Tschalaer, M. 2020. Fehlender Schutz für Schwarze lesbische Geflüchtete. *Tagesspiegel*. 23. June.
- 2020 Tschalaer, M and Nina Held and Danijel Čubelic. „Ich habe mich noch nie einsamer gefühlt“. *Tagesspiegel*. 30. March. (This article appeared in the print version of the *Tagesspiegel* under the title "Mein Leben ist eingefroren" on 6. April 2020.
- 2020 Tschalaer, Mengia, Nina Held and Danijel Čubelić. Coronavirus exacerbates LGBTQI refugee isolation and trauma. In: *Al Jazeera*. 22 April.
- 2019 Tschalaer, M. LGBTQI+ Asylum Claimants Face Extreme Social Isolation in Germany. In: *Beyond Trafficking and Slavery, openDemocracy*. 26. November.

- 2019 Tschalaer, M. Denied Victimhood of Lesbian Asylum Seekers Racialized as Black in Germany. In *Beyond Trafficking and Slavery, openDemocracy*. 14. August.
- 2019 Held, N. and Mengia Tschalaer. Better Legal and Social Support Needed for LGBTQI+ People Seeking Asylum in Germany. *Mobilities and Migration Bristol Blog*. 31. October.
- 2019 Tschalaer, M. Conforming to stereotypes to gain asylum in Germany. *Mobilities and Migration Bristol Blog*. 12. August.

Policy Briefs

- 2023 Held, Nina and Mengia Tschalaer. *The intersectionality of gender and sexuality in lesbian asylum applications: A guide to improving asylum practices regarding lesbian refugees in Germany*. Federal Foundation Magnus Hirschfeld.
- 2023 Tschalaer, Mengia, Alexandra Xanthaki and Ermioni Xhantopoulou. Migration Flows Prediction Tools and Asylum Policy Commitments in Alignment with Human Rights. Brunel Law School.
- 2023 Danijel Cubelic, Marie-Luise Löffler and Mengia Tschalaer. *An Intersectional Approach to the Istanbul Convention: Perspectives on the Protection of LBTQI Girls and Women in Germany*. Federal Foundation Magnus Hirschfeld und the Gunda-Werner Institute for Feminism (Heinrich Böll Foundation), Berlin.
- 2021 Tschalaer, Mengia and Christopher Pullen. Equality in the UK Asylum Process. Written Evidence submitted to the UK Parliament Women's Select Committee. Published on the UK Parliament Committees Website: 17. November 2021.
- 2021 Tschalaer, Mengia. The Istanbul Convention and Queer Women Seeking Asylum. Policy Bristol.
- 2020 Tschalaer, Mengia. Covid-19 and Queer Asylum. Policy Brief. June 29. PolicyBristol.
- 2020 Tschalaer, Mengia. The Recognition of Black Lesbian Asylum Claims in Germany. PolicyBristol
- 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 Bristol.

Report

- 2023 Samuel Hall and IOM. Mapping and research to strengthen protection and assistance measures for migrants with diverse SOGIESC. IOM, Geneva.
- 2022 Boland, C. and M. Tschalaer. ITFLOWS Gender Action Plan, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and Brunel University London.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Invited Talks and Conference Presentations (selection since July 2019)

- 09/2024 Presenter: The Intersectionality of Gender and Sexuality in Lesbian Asylum Claims in Germany. 5th Conference for the German Network on Forced Migration Studies. Bonn, Germany. (Jointly with Nina Held)
- 07/2024 **Invited by Sarah Scuzzarello (University of Sussex) to present:** The Relevance of the Istanbul Convention for the Refugee for the Protection of Lesbian Asylum Claimants. *21st Annual IMISCOE Conference*. Lisbon, Portugal.
- 05/2024 **Invited as a guest speaker:** Queer motherhood in the context of Germany's asylum system. Department of Communication and Journalism. Bournemouth University.
- 04/2024 Presenter: Queering Migration Temporalities: LGBTQI+ Experiences with Waiting within Germany's Asylum System. IMISCOE Spring Conference. Istanbul, Türkiye.
- 06/2023 **Keynote: The Implementation of the Istanbul Convention for Queer Refugees in Germany**. Heinrich Böll Foundation. Berlin, Germany.
- 09/2022 **Keynote: The Istanbul Convention Thought Intersectionally**. Heinrich Böll Foundation. Berlin, Germany.

- 07/2022 Speaker/Discussant/Session Chair: Experiences with Motherhood of Lesbian-Identifying Womxn Seeking Asylum in Germany. *Law And Society Association Global Meeting*. Lisbon, Portugal.
- 06/2022 **Invited as a speaker: Experiences with integration of queer asylum claimants/refugees. Rethinking integration: Gender approach, equal opportunities and non-discrimination.** European Coalition of Cities Against Racism. Online.
- 03/2022 **Keynote with Eithne Luibhéid:** Transforming Systemic Violence: Experiences of Female and Non-Binary Identifying Queer Migrants. Speaker Series. Barnard Digital Center of Humanities. Columbia University, USA.
- 06/2021 **Invited as a speaker: Queer Asylum: International Perspectives Between Activism and Academia.** Workshop. Nccr on the move. University of Neuchatel, Switzerland.
- 02/2021 **Invited as a panelist: Current Debates in the Protection and Study of LGBTQI+ Displaced People.** Hosted by the Oxford Department of International Development. Online.
- 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.

Impact and Outreach Activities (selection)

- 12/2022 *Podcast Producer: Counternarratives and Storytelling: The Lived Experiences of CUNY Students. Transformative Learning in the Humanities (TLH), CUNY.*
- 06/2022 *Co-organizer of in-person conference: The Istanbul Convention Thought Intersectionally.* Hosted by the Gunda-Werner Institute, Berlin, Germany.
- 03/2022 *Co-organizer (with Eithne Luibhéid) of online speaker series. Transforming Systemic Violence: Experiences of Female and Non-Binary Identifying Queer Migrants.* Hosted by the Barnard Digital Humanities Center. Columbia University, USA
- 11/2021 *Co-Organizer of online conference. Queer Asylum and the EU-Dublin III System of Return: Challenges and Risks.* Hosted by the Gunda-Werner Institute, online.
- 06/2021 *Podcast Producer: Die Relevanz der Istanbul Konvention im Asylverfahren für Lesbisch-Queere Frauen.* Queer European Asylum Network.
- 06/2021 *Co-Organizer of the Roundtable: The Istanbul Convention and Queer Women Seeking Asylum.* Attendees included representatives of civil society organizations in Germany, the German Ministry of Migration and Asylum and the German Ministry of Family Affairs. Germany.
- 04/2021 *Co-Organizer of the Speaker Series: Queer Liberalisms and Marginal Mobility. Barnard College. Columbia University. USA.*
- 11/2020 *Co-Organizer of online conference: Recognition and Prevention of Violence against LGBTQI+ Persons on the Move.* Panelists include representatives of the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, Transgender Europe, the German Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, and the lesbian support organization LeTRa. Hosted by the Gunda-Werner Institute, online.
- 04/2020 *Co-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. Hosted by the Gunda-Werner Institute, online.

Awards

- 2022 Mellon Transformative Learning in the Humanities Faculty Fellow, Transformative Learning in the Humanities, CUNY. (\$1,800)
- 2019 ESRC Impact Acceleration Account Grant. Grant Nr. ES/M500410/1. (\$3717)
- 2018 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Individual Fellowship. Grant Agreement Nr. 793497. 1. September 2018 – 31. August 2020. (2 years, \$202,011)
- 2012 Swiss National Science Foundation Fellowship for Prospective Researchers (6 months, \$32,250)
- 2008-12 University of Zurich Candoc Dissertation Fellowship. Grant Nr. 56650301 and [143439](#) 1. August 2008 – 31. July 2012. (3 years, \$151,056)

Reviewing Activities

- 01/2024– present Reviewer for *Journal of Ethnic and Racial Studies* (Journal)
- 08/2023– present Reviewer for *Sexualities* (Journal)
- 05/2022– present Reviewer for *Refugee Survey Quarterly* (Journal)
- 01/2022– present Reviewer for *University of California Press* (Books)
- 09/2021– present Reviewer for *University of Texas Press* (Books)
- 01/2020– present Reviewer for *Signs* (Journal)
- 02/2020– present Reviewer for *Sexuality Research and Social Policy* (Journal)
- 11/2020– present Reviewer for *Bodies and Borders* (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)

Professional Activities

- 2021 Expert, Grant Proposal Evaluations, European Commission
- 2020-2023 Guest Editor, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*

Memberships

- 2021- American Anthropological Association
- 2021- European Anthropological Association
- 2019- IMISCOE International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion Network
- 2018- Migration and Mobilities Bristol (MMB)
- 2011- Law and Society Association

Languages

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