Fatima Sadiqi

Digital Book Presentation and Discussion

Fatima Sadiqi is Professor in Linguistics and Gender Studies at the University of Fez (Morocco) and author of several volumes, including Women, Gender and Language (Brill 2003), Women and Knowledge in the Mediterranean (Routledge 2013), Moroccan Feminist Discourses (Palgrave Macmillan 2014), and Women’s Movements in the Post-“Arab Spring” North Africa (2016). Her work has been supported by numerous awards and fellowships from Harvard University, the Woodrow Wilson Center, the Rockefeller Foundation, Fulbright, and currently by the ZiF Center for Interdisciplinary Research (Bielefeld University, Germany).

This book is a tribute to the memory of Fatima Sadiqi’s father Mouhammad ou Lahcen, a rural, illiterate, self-made Berber man who served in the French army before joining the Moroccan army after independence in 1956. In addition to her family’s recollections, Sadiqi interviewed twenty-five Moroccan women of her generation whose fathers were in the military and who are now feminist leaders in various fields. In so doing she seeks to both honor the memory of her father and his generation of military rural Berber men, and draw attention to the forgotten role of these men in opening the door of education to the second generation of Moroccan feminists. Marginalized in both the colonial and Moroccan narratives, as well as in the Moroccan feminist discourses, the legacy of these men deserves recognition in the social history of modern Morocco.