Intersectionality, in particular with respect to race and religion, has become a focal point of discussions and tensions within feminist movements in many Western countries, especially in Europe, and feminists have been actively engaged in promoting, and in resisting, intersectional claims, in particular, but not only when they concern Islamic practices. This presentation will draw on my newly released monograph, Feminist Trouble, which investigates intersectional politics in women’s organizations in France and Quebec. Giving voice to women of color and white women, the book analyzes hierarchies of privilege, in particular whiteness, in feminist politics, grappling with Islam and Islamic veiling debates to understand how these changes have transformed contemporary feminist movements, intersectional politics, and the feminist collective subject. Drawing on the analysis of empirical intersectional politics in both contexts, I propose a theoretical reformulation of feminism which argues that feminism should not be centered around an identity—women—but should instead focus on a feminist ethic of responsibility which reckons with power asymmetries and requires women to prioritize their ethical responsibility to the feminist project.

The talk will be held on G-Meet and streamed live on Facebook and Youtube Channel. Please, disable audio and video during your G-Meet participation.