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SUB-DOMAIN: 5. WOMEN, GENDER, AND FAMILY

PANEL TITLE: WOMEN, GENDER, AND FAMILY

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ABSTRACT

Simon de Beauvoir's famous statement depicted in her book *Second Sex* that, 'one is not born a woman but becomes a woman'. So biological destiny is not enough to identify man and woman in the social metrics. Women's oppression is historical as well as biological. Socio-cultural construction makes the women inferior and forces them to be engaged with domestic responsibilities and childcare. Since 1960s the feminists' movements came in forefront to solve the gender inequalities in societies. To break the stigma of subordination, the postmodern feminism deconstructs male language and masculine views of the world. Deconstruction attacks all binary concepts framed by patriarchy or culture. Nevertheless, since 1970s and 1980s, Queer theorists have been engaging themselves with the very challenging concept of 'identity' in the realm of identity creation and re-creation due to appearance of the identities of gay and lesbian. They all are interested to all other unconventional sexuality, prostitution, bisexuality, transgender and so on who are gradually entering into the major landscape of social reality. In the formation of women status in the context of gender identity, family performs the immense role. It has been popularly said that women are close to nature and women's psyche seen is seen to be closer to nature. But paradoxically, the image of women is constructed by the society and culture. The differences between male and female are not 'innate' or 'genetically programmed' they arise from nearly universal features of family structures. Overtimes new families with new roles and statues are emerged. Cohabiting couples are accepted by the family and society. Gay couples form their families with social prestige. So, with time gender issues vary developing new methodology, ontology, and thoughts to face the debates, discourses and new challenges related to the problems unveiling a new notion of 'female patriarchy'.

Keywords: Second Sex, Deconstruction, Female Patriarchy, genetically programmed

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