

## **Gendered dimensions of Accessing Asylum in the EU**

Under current policies, seeking asylum in the European Union is dependent on the asylum seeker's physical presence in the territory or at the border of a European Union Member State - making access to asylum in the EU intertwined with access to territory. In international human rights and refugee law the right to seek asylum and the right to leave a country is explicit, but there is no corresponding right to enter a country in order to use the right to seek asylum. This asymmetry of rights has been institutionalized within the EU regulatory framework on asylum, creating a "non-entry" system.

Of those who have applied for asylum in the EU over the last five years, only 30 percent were women. This figure does not correspond to the overall gender balance in terms of the global refugee population, which according to the UNHCR consists of approximately 50 percent women.

What do these statistics say about current policies and gender relations? Is access to asylum in the EU dependent on certain gendered conditions and are gender structures possibly being (re)produced by the EU regulatory framework on asylum?

With the help from securitization- and feminist theory, my presentation will reflect on access to international protection, giving a brief insight into how law operates in and is constructed in a gendered and securitized context.

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