

The Seminar in Feminist Continental Philosophy in Stockholm in collaboration with the Gender Academy at Stockholm University

Robin May Schott

Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS)

The “Burqa Bans” and Superficial Politics

Friday, March 13 @ 13.00

Stockholm University

Södra Huset, D9

A Danish law that took effect August 1, 2018 bans the wearing of any garment in a public place that hides the face, unless it is for a recognized purpose. Five other European countries have passed legislation against full-face coverings. Examining legal and feminist debates, this article highlights the fundamental conflict between religious rights and equality rights in Denmark that pertains as much to Lutheranism, Catholicism, and Judaism as it does to Islam. The burqa debates are *superficial politics*, as they are a displacement of an underlying conflict in the conditions of political life to a surface issue that affects an extremely tiny group. Both on the superficial and fundamental levels, it is not only women’s individual rights, but also the principles of gender equality and opposition to sexist oppression, which lose out.

femfilsthlm@gmail.com

