

Frank Church Symposium 2025

Women Today: Politics, Perceptions, and Power

April 3 - 4, 2025

(To be hosted HYBRID - Virtual and In-person)

On April 3-4, 2025, the Idaho State University International Affairs Council (IAC) will be hosting the 54th Annual Frank Church Symposium on International Affairs. Named in honor of the late Senator Frank Church, the symposium has grown over the years, offering the university and the community opportunities to discuss global issues and expand their perspectives. We invite scholars, experts, government agencies, political leaders, and practitioners with multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives to address topics related to the theme ***Women Today: Politics, Perception, and Power***. We are particularly interested in participants who would present multifaceted approaches in regards to the world's perspectives of feminism, gender politics, healthcare, autonomy, media, society, leadership and activism.

The IAC invites academics and other interest groups to submit a short bio, paper titles, and abstracts of around 150 words describing a discussion topic/their specific area of specialization. The abstract can reflect previously completed or ongoing work. The IAC will use these abstracts to tailor our panels in response to our presenters' specialties. Multiple abstracts are encouraged for participation on different panels.

Panel Descriptions:

Panel 1: Social Spaces - Boundaries and Agency

Topics can include: Gender norms and expression, pink tax, period poverty, education, entrepreneurs, misogyny (external and internal), child marriage, glass ceilings, domestic roles, leadership.

Panel 2: Media's Frame

Topics can include: Influence on youth, sexualization, cultural promotion, beauty standards, normalization, media bias, role of news media, government portrayal of a female ideal.

Panel 3: Bodily Autonomy and Healthcare

Topics can include: Access to healthcare, adequacy, female genital mutilation, contraception/abortion, menopause, childbearing, medical judgements, sexual assault, mental health, gender norms and expression.

Panel 4: Politics and Policies

Topics can include: Voting rights, social rights, public autonomy (regulated dress, access to spaces, etc.), maternity leave, property rights, abuse, violence/stalking, pay gap, rape, lack of rights (perception vs reality), harassment.

Panel 5: Global Discourses

Topics can include: Globalization/Westernization of feminist discourses, queering gender norms, institutional changes, marriage/divorce, perception of freedom, “liberal empowerment,” internalized patriarchy, hypocrisies.

Panel 6: Women with(in) Power

Topics can include: Activism, movements, strategies, limits of international institutions, successes, obstacles, political leadership, social leadership, varied expressions of empowerment.

Contact Information:

Please send all application materials and questions by email to the International Affairs Council at iac@isu.edu. Any further information or questions can also be submitted to Dr. Colin Johnson, faculty advisor to the International Affairs Council, at colinjohnson@isu.edu.

Selection of Participants:

This call for abstracts will prioritize proposals submitted before Nov. 1, 2024, but we will accept proposals until Dec. 1, 2024. The International Affairs Council will review all proposals and materials received, and participants will be officially notified by email by the IAC by January 2025 about the status of their abstracts.

General Information:

Panel Format:

The panels will follow one of two formats at the discretion of the IAC to best represent the views and expertise of our selected panelists. A potential panel format has delegates address pre-written questions posed by a moderator. These questions will be sent two weeks in advance of the symposium, and we use this format to engage in more conversational exchange amongst panelists. An alternative panel format requires individual presentations by each panelist, and we use this format to ensure equal time is given to each presenter's perspective. Regardless of the panel format, an audience Q&A will be the concluding element. Invited delegates are encouraged to participate in panels throughout the symposium.

Lectures and Keynote Presentation:

In addition to panels, the Frank Church Symposium also hosts two lectures and one keynote presentation. The International Affairs Council will invite and host one lecture each on Thursday and Friday. The keynote address will take place on Thursday evening.

Honorariums:

Each participant will receive an honorarium based on available funding and will be made known to each delegate individually as the program is finalized in mid-December. The larger honorariums for the named lectures and keynote address will be communicated to the selected individuals.

Virtual, Travel and Hotel Accommodations:

We are accepting virtual and in-person delegates.

In addition to the honorarium, the International Affairs Council will provide some travel awards to qualifying participants - thanks to donations from the Associated Students of Idaho State University, collaborating departments, individuals, and businesses. Due to limited funding, however, we may not have enough funds to cover airfares for all participants, especially those from outside the country. We strongly encourage potential delegates to look for funding from within their institutions and other sponsors. Questions regarding funding can be directed towards the IAC faculty advisor, Dr. Colin Johnson (colinjohnson@isu.edu).
