



SEMINAR 2025/26

# WOMEN, WORK AND ACTIVISM IN THE 20TH CENTURY

*Eastern European Perspectives*

**DECEMBER 9, 2025, 10:30-12:30**

**AULA L**, Palazzo del Bo  
via VIII Febbraio 2, Padova

## WOMEN AND NON-ALIGNMENT IN THE COLD WAR ERA

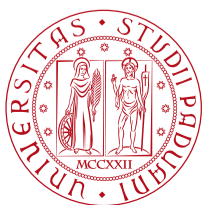
**Chiara Bonfiglioli** Ca' Foscari University of Venice

The lecture will examine various forms of women's activism in countries affiliated with the Non-Aligned Movement (Cuba, Egypt, India, Tunisia, and Yugoslavia), focusing in particular on how women's organizations in these countries changed over the decades in relation to state power and developed different connections with the socialist-oriented Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF). We will explore how state feminism and women's rights became central components of postcolonial and socialist nation-building and modernization - especially in the areas of education, labor, and reproductive rights - and how the leadership of women's organizations sought to address the needs of "the female masses" namely peasant and working-class women.



**CHIARA BONFIGLIOLI** is Associate Professor in Contemporary History at Ca' Foscari University of Venice. She previously lectured in Gender and Women's Studies at University College Cork. She published extensively on transnational women's and feminist history. She is the author of *Women and Industry in the Balkans: The Rise and Fall of the Yugoslav Textile Sector* (Bloomsbury 2019). She leads the ERC Consolidator team project "Women and Non-Alignment in the Cold War era: biographical and intersectional perspectives (WO-NAM)".

SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATION:  
**Eloisa Betti, Giovanni Cadioli**



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