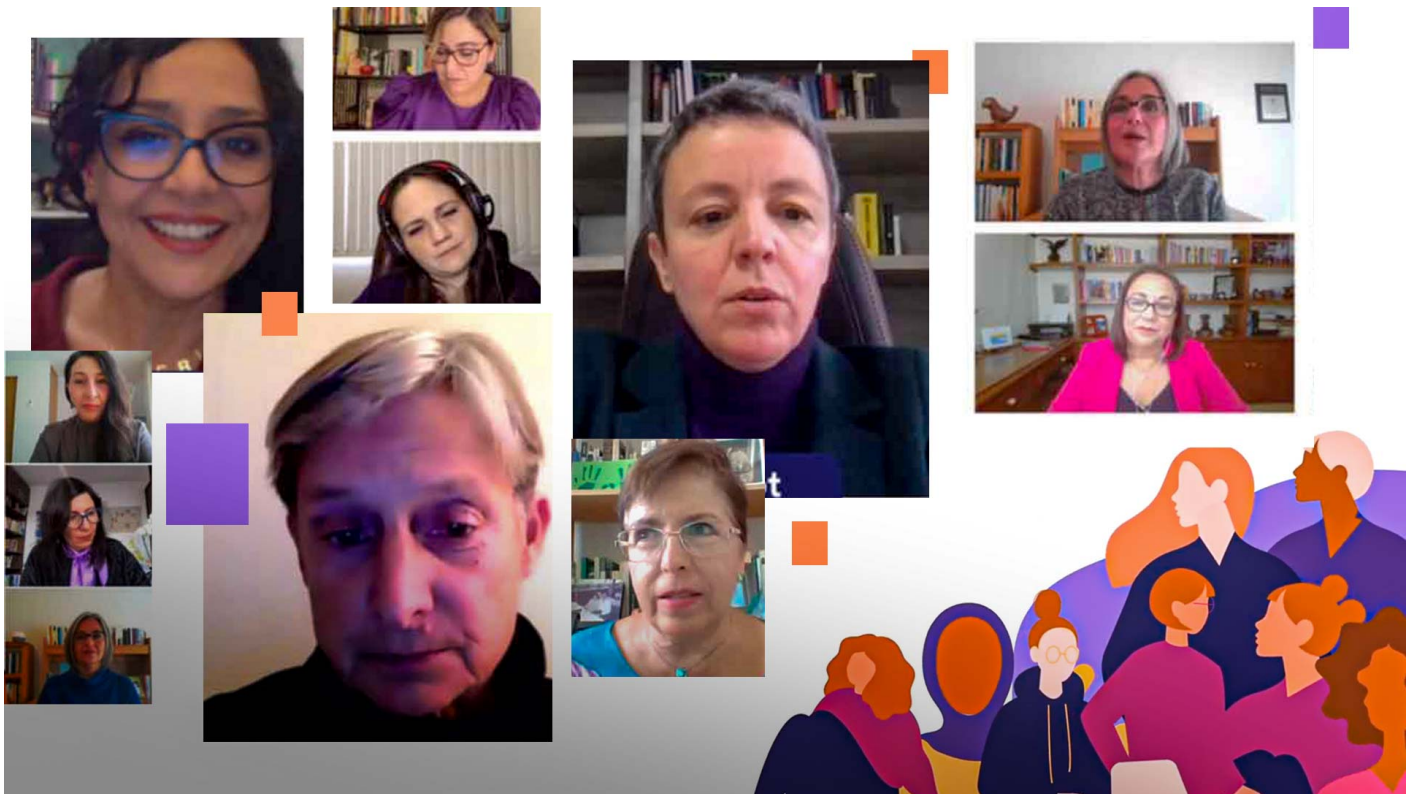


# Judith Butler: Attacks on feminism are a response to its success



A discussion with prominent feminist **Judith Butler**, a talk from activist **Olimpia Coral Melo** about **online violence**, and proposals to develop opportunities for women formed part of the [Tec de Monterrey 2021 Feminism Conference](#).

These virtual conversations were held between **March 8th and 12th** and aimed to **highlight** the problems and challenges faced by **women**.

*“It is the **work** of **each** and **every one** of us to do what is necessary to **close gaps** and highlight the **talent, leadership**, and contributions of **extraordinary women** every single day,”* added **David Garza**, rector and executive president of the Tec.

**CONECTA** shares the highlights of this event.

# JORNADAS DE FEMINISMOS

8-12 DE MARZO



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## **Butler: Attacks on feminism are a response to its success**

In the conversation “*Feminism for our Times*”, renowned international feminist **Judith Butler** explained that **attacks on feminism** are becoming more **common** and **public** as a result of its success.

*“They’ve been a **response** to our **success** in **fighting sexual violence**, **fighting for equal pay**, and **giving women reproductive freedom**,” she said.*

She also spoke about the importance of **interdependence** and the **need** for **various movements** to unite through **actions** that will support many of their objectives.

*“For example, **climate change**. If we cannot save the Earth from destruction then we will lose the **conditions** to **live**, love, and fight for justice, freedom, and equality,” she said.*

*“They have been a response to our success in fighting sexual violence, fighting for equal pay, and giving women reproductive freedom.”*



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## Olimpia Melo's struggle against digital violence

Activist **Olimpia Coral Melo** talked about her struggle to defend women who have suffered from **digital violence**, as she did when a **video in which she appeared naked went viral** and which, she explained, "almost destroyed her life."

After 3 suicide attempts, and with the unfailing support of her family, she began to draft a bill.

*"I learned of so many cases (of digital violence) from other women, and I asked myself, 'Why is this not a crime?' Together with my colleagues, I began to fight because for it to become so.*

*"Today, after having been Olimpia 'the chubby girl from Huauchinango', I am now Olimpia, 'the one who created the Olimpia Act',"* she says.

Now, this reform of the law on crimes against sexual intimacy, is working to **eradicate digital violence**, the victims of which are mostly women, and which was not previously punishable by law.

The **Olimpia Act** punishes those who **share sexual content** such as photographs or videos on social networks and digital media **without the consent** of the person who appears in the material with up to **6 years in prison**.



**Olimpia Coral Melo**

das de Feminismos 2021 | Charla con Olimpia Coral Melo. Ley Olimpia y Violencia Digital

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### **Art, a resource for telling women's stories**

**Monica Mayer**, considered a **trend setter for feminist art in Mexico**, invited women to express what they feel when **society makes them invisible** through art.

*"I understood how important it was to work **collectively** and to **share our experiences and what we feel through art**," she explained.*

**Mayer** exemplifies the above with her work "**Clothesline**", featuring hanging sheets of various sizes and colors on which **women are invited to write phrases, questions, complaints, or opinions**. It is a work which continues to be reproduced in cultural and educational institutions to the present day.

In another of the talks, designer **Valeria Gallo** spoke of the **important role** that **women in art** currently play in the fight for **equality** and **women's rights**.

*"**Young women** are the ones who are taking up arms, so to speak, through their **words, voices, and images**: they're the ones who are **saying things**."*

*"It's a **reflection of the role we (women) play** in all areas. You see this a lot in **illustration**, because it's a **visual discipline**, but the same happens in **literature, music, and other areas**," she explained.*





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### **Humanities + feminism = a more just world**

Mariana Gabarrot, Mónica Lloret, Viviana Ortiz, and María Concepción Castillo, professors at Tec de Monterrey, all agreed that a **more just world** can be achieved through **humanities** and **feminism**.

*“**Feminism** seeks a **just world** in which we all have access to a **decent life** because 10 women are killed every day in Mexico. It’s a **basic human right**,” Gabarrot asserted.*

The professors from the **School of Humanities and Education** addressed the **importance of feminism**.

*“I cannot conceive of the search for a **more humane world** without the deep and critical reflection of the humanities,” shared Ortiz.*

*“Similarly, I can’t imagine the Humanities without **feminism**, because this is the **voice of women**, the voice of that part of humanity which has often been made invisible,” she added.*



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### **More women should have access to power**

**Gabriela Ortiz, Laurence Bertoux, Lourdes Ocampo, Pilar González, and Tzinti Ramírez** addressed the **importance** of more and more **women** having **access** to and exercising power to **ensure** a more **just and equal world**.

*"Power should be used for the **majority**, to build **better futures**,"* said Ocampo.

In addition to **access to managerial or leadership positions** in various areas, they also stressed the **importance** of **empowering women's discourse**.

*"We'd have to **start thinking** (about power) from the perspective of **empowering others**, being **taken seriously**, and making things happen,"* said Ramírez.



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## How to hack the patriarchy

In a panel moderated by Judith Ruiz-Godoy, professors **Ana Luisa Sánchez**, **Beatriz Murrieta**, **Ethel Krauze**, and **Nivardo Trejo** reflected on what it means to **hack the patriarchy** and the relationship between **feminism** and **technology**.

Sánchez said that the concept of **hacking** can be conceived as a **deconstruction** and **radical transformation** that generates a certain perversion of the predominant formula in the system we know.

*“Hacking implies **resistance** and gives us **new ways** of **seeing the world** that help us **break away** from **existing binaries**, both in terms of the binary code of ones and zeros, but also the **binary of man and woman**,”* said Sánchez.

*“It **dismantles** our **preconceptions**. It means **empowering diverse groups** to make decisions, making knowledge and technology available to everyone. **As a woman**, it also means **speaking up** about feminism and about technology,”* said Murrieta.



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The **Feminism Conference** takes place on **International Women's Day**, commemorated on March 8, the same day that Tec de Monterrey presented the [2021 Mujer Tec Awards](https://tec.mx/en/news/national/institution/25-outstanding-women-2021-mujer-tec-awards).

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