Ms. Yvonne Eaton (PhD candidate, ABD) came to Qatar from her home city of San Francisco, California. She currently teaches Political Science, International Relations, and Gulf History courses at the Community College of Qatar where she also works as the Institutional Researcher in the Office of Institutional Effectiveness.

ABSTRACT:

Academic research based on institutionalism, institution-building, and human capital, has yet addressed the influence of change in higher education institutions in the micro- and meso-level transformation of women. Research on neo-institutionalism and institutional change can address how transformation is gendered. Feminist institutionalism is an emerging analytical framework that addresses the gendered nature of institutional change. This new framework attempts to bridge feminism and neo-institutionalism in explaining institutional creation, perpetuation, crisis, and change with regards to power and gender, all of which are absent from neo-institutionalism. Moreover, feminist institutionalism advocates a framework to better understand the systematic interaction between informal (norms, values, unofficial rules and practices) and formal (rules, regulations, and procedures) institutions in creating gendered change. As positivist and quantitative research have dominated the neo-institutionalism field, my doctoral research attempts to incorporate phenomenological and qualitative approaches to uncover the perspectives, motivations, norms, and values of as many actors who effect or are affected by gendered institutional changes. This presentation is a theoretical discussion of how feminist neo-institutionalism is informing my research on higher education institutional change and its impact on the human capital accumulation of women in the developing world.