Gender Studies and International Relations

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Course description
Women- and gender-related issues have become highly salient on the international stage since a few years. The development of gender mainstreaming strategies in each and every international organizations, ranging from the European Union to the World Bank, and the creation of UN Women in 2010 testify to it. Gender equality shows an unprecedented level of diffusion within national politics. Taken together, these examples suggest that gender issues have become institutionalized in international organizations and that these may well have a significant impact on nation states’ policies.

Still, these developments cannot be taken for granted and many questions remain unanswered. This seminar deals with the analysis of the internationalization of gender-related issues, their institutionalization in the global governance structures and processes, and the limits thereof. For instance, what is the real impact of these gender-sensitive policies? How can we account for a successful and legitimate gender mainstreamed approach? What are the consequences of these policies?

Pedagogical format
The seminar takes place once a week (12 1.5-hour sessions, for a total of 18 hours). Attending the seminar requires the student to have thoroughly read the compulsory texts in preparation. Students are encouraged to participate and get involved in the discussion. You will find in the general bibliography at the end of this document some useful readings that can help you get introduced to gender studies and feminist approaches in social sciences.

Course requirements
Students will graded on the basis of:

- Participation during the seminar (ie. Having read the texts, discussing them in class) for 30%
- Oral presentation for 20%: one oral presentation on one suggested theme per semester; the presentation should last 20 minutes and should be accompanied by a document including the presentation outline with its main arguments, data and bibliography (about 4/5 pages); the document should be sent by email two days prior to the oral presentation (ie. on the Wednesday before the Friday class, for instance) to the whole group and the instructor. Failing to provide the class with the written material will unfortunately result in the student/group having a penalty of 3 points.
• An advocacy paper for 25%: instructions will be given during the first session
• A final test for 25%: questions to answer, instructions will be given during the first session

Outline

Session 1: Introduction. Gender and feminism in International Relations
Topics discussed:
• What does gender have to do with IR?
• Course logistics

Session 2. Gender and feminism in International Relations Theories
Topics discussed:
• Let’s talk about gender
• Feminism and gender approaches in IR
• Empowerment: a tool for action, from the local to the global level

Oral presentation:

Compulsory readings:

Optional readings:
Session 3: The institutionalization of gender on the international agenda

Topics discussed:

- Why do IOs care about gender?
- UN Women Conferences
- Gender Mainstreaming in various IOs: origins, paths and limits

Compulsory reading:

Oral presentation (choose one):

- Gender mainstreaming in the EU: dynamics and tensions
- What success of gender mainstreaming strategies’ implementation at the national levels?
- The UN and the Politics of Gender identity and Sexual Orientation

Optional readings:

Session 4: Gender and development (1): why care about gender?

Topics discussed:
- The historical process of institutionalization of gender into development policies & IOs
- Poverty and gender

Compulsory reading:

Oral presentation (choose one):
- Did development aid policy use to be gender neutral?
- Gendering poverty
- Do gendered inequalities require gendered policies?

Optional readings:
BACQUE, M. H., BIEWENER, C., L’empowerment, une pratique émancipatrice, La découverte, 2013

Session 5: Gender and development (2): How is gender integrated and with what impact?

Topics discussed:
- Gender-sensitive development policies and men
- Gender in IOs (UN with MDGs/SDGs; WTO; EU)
Compulsory reading:

Oral presentation (choose one):
- Smart Economics : Women Empowerment and the World Bank
- Who is economic empowerment empowering?
- Women Empowerment in EU’s development aid policies

Optional readings:
BACQUE, M. H., BIEWENER, C., L’empowerment, une pratique émancipatrice, La découverte, 2013

Session 6: Gender and the Global Economy
Topics discussed :
- Feminism and IPE
- Gendered economic institutions

Compulsory reading:

Oral presentation:
- Is Austerity gender-neutral?
- Is globalization a “a rising tide lifts all boats”?

Optional readings:


Session 7: Gender and Migrations

Topics discussed:
- Women in economic migrations
- Care work and migrations

Compulsory reading:

Oral presentation:
- The global burden-sharing of care
- Does international market dynamics change gender roles?
- The fight for recognition of illegal care work

Optional readings:


Session 8: Gender and War

Topics discussed:
- Women in armed conflicts: roles and representations
- « Be a man »: the invention of masculinity through combat; a gendered conception of war; war and gender transgression
- Violence against women and gendered-base violence in the context of war
Compulsory reading:

Oral presentation:
- Is wartime sexual violence an inevitable by-product of war?
- The gendered narrative of war and militarized identities: the transformation and diversity of women's roles in conflict (a case study will be welcomed)

Optional readings:

Session 9: Gender and Peace
Topics discussed :
- The « Women, Peace and Security » (WPS) agenda: adoption, evolution and diffusion from and within the UN system
- Implementing, monitoring and evaluating an international policy: the controversial development and the tricky use of WPS indicators
- Women in peace-making and conflict resolution processes
- Gender and transitional justice

Compulsory reading:
Oral presentation:

- Women’s presence in peace negotiations: effects and influence (a case study will be welcomed)
- Sexual Exploitation and Abuse: Is peacekeeping still worth it?

Optional readings:


Session 10: Gender and Democracy Promotion

Topics discussed:

- Social movements and political transitions
- Women in political transitions: quotas and elections
- Gender and institution building

Compulsory reading:


Oral presentation:

- Has the Arab spring contributed to the advancement of women’s rights?
- Do electoral quotas promote long-term women’s empowerment?
• Is corruption gender-neutral?

Optional readings:
KROOK, M. L., Quotas for women in politics: gender and candidate selection reform worldwide, Oxford University Press 2010

Session 11: Gender and the Environment

Topics discussed:
• Gender practices in environmental studies
• Gender roles in environmental policies
• Ecofeminism
• Feminist approaches to resistance and resilience

Compulsory reading:

Oral presentation:
• Anthropocene and Gender
• Is climate change gender neutral?
• Gender and sustainability

Optional readings:
DANIELMAN, I., “Climate change: Learning from gender analysis and women's experiences of
organising for sustainable development, Gender & Development, 10:2, 2002, pp.21-29.

Session 12 : Advocacy in practice
Presentations and discussions

General bibliography

These references are useful to get a general overview of the topics discussed in the seminar.

BADEN, S., GOETZ, A. M., « Who needs [sex] when you can have [gender]? Conflicting
discourses on gender at Beijing”, in K. Staudt, ed., Women, International development and
politics; the bureaucratic mire, Philadelphia: Temple University, 1997.


BUTLER, M., MADER, K., KEAN, R., « Women, Peace and Security Handbook. Compilation and
International League for Peace and Freedom, New York, October 2010.

FRIEDMAN, Jay, E., “Gendering the Agenda: The Impact of the Transnational Women’s Rights
Movement at the UN Conferences of the 1990s”, Women’s Studies International Forum, Vol.


KABEER. N., Reversed Realities: Gender Hierarchies in Development Thought, London: Verso,
1994.

KECK, M., SIKKINK, K., Activists beyond borders: Advocacy networks in international politics,

MAZUR, A., GOERTZ, G. (eds). Politics, Gender, and Concepts: Theory and Methodology,

PUECHIGUIRBAL, N., « Discourses on Gender, Patriarchy and Resolution 1325: A Textual


TICKNER, A., Gender in International Relations; Feminist Perspectives on Achieving Global

UN WOMEN, Collection of Resources on Women, Peace and Security, New York, 2010