National Feminisms, Transnational Arenas, Universal Human Rights
Spring 2003
Sociology 924/Political Science 960

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(office hours – Wednesday 9-12)

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Feminism in the 21st century has unmistakably global dimensions but is also ever less obviously one, single movement. Diversity and differences, not only by race and class but also in national culture and policy, shape the interests that women define as their own and the demands that they raise. The questions we address in this seminar include:

a) How does the social history and contemporary politics of nation-states shape what feminism is defined as being about? How do feminist definitions of what is good for women change national policies as well as reflect the political circumstances of their individual countries?
b) Since national feminisms vary, how do feminists come together in the context of increasingly important transnational arenas such as the European Union and the United Nations to form common agendas and work cooperatively to deal with issues that cross national boundaries? How have the EU and the UN been spurs for women=s international consciousness and collective action B and how have they been sources of conflict and obstacles?
c) How has the language of universal human rights been used by feminists in a variety of national and transnational contexts to make gains for women, and at what cost? If Awomen=s rights are human rights@ makes a good slogan, what are the processes behind picking up this phrasing and circulating it globally?

The focus on these questions will be aided by interaction of seminar participants with the variety of perspectives on feminism brought to the course by an outstanding roster of international scholars and activists. These visiting scholars will contribute to the course via public lectures, assigned readings and intensive discussion within the seminar itself. Thus students enrolled in the course are expected to attend the lectures as part of their preparation for active seminar participation, as well as to take part in the seminar and develop their own research project on some one of these issues.

The research project pursued by students enrolled in the seminar may take one of three forms: 1) a comprehensive literature review on a particular issue in a specific context that would help to establish the student=s base of knowledge for a later research proposal; 2) a research proposal that designs a specific study and places it in the context of what we know and what we need to know about a particular, focused question; 3) an empirical research study using data already available to address a question already clearly posed.
Schedule of speakers, topics and readings (*= available on the Havens Center Website)

January 22  Introduction to course, discussion of research interests and backgrounds, how we will proceed.

Read (for background):
Carol Bacchi, Women, Policy and Politics, pp. 17-71 (Ch 1-3, preamble)

Jan. 29 What are women’s movements? (Ferree)

Read:
Tyyskä, Vappu “Western feminism? Problems of categorizing women’s movements in cross-national research” Pp 252-266 in Alena Heitlinger, Émigré Feminism: transnational perspectives.(Toronto, 1999)

Optional but recommended:

Feb 5 YAKIN ERTÜRK Sociology and Gender & Women's Studies, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey
PARADOXICAL IDENTITIES: STATUS OF WOMEN IN TURKEY

“Identity Politics: Secularist and Islamist Discourses”
Monday February 3, 12:00 noon, 8417 Social Science
“Can International Regimes Help Transcend Dichotomies? The United Nations and Turkey’s Candidacy to the European Union”
Wednesday, February 5, 3:30 pm. Ingraham 206

Linking paradigm / praxis / policy: towards an integrated discourse for feminist research and teaching in a globalized world.

Read:
Nitza Berkovich, From Motherhood to Citizenship, Ch 1, 2 & 5


Yakin Ertürk has been on the faculty of the Department of Sociology and the Gender and Women’s Studies Programme at the Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey and 2002 became the head of the latter. She also taught at the Centre for Girls, at King Saud University in Riyadh (1979-1982) and from 1979 to 1981 served as its Chair. Between 1997 and 2001 she took leave from her university post and joined the United Nations, serving first as Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (Oct.1997–Feb.1999), then as Director of The Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) at UN Headquarters in New York (March 1999 – Oct. 2001).

**Feb 12 Women’s rights and human rights (Stanlie James)**

**Read:** Keck and Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders*, Ch 1, 2 and 5 & tba

William Felice, The Global New Deal (Ch 1 & 5)??

**Feb 19  NIRA YUVAL-DAVIS, Gender & Ethnic Studies, University of Greenwich, London**

**ENGENDERING THE POLITICS OF BELONGING**

“Gender, Nation, and the Notion of ‘Human Security’”
Monday, February 17, 12:00 noon, 8417 Social Science

“Boundaries, Borders and the Situated Imagination”
Wednesday, February 19, 3:30 pm, 8417 Social Science

**Read:** Nira Yuval Davis, *Gender & Nation* (Sage, 1997)

M. Stoetzler & N. Yuval-Davis, 'Standpoint theory, situated knowledge and the situated imagination' in Feminist Theory, 3(3): 333-351 [Nov-Dec 2002]

Nira Yuval-Davis is Professor of Gender & Ethnic Studies at the University of Greenwich, London and Visiting Professor at the Department of Cultural Studies at the University of East London. Professor Yuval-Davis has written extensively on theoretical and empirical aspects of women, nationalism, racism, fundamentalism and citizenship in Europe, Israel and elsewhere. She is the author or co-author of ten books, including Gender and Nation, which has been translated into six languages.

Feb 26 Aili Mari Tripp – Culture, multiculturalism and difference

Read:

March 5 The transnational arena and encounters among feminisms (Ferree)

Read:

Optional, but recommended:
March 12 AMRITA BASU, Political Science/ Women’s & Gender Studies, Amherst College

THE MANY FACES OF WOMEN’S ACTIVISM

“Women’s Purity, Women’s Violence: The Case of Hindu Nationalism”
Tuesday, March 11, 3:30 pm, 206 Ingraham

“Negotiating the Space between the Local and the Global: Women’s Movements Transnationally”
Wednesday, March 12, 3:30 pm, 8417 Social Science

Read:

Amrita Basu is Professor of Political Science and Women’s and Gender Studies at Amherst College and Director of the Five College Women’s Studies Research Center. Her main areas of interest are social movements, religious nationalism, and women’s activism in India. She is the author of Two Faces of Protest: Contrasting Codes of Women’s Activism in India and the editor or co-editor of four books, including The Challenge of Local Feminism: Women’s Movements in Global Perspective and Appropriating Gender: Women’s Activism and Politicized Religion in South Asia.

Spring Break

March 26 JULIA SZALAI, Social Policy, ELTE University, Budapest, Hungary

ISSUES OF CLASS, GENDER AND RACE AFTER THE COLLAPSE OF COMMUNISM

“Conflicts of Class, Gender and Race in Hungary’s Post-1990 Welfare Policy”
Monday, March 24, 12:00 noon, 8417 Social Science

“Hungary’s EU-Accession from a Gender Perspective: Will Women’s Post-1990 Gains Wither Away?”
Wednesday, March 26, 3:30 pm, 8417 Social Science

Read:

Julia Szalai, “From informal labor to paid occupations: Marketization from below in Hungarian women’s work” pp. 200-224 in Gal and Kligman, *Reproducing Gender*


Lynn Haney, *Inventing the Needy*, Introduction (pp 1-22) and Conclusion (pp 206-248)


**Optional but recommended:**


**Julia Szalai** is Head of the Department of Social Policy and Social History at the Institute of Sociology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and Professor of Sociology and Social Policy at ELTE University, Budapest. She is the Editor of *East Central Europe/l’Europe du Centre-Est: Eine Wissenschaftliche Zeitschrift* (ECE/ECE), a trilingual journal of the social sciences and humanities. She is also Chair of the Max Weber Foundation of the Study of Social Initiative (Budapest-Glasgow), and advisor to the Hungarian Ministry of Welfare. Her main research interests are: the history of social policy in East Central Europe; ‘old’ and ‘new’ poverty in Central Europe; women’s changing situation on the labour market in post-1989 Hungary; ‘recognition struggles’ of the Gypsy; symptoms of social disintegration in Central European societies, and the ‘Gypsy question’. Currently, she is writing a book on the deficiencies of the post-communist embourgeoisement process and their consequences for new class and ethnic relations in Hungary.

**April 2** AMY MAZUR, Political Science and Criminal Justice, Washington State University and DOROTHY STETSON, Political Science, Florida Atlantic University

**WOMEN’S MOVEMENTS IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA: POLITICAL CHALLENGES AND STATE RESPONSES**

“*Are Women’s Movements Feminist?,*” Dorothy Stetson
Tuesday, April 1, 3:30 pm, 206 Ingraham

“*The Varieties of State Feminism,*” Amy G. Mazur
Wednesday, April 2, 3:30 pm, 8417 Social Science

**Read:**


Amy Mazur is Associate Professor of Political Science and Criminal Justice at Washington State University and co-convener of the Research Network on Gender Politics and the State. Professor Mazur is the author or editor of four books, including Gender Bias and the State and most recently, Theorizing Feminist Policy. She has published articles in Political Research Quarterly, French Politics and Society, Policy Studies Journal, West European Politics, European Journal of Political Research, and Contemporary French Civilization. Dorothy Stetson is Professor of Political Science at Florida Atlantic University and co-convener of the Research Network on Gender and the State. Professor Stetson’s research interests include women, politics and policy in advanced industrial states. She is the author or co-editor of several books, including Abortion: Public Policy in Comparative Perspective, Comparative State Feminism, and Women’s Rights in the U.S.A.: Policy Debates and Gender Roles.

April 9 SONIA ALVAREZ, Department of Politics, University of California, Santa Cruz

LATIN AMERICAN FEMINISMS’ MOVEMENTS INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

“Beyond the Boom? NGOs in Latin American Feminisms’ Past, Present, and Possible Futures”
Tuesday, April 8, 3:30 pm, 206 Ingraham

“Encountering Latin American Feminisms,” Sonia Alvarez and Marcela Rios
Wednesday, April 9, 3:30 pm, 8417 Social Science

Read:


Optional:

Sonia E. Alvarez is Associate Professor of Politics at the University of California at Santa Cruz. She is the author or co-author of four books, including _Engendering Democracy in Brazil, The Making of Social Movements in Latin America, Cultures of Politics/Politics of Cultures, and Contentious Feminisms_ (forthcoming). Her writings on feminisms, social movements, and democratization have appeared in _Signs, Feminist Studies, Revista Estudos Feministas, Estudios Latinoamericanos, International Feminist Journal of Politics, Debate Feminista, Meridians, Revista Mora_, and several edited collections and movement publications.

April 16 PEG SNYDER, United Nations Development Fund for Women; Columbia University THE GLOBAL WOMEN’S MOVEMENT: A TRULY GLOBAL PROJECT
“African Contributions to the Global Women’s Movement”
Monday, April 14, 12:00 pm, 8417 Social Science
“Unlikely Godmother: The UN and the Global Women’s Movement”
Wednesday, April 16, 3:30 pm, 8417 Social Science

Read:
Margaret (Peg) Snyder (Ph.D., Sociology, University of Dar es Salaam) is the founding director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and was co-founder of the African Centre for Women at UNECA and member of the Committee to Organize Women’s World Banking. She is currently Seminar Associate at Columbia University and advisor to the UN’s intellectual history project.

April 23 ??

April 30 HILKKA PIETILÄ, Freelance Writer and Researcher, Finland

GLOBAL AND LOCAL FEMINISM
“Feminism in Finland: The Equality Movement Confronts Feminism”
Monday, April 28, 12:00 pm, 8417 Social Science
“Feminism in a Global Agenda: Women and the United Nations”
Wednesday, April 30, 3:30 pm, 8417 Social Science

Read:

Optional, but recommended:
Anneli Anttonen, 2001. The Female Working Citizen: Social Rights, Work and Motherhood in Finland" Kvinder, Kon & Forskning Nr. 2,

Hilkka Pietilä is a Finnish freelance researcher and writer. She is the author or co-author of eleven books on women and the United Nations, including United Nations and the Advancement of Women and Making Women Matter. She is the former Secretary General of the Finnish United Nations Association.

May 7 Brief presentations of student research reports