

## GENDER AND SEXUALITY

**TUESDAY 10:00-12:00**

### **ABSTRACT:**

The course explores the ways in which the social and cultural construction of categories shapes the politics of sexuality in International Relations. It will focus on issues, themes and debates such as women's movements and feminism, masculinity, queerness and how social categories such as race, class and gender intersect. The aim will be to examine women's and gender's place in international politics for example in the various revolutions and uprisings across the Arab world.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

Students taking the course for 3 credits will be assessed based on participation and submission of worksheets that entail answers to the questions asked for each session. 6 have to be submitted for 3 credits.

Students taking the course for 6 credits will be assessed based on participation, the submission of 6 worksheets and book review comparing two books. The details of the book reviews are online.

1. **INTRODUCTION (5 MAY)**
2. **AVITAL RONELL CASE (11 MAY)**

Lisa Duggan, The Full Catastrophe,  
<https://bullybloggers.wordpress.com/2018/08/18/the-full-catastrophe/>

Esther Wang, What Are we to make of the Case of Scholar Avital Ronnell',  
<https://jezebel.com/what-are-we-to-make-of-the-case-of-scholar-avital-ronell-1828366966>

Jack Halberstam, 'The De Vos University Online Sexual Harassment Course',  
<https://bullybloggers.wordpress.com/2018/08/16/the-devos-university-online-sexual-harassment-training-course/>

Josephine Livingstone, 'Asia Argento, Avital Ronell, and the Integrity of Metoo',  
<https://newrepublic.com/article/150791/asia-argento-avital-ronell-integrity-metoo>  
Lili Loofbourow, 'Some Things Aren't Complicated', <https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2018/08/avital-ronell-harassment-case-some-things-arent-complicated.html>

Adam Harris and Alia Wong, 'When Academics Defend Colleagues Accused of Harassment', <https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2018/08/why-do-academics-defend-colleagues-accused-of-harassment/567553/>

### 3. INTRODUCTION TO CONCEPTS AND DEBATES (18 MAY)

"Gender and Feminism : an Overview", in Beasley, Chris (2005) Gender and Sexuality: Critical Theories, Critical Thinkers. London: Sage, p.11-27

"Sexuality Studies : an Overview", in Beasley, Chris (2005) Gender and Sexuality: Critical Theories, Critical Thinkers. London: Sage, p.117-126

"Gender and Masculinity Studies: an Overview", in Beasley, Chris (2005) Gender and Sexuality: Critical Theories, Critical Thinkers. London: Sage, p.177-185

Five Genders: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9VmLJ3niVo>

Third Gender: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S1ZvDRxZlb0&t=6s>

India's Third Gender Movement: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmWICmK37b4>

#### RECOMMENDED:

Weeks, Jeffrey (2010) Sexuality. London: Routledge.

### 4. FEMINISM, GENDER AND IR (25 MAY)

#### QUESTIONS:

**What do feminisms add to IR? How does IR overlook women? How does IR approach issues of sex or gender? How does the critique brought by feminists to IR fit the discussion of different feminisms?**

Cynthia Enloe (2014) Bananas, Beaches and Bases, **Chapter 1 and Chapter 9**

Shepherd, Laura J. (2015) 'Sex or gender? Bodies in world politics and why gender matters,

Carver, Terrell (2014) 'Men and masculinities in International Relations research,' Brown Journal of World Affairs, 21(1): 113-126

#### RECOMMENDED WATCHING:

A CONVERSATION WITH CYNTHIA ENLOE (7 VIDEOS)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LalOS-Tazt0&list=PLfcRzkscDMduK7Bfk3aYhZPESd7pQ1uZ>

## 5. STATE, NATION-BUILDING AND FOREIGN POLICY (2 JUNE)

**Questions: What is the relationship between private/public and the formation of nations/states? How are the notions of state, nation-building and foreign policy gendered? How do the articles define women, sex and gender? Are there definitions and/or categories that are overlooked? How would they contribute to the discussion?**

### READINGS:

Peterson, VS (2013) 'The Intended and Unintended Queering of States/Nations', *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism* 13(1), pp. 57–68.

Joane Nagel (1998) 'Masculinity and nationalism: gender and sexuality in the making of nations', *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 21(2): 242-269.

### RECOMMENDED WATCHING :

THE OPERATION : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3RPScdod6E>

## 6. TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (8 JUNE)

**Questions: How do the articles approach the main categories and perspectives discussed? How do the articles define women, sex and gender? Are there definitions and/or categories that are overlooked? How would they contribute to the discussion? How is the notion of security gendered?**

Caron Gentry, 'The Neo-Orientalist Narratives of Women's Involvement in al-Qaeda',

Blanchard, Eric (2003) 'Gender, International Relations, and the Development of Feminist Security Theory', *Signs*, 28(4): 1289-1312

Carol Cohn, "Sex and Death in the World of Rational Defense Intellectuals," *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 12 (1987 )

Feminism in times of war and Peace:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mIP8XHi9938>

## 7. INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT (15 JUNE)

**Questions: How do the articles approach the main categories and perspectives discussed? How do the articles define women, sex and gender? Are there**

**definitions and/or categories that are overlooked? How would they contribute to the discussion? How is the economy gendered?**

Spike V. Peterson, 'How (the Meaning of) Gender Matters in Political Economy', *New Political Economy* 10, no. 4 (2005): 499–521

Nicola Smith (2011) 'The international political economy of commercial sex', *Review of International Political Economy*, 18(4): 530-549

Spike Peterson (2019) Family Matters in racial logics: Tracing intimacies, inequalities and ideologies. *Review of International Studies*, 46:2, 177-196

The Secret Slaves of the Middle East:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jb\\_pBhWi1YM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jb_pBhWi1YM)

## 8. HOMONATIONALISM AND HOMONORMATIVITY (22 JUNE)

**Questions: How do the articles approach the main categories and perspectives discussed? How do the articles define women, sex and gender? Are there definitions and/or categories that are overlooked? How would they contribute to the discussion?**

Rahul Rao, 'Global Homocapitalism', *Radical Philosophy* 194, November/ December 2015, pp. 38–49. Available at:  
<https://www.radicalphilosophy.com/article/globalhomocapitalism>

Koen Slootmaeckers (2019) 'Nationalism as competing masculinities: homophobia as a technology of othering for hetero – and homonationalism'. *Theory and Society*, 48: 239-265.

### RECOMMENDED WATCHING:

AUB LECTURE – Homonationalism Gone Viral :  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6a0Dkn3SnWM>

## 9. POPULAR CULTURE AND WORLD POLITICS (29 JUNE)

**Questions: How are IR/world politics phenomena such as wars gendered in popular culture? How do gendered popular cultural representations relate to official or academic representations of IR/world politics?**

Rowley, Christina (2015) 'Popular culture and the politics of the visual,'

Cohn, C. and Weber, C. (1999) 'Missions, Men, Masculinities: Carol Cohn and Cynthia Weber Discuss Saving Private Ryan', *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 1(3): 460–75.

The Bechdel Test for Women: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLF6sAAMb4s>

Burka Avenger: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XahbqLdCVhE>

## 10. GLOBAL HEALTH (6 JULY)

**How is global health gendered? How do the articles approach the main categories and perspectives discussed? How do the articles define women, sex and gender? Are there definitions and/or categories that are overlooked? How would they contribute to the discussion?**

Harman S. Ebola, gender and conspicuously invisible women in global health governance. *Third World Q* 2016; 37: 524–41.

Helen Lewis (2020) The Coronavirus is a Disaster for Feminism, <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2020/03/feminism-womens-rights-coronavirus-covid19/608302/>

Alexandra Villarreal (2020) Coronavirus pandemic exacerbates inequalities for women, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/11/un-coronavirus-pandemic-gender-inequalities-women>

Patty Alleman (2020) Finance and the pandemic of gender based violence, <https://blogs.unicef.org/blog/flattening-the-curve-finance-and-the-pandemic-of-gender-based-violence/>

## 11. CONCLUSION (13 JULY)