

Dr. Laura Sjoberg
Gender in International Relations Seminar
Spring 2007
Office: Perkins 339
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Class WF 11:40-12:55
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Introduction

Around the world, despite women's progress, there continues to be a relatively rigid gender division of labor, between paid and unpaid work, according to economic sector, and along hierarchies. Though women do participate in the political process in most states, they are underrepresented in governments and their decision-making. Around the world, men dominate international security apparatuses and the making and fighting of wars. The global gender order makes possible the global political order.

Despite the importance of gender in global politics, gender is still not fully integrated in the academic study of international politics. Feminist approaches are offering new views of a field previously defined as devoid of gender politics. Early IR feminists challenged the discipline to think about how its theories might be reformulated and how its understandings of global politics might be improved if gender were included as a category of analysis and if women's experiences were part of its subject matter. IR feminists critically reexamined some of the key concepts in the field - concepts such as sovereignty, the state, and security. They began to ask new questions - such as whether it makes a difference that most foreign policy leaders, military personnel and heads of international corporations are men and why women remain relatively disempowered in matters of foreign and military policy. IR feminists have also sought to make women visible as subjects in international politics and the global economy. They draw attention to women's invisibility and gender subordination in the theory and practice of international politics.

More recently, "second generation" IR feminist empirical case studies have focused on hitherto understudied issues such as military prostitution, domestic service, diplomatic households, and home-based work much of which is performed by women. Through these studies feminists have sought to demonstrate how vital women are to states' foreign policies and to the functioning of the global economy. Since most women speak from the margins of international politics, their lives offer us a perspective outside the state-centric focus of conventional western international theories and broaden the empirical base upon which we build our theories. Feminist scholars suggest that if we put on "**gendered lenses**" we get quite a different view of international politics (Peterson and Runyan 1999: 21). This course examines that suggestion through the study of feminist work in International Relations.

Course Goals

In this course, students gain an awareness of the following themes: 1) the situations of women around the world; 2) the ways in which gender affects social and political status; 3) gendered themes in the practice of both micro- and macro- politics; 4) the evolving study of gender in international politics; 5) the political implications of scholarship; and 6) links between gender, feminism, and “service” or “activist” learning.

Requirements

All students are expected to read assigned materials, attend class and actively participate in class discussions. Every student will serve as discussion leader once, summarizing the readings assigned for a particular session and preparing discussion questions. All students will write a research paper on a topic of their choice developed in consultation with the instructor. Each student will also write a 3-5 page response to one week’s discussion questions.

The final grade will be composed of the following:

Response: 20%

Participation: 30%

Research Paper: 50%

Course Policies:

- 1) Accommodation of disabilities: Brandeis University has a process in place to officially recognize the need for accommodation. You can find information about that process on the Brandeis website, or you may ask me, and I will direct you to it. No accommodations will be made outside of this system of recognition.
- 2) Late work: If for some reason you cannot make it to class, you may turn your assignment in either in my mailbox or in my email box *before* class. I am generally an understanding person but *not about late papers*. In 21 years of school, I never turned a paper in more than 20 minutes late. My official policy is not quite so draconian, however: a paper may be turned in the day it is due without penalty, the next day for a letter grade off, and the third day for half credit. This includes your final paper.
- 3) Late persons: Ten minutes late once or twice? C’est la vie. More than once or twice? Grade problem – each tardy after two loses a participation point. More than fifteen minutes late? Tell me ahead of time or stay home that day and apologize profusely.

Required Readings

- 1) Brooke Ackerly, *Political Theory and Feminist Social Criticism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.

- 2) Brooke Ackerly, Maria Stern, and Jacqui True, eds. *Feminist Methodologies for International Relations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- 3) Lourdes Beneria, *Gender, Development, and Globalization: Economics as if All People Mattered*. New York: Routledge, 2003.
- 4) Cynthia Enloe, *The Curious Feminist: Searching for Women in a New Age of Empire*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004.
- 5) Mary E. Hawkesworth, *Globalization and Feminist Activism*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2006.
- 6) Ronald Inglehart and Pippa Norris, *Rising Tide: Gender Equality and Cultural Change around the World*. New York: Cambridge, 2003.
- 7) *Gender, Justice, and the Wars in Iraq: A Feminist Reformulation of Just War Theory*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2006.
- 8) J. Ann Tickner, *Gendering World Politics: Issues and Approaches in the post-Cold War Era*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2001.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Friday January 12

Introduction

Week 2: January 17 and 19

What is Gender in International Relations?

Tickner and Sjoberg, "Feminism"

Tickner, *Gendering World Politics*, Introduction, Ch.1, and Conclusion

Recommended:

Donna Haraway, A Manifesto for Cyborgs: Science, Technology, and Socialist Feminism in the 1980s. *Socialist Review* 15, 2 (1980): 65-108.

Seyla Benhabib, Judith Butler, Drucilla Cornell, and Nancy Fraser, *Feminist Contentions: A Philosophical Exchange*. New York: Routledge, 1995.

Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses. In *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism*, C.T. Mohanty, A. Russo, and L. Torres, eds. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1991.

Chandra Talpade Mohanty, "Under Western Eyes" Revisited: Feminist Solidarity through Anticapitalist Struggles. *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 28 (2003): 499 -535.

Week 3: January 24 and 26

Feminist International Relations – Methodologies and Methods

Enloe, Part I

Ackerly et al., Chapters 1-4

Recommended:

Georgina Waylen, You still don't understand: Why Troubled Engagements Continue between Feminists and (Critical) IPE. *Review of International Studies* 32, 1 (January 2006): 145-164.

Birgit Locher and Elisabeth Prügl, Feminism and Constructivism: Worlds Apart or Sharing the Middle Ground? *International Studies Quarterly* 45, (2001): 111-129.

Robert O. Keohane, Beyond Dichotomy: Conversations between International Relations and Feminist Theory. *International Studies Quarterly* 42, 1 (1998).

Week 4: January 31 and February 2

Methods for Gender and IR

Ackerly et al., Chapters 5-12

Week 5: February 7 and 9

Women, War, Security

Tickner, Chapter 2

Enloe, Part II

Iris Marion Young, The Logic of Masculinist Protection: Reflections on the Current Security State. *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 29 (Autumn 2003): 1-25.

Michaele Ferguson, "W" Stands for Women: Feminism and Security Rhetoric in the Post-9/11 Bush Administration. *Politics & Gender* 1, (March 2005): 9-38.

Recommended:

Joshua S. Goldstein, *War and Gender: How Gender Shapes the War System and Vice Versa*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2001.

Mary Caprioli, Feminist IR Theory and Quantitative Methodology: A Critical Analysis. *International Studies Review* 6, 2 (June 2004): 253-269.

Mary Caprioli, Gender Equality and State Aggression: The Impact of Domestic Gender Equality on State First Use of Force. *International Interactions* 29, 3 (2003): 195-214.

Mary Caprioli and Mark Boyer, Gender, Violence, and International Crisis. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 45 (2001): 503-518.

Patrick M. Regan and Aida Paskeviciute, Women's Access to Politics and Peaceful States. *Journal of Peace Research* 40 (2003): 287-302.

Week 6: February 16 (class cancelled February 14)

Feminism Goes to War

Sjoberg, whole book

Recommended:

Charli R. Carpenter, "Women and Children First": Gender, Norms and Humanitarian Evacuation in the Balkans 1991-95. *International Organization* 57, 4 (2003): 661-694.

Helen Kinsella, Governing the Innocent: The "Civilian" in International Law. In *Power in Global Governance*, eds. Michael Barnett and Raymond Duvall. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.

Week 7: February 21 and 23

Democracy and Gender

Ackerly, whole book

Recommended:

Martha Nussbaum, Capabilities and Social Justice. *International Studies Review* 4, 2 (Summer 2002): 123-135.

Class cancelled February 28 and March 2

Week 8: March 6 and 8

Political Participation

Inglehart and Norris, whole book

Recommended:

Gender Quotas I. In *Politics and Gender* 1, 4 (December 2005).

Spring Break: March 14 and March 16

Week 9: March 21 and 23

Gender and Development

Benería, whole book

Recommended:

Progress of the World's Women 2005: Women, Work and Poverty. New York: United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), 2005. (Available on UNIFEM website).

Clair Apodaca, The Effects of Foreign Aid on Women's Economic and Social Human Rights. *Journal of Third World Studies* 17, 2 (2002): 205-219.

Week 10: March 28 and 30

The Biases of Economics

Tickner, chapter 3

V. Spike Peterson, Rewriting (Global) Political Economy as Reproductive, Productive, and Virtual (Foucauldian) Economies. *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 4, 1 (April 2002).

Recommended:

J.K. Gibson-Graham, *The End of Capitalism (As We Knew It): A Feminist Critique of Political Economy*. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 1996.

Diane Elson and Nilufer Cagatay, The Social Content of Macroeconomic Policies. *World Development* 28, 7 (2000): 1347-1364.

Week 11: April 4

Feminist Movements and the UN

Hawkesworth, whole book

Recommended:

Arvonne S. Fraser and Irene Tinker, eds., *Developing Power: How Women Transformed International Development*. New York: The Feminist Press.

Week 12: April 11 and 13

Mainstreaming Gender/Theorizing the State

Tickner, chapter 4

Prügl, From Equal Rights to Gender Mainstreaming

Recommended:

Special Issue on Gender Mainstreaming. *Social Politics* 12, 3 (Fall 2005).

Week 13: April 18 and 20

Student Presentations