

**GLOBAL FEMINISMS  
WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES/POLITICAL SCIENCE/INTERNATIONAL  
AND AREA STUDIES 437/4370  
SPRING 2008**

Professor: Mona Lena Krook  
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Course Time: Mondays, 4-6.30 PM  
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 3-5 PM  
or by appointment

### **Course Description**

This course examines the global dimensions of feminist organizing and policy-making, drawing on both historical and contemporary examples. It applies insights from research on social movements, state-society relations, and multi-level governance to explore the formation, activities, and strategies of international and transnational women's networks on issues ranging from suffrage and equal rights to domestic violence and gender quotas. It considers interactions with local and national women's movements, as well as states and international organizations, and weighs the opportunities and constraints involved in mobilizing beyond the nation-state in struggles against inequality in global and national arenas.

### **Course Requirements**

The course seeks to introduce students to basic concepts and debates on feminism and globalization through two sets of course assignments:

- 1) **Weekly agenda notes** (30%) in which students respond to the readings through a short list of questions and ideas for class discussion. Although these notes will not be handed in, students should come prepared to discuss their thoughts during class. *Attendance and participation in class discussions will also be factored into this grade.*
- 2) **A major term paper** (70%) in which students examine one particular aspect of the global dimensions of feminism. This paper should be twenty to thirty pages long and will be written in stages over the course of the semester. *Students are strongly encouraged to meet with me to discuss their plans before beginning their research.* **Deadlines:** a paper proposal on February 11, a first section on March 17, a second section on April 14, and the final paper on May 5.

### **Required Texts**

All of the readings will be available on ERes (password "feminisms"), with the exception of two books that are available for purchase at the campus bookstore:

Berkovitch, Nitza. 1999. *From Motherhood to Citizenship: Women's Rights and International Organizations*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press.

Keck, Margaret E. and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Peters, Julie and Andrea Wolper. 1995. *Women's Rights, Human Rights: International Feminist Perspectives*. New York: Routledge.

Tarrow, Sidney. 2005. *The New Transnational Activism*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

### **Research and Prize Opportunities**

Students interested in doing further research on global feminisms – and gender and politics more generally – are welcome to meet with me to discuss possible opportunities for independent and collaborative research.

Undergraduate papers written in the course will be considered for the William Benton Parshall Prize, which is awarded each year by the political science department for the outstanding undergraduate paper on women in politics. Because the final essays will be handed in after spring break, they will be entered into next year's competition.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

#### **January 14: Introduction to Global Feminisms**

No assigned reading – discussion of course aims and introduction to the global dimensions of feminist thought and activism.

#### **January 21: NO CLASS, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY**

#### **January 28: Social Movements and Transnational Activism**

McAdam, Doug et al. 1996. "Introduction." Pp. 1-20 in *Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements: Political Opportunities, Mobilizing Structures, and Cultural Framings*, ed. Doug McAdam et al. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Tarrow, Sidney. 2005. *The New Transnational Activism*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 15-34, 59-76, 120-140, 161-179.

#### **February 4: Global Diffusion and International Norms**

Finnemore, Martha and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change." *International Organization* 52, no. 4: 887-917.

Risse, Thomas and Kathryn Sikkink. 1999. "The Socialization of International Human Rights Norms into Domestic Practices: Introduction." Pp. 1-38 in *The Power of Human Rights: International Norms and Domestic Change*, ed. Thomas Risse, Stephen C. Ropp, and Kathryn Sikkink. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Keck, Margaret E. and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. "Transnational Advocacy Networks in International Politics: Introduction." Pp. 1-38 in *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

### **February 11: Historical Global Feminisms**

Berkovitch, Nitza. 1999. *From Motherhood to Citizenship: Women's Rights and International Organizations*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1-17, 58-99.

Rupp, Leila J. 1997. *Worlds of Women: The Making of an International Women's Movement*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 13-48.

Ramirez, Francisco O., Yasemin Soysal, and Suzanne Shanahan. 1997. "The Changing Logic of Political Citizenship: Cross-National Acquisition of Women's Suffrage Rights, 1890-1990." *American Sociological Review* 62: 735-745.

### **February 18: International Organizations and Women's Rights**

Berkovitch, Nitza. 1999. *From Motherhood to Citizenship: Women's Rights and International Organizations*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 139-167.

Meyer, Mary K. 1999. "Negotiating International Norms: The Inter-American Commission of Women and the Convention on Violence Against Women." Pp. 58-71 in *Gender Politics in Global Governance*, ed. Mary K. Meyer and Elisabeth Prügl. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.

Hoskyns, Catherine. 1999. "Gender and Transnational Democracy: The Case of the European Union." Pp. 72-87 in *Gender Politics in Global Governance*, ed. Mary K. Meyer and Elisabeth Prügl. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.

### **February 25: Contemporary Transnational Feminisms**

Alvarez, Sonia E. 2000. "Translating the Global: Effects of Transnational Organizing on Latin American Feminist Discourses and Practices." *Meridians: A Journal of Feminisms, Race, Transnationalism* 1, no. 1: 29-67

Friedman, Elisabeth J. 1999. "The Effects of 'Transnationalism Reversed' in Venezuela: Assessing the Impact of UN Global Conferences on the Women's Movement." *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 1, no. 3: 357-381.

Moghadam, Valentine M. 2005. *Globalizing Women: Transnational Feminist Networks*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1-20, 78-104.

### **March 3: Women's Rights in the Global Economy**

Hertel, Shareen. 2006. *Unexpected Power: Conflict and Change Among Transnational Activists*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 55-85.

Hochschild, Arlie Russell and Barbara Ehrenreich, eds. 2004. *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy*. New York: Owl Books, 39-54, 142-153, 154-168.

V. Spike Peterson, *A Critical Rewriting of Global Political Economy: Integrating Reproductive, Productive, and Virtual Economies*, 78-112.

### **March 17: Women's Human Rights and Violence Against Women**

Peters, Julie and Andrea Wolper. 1995. *Women's Rights, Human Rights: International Feminist Perspectives*. New York: Routledge, 11-35, 176-188, 335-355.

Keck, Margaret E. and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 165-198.

### **March 24: Reproductive Rights and Sexual Health in Global Perspective**

Freedman, Lynn P. and Stephen L. Isaacs. 1993. "Human Rights and Reproductive Choice." *Studies in Family Planning* 24, no. 1: 18-30.

Cook, Rebecca J. and Bernard M. Dickens. 2003. "Human Rights Dynamics of Abortion Law Reform." *Human Rights Quarterly* 25: 1-59

Dowsett, Gary W. 2003. "Some Considerations on Sexuality and Gender in the Context of AIDS." *Reproductive Health Matters* 11: 21-29.

### **March 31: Mainstreaming as a Global Equality Strategy**

Walby, Sylvia. 2005. "Gender Mainstreaming: Productive Tensions in Theory and Practice." *Social Politics* 12, no. 3: 321-343.

True, Jacqui and Michael Mintrom. 2001. "Transnational Networks and Policy Diffusion: The Case of Gender Mainstreaming." *International Studies Quarterly* 45: 27-57.

Hafner-Burton, Emilie and Mark A. Pollack. 2002. "Mainstreaming Gender in Global Governance." *European Journal of International Relations* 8, no. 3: 339-373.

### **April 7: Quotas as a Transnational Equality Strategy**

Towns, Ann E. 2004. *Norms and Equality in International Society: Global Politics of Women and the State*. Ph.D. Diss. University of Minnesota, 176-224.

Krook, Mona Lena. 2006. "Reforming Representation: The Diffusion of Candidate Gender Quotas Worldwide." *Politics & Gender* 2, no. 3: 303-327.

Dahlerup, Drude, ed. 2006. *Women, Quotas, and Politics*. New York: Routledge, 83-137.

See also:

Global Database of Quotas for Women, <http://www.quotaproject.org>.

### **April 14: NO CLASS**

### **April 18: Gender and International Conflict (\*Make-up Class)**

Peters, Julie and Andrea Wolper. 1995. *Women's Rights, Human Rights: International Feminist Perspectives*. New York: Routledge, 197-214.

Carpenter, R. Charli. 2003. "Women and Children First': Gender, Norms, and Humanitarian Evacuation in the Balkans, 1991-95." *International Organization* 57, no. 4: 661-694.

Kaufman-Osborn, Timothy. 2005. "Gender Trouble at Abu Ghraib?" *Politics & Gender* 1, no. 4: 597-619.

See also:

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security and related materials at <http://www.peacewomen.org/un/sc/1325.html>.

### **April 21: Women and International Terrorism**

Hunt, Krista. 2002. "The Strategic Co-optation of Women's Rights: Discourse in the 'War on Terror.'" *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 4, no. 1: 116-121.

Cunningham, Karla J. 2003. "Cross-Regional Trends in Female Terrorism." *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* 26, no. 3: 171-195.

Talbot, Rhiannon. 2001. "Myths in the Representation of Women Terrorists." McGraw-Hill Contemporary Learning Series.

*Recommended:*

Dickey, Christopher. 2005. "Women of Al Qaeda." *Newsweek*, December 12, 27-36.

### **April 28: 'Feminist Imperialism' and International Politics**

*Film: Cut From Different Cloth: Burqas and Beliefs*

Winter, Bronwyn, Denise Thompson, and Sheila Jeffreys. 2002. "The UN Approach to Harmful Traditional Practices." *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 4, no. 1: 72-94.

Russo, Ann. 2006. "The Feminist Majority Foundation's Campaign to Stop Gender Apartheid: The Intersections of Feminism and Imperialism in the United States." *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 8, no. 4: 557-580.

Davis, Kathy. 2002. "Feminist Body/Politics as World Traveller: Translating Our Bodies, Ourselves." *European Journal of Women's Studies* 9, no. 3: 223-247.