

Gender, Nation and State: Anthropological Perspectives

Winter 2005, 4 credits

Elissa Helms
Email: helmse@ceu.hu
Office: Nádor 11, room 202

Meeting time: MW 15:40-17:20
Place: Nádor 11, 203
Office hours: Wed. 14:00-15:00,
Tues. 12:00-13:00 & by appointment

Course Description and Objectives

This course will review some of the major theoretical works and case studies on the many ways in which the discourses and practices of states and nations are gendered. In keeping with anthropological approaches to the study of states and nations, we will concentrate on the effects of state power and national(ist) discourses on 1) culturally specific conceptual frameworks and 2) the everyday lives of women, men, and societies. We will consider both men and women, masculinities and femininities, as well as sexuality as they intersect with issues of state and nation. Thematic focus will fall especially on discursive representations, reproduction, ethnicity, violence, and citizenship.

Course Requirements and Grading

Your grade will be based on:

Class participation and attendance	10%
Readings presentation	10%
Media essay	10%
6 Reaction papers (your choice of weeks) (2-3 pages) (5% each)	30%
Take-home final essay (8-10 pages)	40%

Participation: this course depends on active participation from all students. This means you must come to class having read the assigned readings and that you share your critical evaluation of the readings in class and participate in discussion. For each reading you should consider:

- What is the main argument?
- What evidence does the author present to back up this argument (and how was it gathered)?
- Do you agree with the argument? Why or why not and in what ways?
- How does this reading relate to the rest of the literature we have covered in class (or other literature you have read)? To your own experiences?

You must have a GOOD EXCUSE to miss class. I will give you one "free miss" but more than one absence without documentation will negatively affect your grade.

Readings presentation: each student will be responsible for initiating discussion about the readings in one class (in most cases, this means covering two articles). As discussion leader you should *briefly* present the main arguments of the reading(s) and present your own critique (follow the guidelines given above for class preparation). Expect to speak for about 10 minutes before we

open the class up for discussion.

Media essay: choose a recent article from the media – a newspaper, magazine, transcript of a radio or TV show – that illustrates an aspect of gendered state practices and/or nationalism. In 1-2 pages, write a summary of the ways in which your article relates to the material covered in this course. Bring your essay and the article to class for discussion (Week 9). If the article is not in English, please provide an English summary.

Reaction papers: each paper should cover the readings for one class period (in most cases, two articles). Follow the guidelines above for discussion preparation but concentrate less on summarizing the argument and more on your critique and relating these readings to the other literature from the course, if appropriate. Papers should not exceed 3 double-spaced pages. You must turn in 6 of these, but it is up to you which class meetings you choose.

Take-home final essay: the questions for this essay will be handed out in class during Week 11. You will have to answer 2 out of 3 questions about the broad themes of the course using specific examples and references to the texts (with all quotes properly cited, of course!). Use as much space as your answer requires, but try not to exceed 12 double-spaced pages.

Writing guidelines

All written material must be typed (word-processed) in 12-point font (Times New Roman) and double- or 1½-spaced with page numbers at the bottom. Double-sided printing is encouraged. Provide full references for any works not included on our syllabus. If you are unsure about rules for citations and avoiding plagiarism, please see me or the Academic Writing Center. **Any emailed drafts MUST have the student's name in the file name.** Final drafts must be submitted in paper form unless we agree otherwise. *Remember to back up your computer files so you don't have to repeat your work!!!*

Schedule of Topics, Assignments and Readings

Week 1

Jan. 10

1. **Introduction: Understanding anthropology and ethnography**

Jan. 12

2. **Terms and theoretical perspectives: Nation, state, and anthropology**

Reading due:

- Timothy Mitchell, "Society, Economy, and the State Effect." In *State/Culture*, George Steinmetz (ed.) (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1999): 76-97.
- Benedict Anderson, Chapters 1-3, *Imagined Communities*. (London: Verso, 1983). *(read chapter 1 and skim chapters 2 and 3 for argument)*

Week 2

Jan. 17

1. **Globalization and ethnographies of the state**

Reading due:

- Michel-Rolph Trouillot, "The Anthropology of the State in the Age of Globalization," *Current Anthropology* 42(1) (February 2001): 125-138. (article, commentaries, and

author response)

- Akhil Gupta, "Blurred Boundaries: The Discourse of Corruption, the Culture of Politics, and the Imagined State," *American Ethnologist* 22(2) (May 1995): 375-402.

Jan. 19

2. Feminist challenges: Gendered nationalism

Reading due:

- pp. 6-11 from Floya Anthias and Nira Yuval-Davis, "Introduction." In Nira Yuval-Davis and Floya Anthias (eds.), *Woman-Nation-State*. (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1989).
- Nira Yuval-Davis, "Theorizing Gender and Nation." Chapter 1 of *Gender and Nation* (London: Sage, 1997): 1-25.

Week 3

Jan. 24

1. Gendered nationalism, gendered states

Reading due:

- Katherine Verdery, "From Parent State to Family Patriarchs: Gender and Nation in Contemporary Eastern Europe," *East European Politics and Societies* 8(2), Spring 1994: 225-255.
- Jacqueline Stevens, "On the Marriage Question." In Cathy Cohen, Kathleen Jones, and Joan Tronto (eds.), *Women Transforming Politics*. (New York: New York University Press, 1997): 62-83.

Jan. 26

2. Nationalism and masculinities

Reading due:

- Joane Nagel, "Masculinity and Nationalism: Gender and Sexuality in the Making of Nations," *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 21(2), March 1998: 242-151.
- Thembisa Waetjen, "The Limits of Gender Rhetoric for Nationalism: A Case Study From Southern Africa," *Theory and Society* 30, 2001: 121-152.

Week 4

Jan. 31

1. Representations: Women as markers of difference

Reading due:

- Anne McClintock, "Family Feuds: Gender, Nationalism and the Family," *Feminist Review* 44, Summer 1993: 61-80.
- Smith, Carol A., "Race/Class/Gender Ideology in Guatemala: Modern and Anti-Modern Forms." In Brackette F. Williams (ed.), *Women Out of Place: The Gender of Agency and the Race of Nationality*. New York, London: Routledge, 1996): 49-77.

Feb. 2

2. Representations: Competing masculinities

Reading due:

- Jason G. Karlin. The Gender of Nationalism: Competing Masculinities in Meiji Japan, *Journal of Japanese Studies*, 28(1) (Winter 2002): 41-77.
- Tamar Mayer, "From Zero to Hero: Masculinity in Jewish Nationalism." In *Gender Ironies of Nationalism*: 283-308.

Week 5

Feb. 7

1. Reproducing the nation, reproducing the state (I)

Reading due:

- Geraldine Heng and Janadas Devan, "State Fatherhood: The Politics of Nationalism, Sexuality, and Race in Singapore." In Andrew Parker, Mary Russo, Doris Sommer and Patricia Yaeger (eds.), *Nationalisms and Sexualities*. (New York: Routledge, 1992): 343-364.
- Rada Drezgić, "Demographic Nationalism in the Gender Perspective." In Svetlana Slapšak (ed.), *War Discourse, Women's Discourse: Essays and Case-Studies from Yugoslavia and Russia*. (Ljubljana: Topos, 2000): 211-233.

Feb. 9

2. Reproducing the nation, reproducing the state (II)

Reading due:

- Gail Kligman, "Political Demography: The Banning of Abortion in Ceausescu's Romania." In Faye Ginsburg and Rayna Rapp (eds.), *Conceiving the New World Order*. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995): 234-255.
- Susan Gal, "Gender in the Post-Socialist Transition: The Abortion Debate in Hungary," *East European Politics and Societies* 8(2), Spring 1994: 256-286.

Week 6

Feb. 14

1. The state as pimp: Prostitution and the state

Reading due:

- John Lie, "The State As Pimp: Prostitution and the Patriarchal State in Japan in the 1940s," *The Sociological Quarterly* 38(2), 1997: 251-263.
- Laura Briggs, "Familiar Territory: Prostitution, Empires, and the Question of U.S. Imperialisms in Puerto Rico, 1849-1916." In Lynne Haney and Lisa Pollard (eds.), *Families of a New World: Gender, Politics, and State Development in a Global Context*. (New York: Routledge, 2003).

Feb. 16

2. Policing reproduction in colonies

Reading due:

- Laura Ann Stoler, "Making Empire Respectable," *American Ethnologist* 16(4), November 1989: 634-660.

Week 7

Feb. 21

1. Bodies and sexuality

Reading due:

- Joseph Alter, "Celibacy, Sexuality, and the Transformation of Gender in to Nationalism in North India," *Journal of Asian Studies* 53(1), 1994: 45-66.
- Leslie K. Dwyer, "Spectacular Sexuality: Nationalism, Development and the Politics of Family Planning in Indonesia." In Tamar Mayer (ed.), *Gender Ironies of Nationalism: Sexing the Nation*. (New York, London: Routledge, 2000): 25-64.

Feb. 23

2. Socialist states

Reading due:

- Daphne Berdahl, "Designing Women." In Daphne Berdahl, *Where the World Ended: Re-Unification and Identity in the German Borderland*. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999): 184-205.
- Lisa Rofel, "Liberation, Nostalgia and a Yearning for Modernity. In Christina K. Gilmartin et. al. (eds.), *Engendering China: Women, Culture, and the State*. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1994): 226-429.

Week 8

Feb. 28

1. Postsocialist states

Reading due:

- Joanna Goven, "New Parliament, Old Discourse? The Parental Leave Debate in Hungary." In Susan Gal and Gail Kligman (eds.), *Reproducing Gender: Politics, Publics, and Everyday Life after Socialism*. (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2000): 286-306.
- Frances Pine, "Dealing with Fragmentation: The Consequences of Privatisation for Rural Women in Central and Southern Poland." In Sue Bridger and Frances Pine (eds.), *Surviving Post-Socialism: Local Strategies and Regional Responses in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union*. (London: Routledge, 1998): 106-123.

Mar. 2

2. Gendered states: Citizenship and welfare

Reading due:

- Lynne Haney, "'But We Are Still Mothers': Gender, the State, and the Construction of Need in Postsocialist Hungary." In Michael Buraway and Katherine Verdery (eds.), *Uncertain Transition: Ethnographies of Change in the Postsocialist World*. (Landham: Rowman & Littlefield, 1999): 151-187.
- Suad Joseph, "The Public/Private & The Imagined Boundary in the Imagined Nation/State/Community: The Lebanese Case," *Feminist Review* 57(1) (Autumn 1997): 73-92.

Week 9

Mar. 7

1. Discussion of media essays

- **Bring in media article and essay for discussion** (see above for details)

Mar. 9

2. Citizenship as soldiering

Reading due:

- Orna Sasson-Levy, "Constructing Identities at the Margins," *The Sociological Quarterly* 43(3): 357-383.
- Holly Allen, "Gender, Sexuality and the Military Model of U.S. National Community." Tamar Mayer (ed.), *Gender Ironies of Nationalism: Sexing the Nation*. (New York, London: Routledge, 2000): 309-327.

Week 10

Mar. 14

1. NO CLASS – NATIONAL AND CEU HOLIDAY

Mar. 16

2. Wartime sexual violence: India and former Yugoslavia

Reading due:

- Veena Das, "National Honor and Practical Kinship: Unwanted Women and Children." In Faye Ginsburg and Rayna Rapp (eds.), *Conceiving the New World Order*. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995): 212-233.
- Robert M. Hayden, "Rape and Rape Avoidance in Ethno-National Conflicts: Sexual Violence in Liminalized States," *American Anthropologist* 102(1), March 2000: 27-41.

Week 11

Mar. 21

1. Masculinity, war and sexual violence

Reading due:

- Wendy Bracewell, "Rape in Kosovo: Masculinity and Serbian Nationalism," *Nations and Nationalism* 6(4), 2000: 563-90.
- Ivan Čolović, "Warrior." In *The Politics of Symbol in Serbia: Essays in Political Anthropology*. (London: Hurst, 2002): 48-56.
- Dubravka Žarkov, "The Body of the Other Man: Sexual Violence and the Construction of Masculinity, Sexuality and Ethnicity in Croatian Media." In Caroline O. N. Moser and Fiona C. Clark (eds.), *Victims, Perpetrators or Actors? Gender, Armed Conflict and Political Violence* (London: Zed Books, 2001): 69-82.

Mar. 23

2. What is the relationship between feminism and nationalism?

Reading due:

- Lois West, "Introduction: Feminism Constructs Nationalism." In Lois West (ed.), *Feminist Nationalism*. (New York, London: Routledge, 1997): xi-xxxvi.
- Dubravka Žarkov, "Feminist Self/Ethnic Self: Theory and Politics of Women's Activism." In Svetlana Slapšak (ed.), *War Discourse, Women's Discourse: Essays and Case-Studies from Yugoslavia and Russia*. (Ljubljana: Topos, 2000): 167-194.

Essay questions for take-home final handed out in class

Week 12

Mar. 28

NO CLASS – EASTER MONDAY

Mar. 30

2. Can (feminist) gender solidarity bridge ethno-national divisions? Concluding discussion and review

Reading due:

- Nira Yuval-Davis, "Women, Ethnicity and Empowerment: Towards Transversal Politics." Chapter 6 of *Gender and Nation*: 116-133.

April 1

Take-home finals due (details to be announced)

Note: Late papers will only be accepted with a VERY GOOD REASON (situations beyond your control), and no later than Friday, April 1 at 5pm. Papers that are late without a good reason will be graded down one grade for each day they are late.

* * * Good Luck with your Thesis Writing! * * *