Feminisms and International Relations

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The Unit

‘The personal is political,’ say feminists. More recently, it has been added that the ‘private is global’ as well. This unit will consider where women are in international practice and its theorization, and what it means to bring gender into the frame of international relations and its study. The unit will examine various concerns raised by feminists and the implications of these issues for global politics and International Relations (IR). These concerns will range from the theoretical (such as questions of difference or similarities among women in their experience of world politics and the problem this presents for theorizing women in IR) to the practical (issues such as war, nationalism, the international economy, globalisation and human rights).

Methods

The following methods will be used:
• Lecturing
• Listening and speaking in discussion
• Seminar presentation
• Essay writing

Objectives

• To examine the implications for International Relations theory of taking feminism seriously.
• To illustrate what feminist approaches contribute to our understanding of issues in world politics.
• To understand the implications of identity and difference and the universal and the particular in the theorization and practice of feminism/s in International Relations.

Learning Outcomes

• The ability to deploy gender as a category of analysis in relation to issues in global politics and International Relations.
• Knowledge of basic literature applying feminist theory and concepts to the study of global politics.
• Understanding and recognizing the gendered character of everyday practices of foreign policy and world politics.

Required Work

• 1 oral presentation
• 1 assessed essay
2 local credits:
Presentation: 10 minutes
2
Essay: 5-7 pages

Essay deadline 12 January 2004
Send a copy of your essay to Johanna.Kantola@helsinki.fi

UNIT READINGS:
Each week’s seminar will proceed on the assumption that you have completed ONE of that week’s required reading and ONE of that week’s supplementary reading.

Most of the books are available in the University libraries. To make it easier for you to get hold of the readings, I have compiled a folder with copies of all of the most important chapters and articles. You can find this folder in the Department of Political Science just outside Jaana Sälekari’s office. The articles are not to be taken outside the Department. You can read or photocopy them at the Department, but please make sure that you return the copies to the folder as soon as possible.

TOPICS

Lectures
1. Feminisms and International Relations: What’s at Issue (1)?
2. Feminisms and International Relations: What’s at Issue (2)?

Seminars
3. The Gendering of War, Security and Military Studies
4. Gender, Development and International Political Economy
5. Gender, Race and (Post)Colonialism
6. Gender and Nationalism
7. Gender and Globalisation
8. Women’s Rights/Human Rights
9. Transnational Feminism
10. Theories of International Relations: To Supplement or Radically Revise?

SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS
WEEK 1
LECTURE: FEMINISMS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: WHAT’S AT ISSUE (1)?

Questions: Why feminisms? Why gender? What is the difference in focusing on gender in contrast to focusing on women?
WEEK 2
LECTURE: FEMINISMS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: WHAT’S AT ISSUE (2)?

Questions: How and on what levels does IR marginalise women and gender?

Literature
Enloe, C. ‘The Personal is International’ and ‘On the Beach: Sexism and Tourism,’ in Bananas, Beaches, and Bases, pp. 195-201, 19-41.

Some relevant websites:
The Feminist Theory Website: http://www.cddc.vt.edu/feminism/enin.html
Feminist Majority Foundation Online: http://www.feminist.org/
International Women’s Websites: http://research.umbc.edu/~korenman/wmst/links_intl.html
WomenWatch: http://www.un.org/womenwatch
A large selection of relevant Internet sites: http://www.aviva.org/resindex.htm

**Learning outcome**: To appreciate the very different concerns of feminist international relations scholars from their mainstream colleagues and in particular the feminist focus on the relationship between the personal and the global.

**WEEK 3: THE GENDERING OF WAR, MILITARISM AND SECURITY STUDIES**

**Questions**: How have women become associated with peace and men with war? What are the dangers of such theorising? Have traditional definitions of security provided women with security? In the light of these questions, has the growth in the number of female soldiers and military personnel furthered feminist aspirations?

**Required reading**:  
Cohn, C (1987)  
‘Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defence Intellectuals,’ *Signs* 12:4 687-718.  
Peterson and Runyan  
Enloe, C.  

**Supplementary Reading**:  
On war and militarism:  
Kelly, L. (2000)  
Niva, S. (1998)  
5  
*Women, War and Peace*. Available at  
http://www.UNIFEM.org/resources/assessment/index.html  
Sharlach, L. (2000)  
‘Rape as Genocide: Bangladesh, the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda’ in *New Political*
Yuval-Davis, N. (1997)
*Gender and Nation* (London: Sage) Ch 5

On security:


Grant, R (1992)

Peterson, V. Spike (1992)

‘Some Dangers in Merging Feminist and Peace Projects,’ *Millennium* 19:1 493–509

Tickner, J. A. (2001)

Some relevant websites:

*Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom* http://www.wilpf.org/

*Women, State, Culture ...* http://k.mihalec.tripod.com

*Gendercide watch* http://www.gendercide.org

*Greenham Common* http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/uk/newsid_514000/514492.stm


*Be Active Be Aware* http://www.babe.hr/eng

**Seminar presentation:** Explore the relationship among war, militarism, and gendered ideology.

**Learning outcome:** To become familiar with feminist thinking on war and militarism. To understand and be able to apply feminist critiques of ‘masculinism’.

**WEEK 4: GENDER, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT**

6

**Questions:** What are the roles and positions of women in the global political economy? Have either the discipline of IPE or the economic policies of states, global financial regimes, and institutions taken sufficient account of gender issues?

**Required reading:**

Peterson and Runyan
*Global Gender Issues*, pp. 130-162, 193-211, 228-240.

Enloe,
Supplementary reading:

Some relevant websites:
Association for Women in Development: http://www.awid.org
Women in Development NET Work: http://www.focusintl.com/widnet.htm
Empowering Widows in Development: http://www.oneworld.org/empoweringwidows

Seminar presentation: Discuss the role(s) and positions of women in either the global political economy or in processes of development.
Learning outcome: An appreciation of the limitations of conventional approaches to political economy in assessing both the economic contributions and the economic needs of women.

WEEK 5: GENDER, RACE AND (POST)COLONIALISM
Questions: Identify the mutually defined identity stereotypes produced by the interconnecting colonial rankings of race (including ‘whiteness’), gender and sexuality. To what extent are these hierarchies ingrained in contemporary world politics and global political economy?

Required reading:

Supplementary reading:
The Dynamics of “Race” and Gender: Some Feminist Interventions (London: Taylor & Francis).
Chatterjee, P. (1993)
At the Edge of International Relations: Postcolonialism, Gender and Dependency (London & New York: Printer) Introduction and Chapter 1
‘Bridging International Relations and Postcolonialism’ in Alternatives 19 pp371-397.
‘The Bounds of Race and International Relations,’ Millennium 22:3 pp443-461.

8
Special edition on Colonial/Postcolonial Worlds, 49 (1995)
Paolini, A. J. (1999)

Some relevant websites:
Muslim women’s homepage: http://www.jannah.org
Seminar presentation: Critically assess the relationships between colonialism, race, and gender. Learning outcome: To understand the global intersections between race and gender in historical context.

WEEK 6: GENDER AND NATIONALISM
‘As a Woman, I have no country’ Virginia Woolf
Questions: What gender ideologies and stereotypes are embodied in forms of nationalism? How do such ideologies connect with practices such as systematic rape in the Bosnian war?

Required reading:
Enloe ‘Nationalism and Masculinity,’ in Bananas, Beaches, and Bases, pp. 42-64.

9 Supplementary reading:

Seminar presentation: Critically assess the relationship between gender and nationalism. Learning outcome: To critically evaluate the phenomenon of nationalism from feminist perspectives.

WEEK 7: GENDER AND GLOBALISATION
Questions: Is globalisation a gendered construct? How does global restructuring affect gender and how does gender affect global restructuring? Identify the different experiences of different groups of women.

Required reading:

Supplementary reading:

Seminar presentation: Identify the gendered consequences of the discourse of globalisation.
Learning outcome: To develop an understanding of the complexity of the multiple and contradictory gendered consequences of globalization.

WEEK 8: WOMEN’S RIGHTS/HUMAN RIGHTS
Questions: What are the central issues concerning human rights for feminists? How might one go about...
addressing problems like women’s reproductive rights or female circumcision?

Required reading:

Supplementary reading:

11  
Bhabha, J. (1999)  
Bunch, C. (1990)  
Peterson, V. Spike (1990)  
‘Whose rights? A Critique of ”Givens” in Human Rights Discourse,’ *Alternatives* 15  

Some relevant websites:  
CEDAW – *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*  
http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/  
CSW – *Commission on the Status of Women*  
http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/  
Universal Voices: Online Human Rights Internet Guide, section on women:  
http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/CIS/humanrights/hrwomen.html  
Women’s Caucus for Gender Justice:  
http://www.iccwomen.org/  
Women’s Human Rights Net:  
http://www.whrnet.org/issues.html  
Women’s Human Rights Resources (DIANA):  
http://www.law-lib.utoronto.ca/Diana/

Seminar Presentation: Critically assess the relationship between human rights and women’s rights.  
Learning outcome: To understand the normative debates about the different bases for rights-claims and to assess the potential that rights discourses offer for feminist politics.

WEEK 9: TRANSDNATIONAL FEMINISM  
Questions: What are the prospects and pitfalls for transnational feminist organising?
Required reading:
Eschle, C. (2001)
Global Democracy, Social Movements and Feminism (Oxford: Westview Press), Ch. 6
Enloe
‘“Just Like One of the Family”: Domestic Servants in World Politics,’ in Bananas, Beaches and Bases, pp. 177-194.
Activists Beyond Borders: Transnational Advocacy Networks in International Politics (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press).

Supplementary reading:
The Challenge of Local Feminisms: Women’s Movements in Global Perspective (Boulder: Westview).
Brah, A. (1992)
Butler, J. (1990)
Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity (London: Routledge).
Mohanty, Chandra (1991)
O’Gorman, E. and Jabri, V. (1999)
Zalewski, M. (1994)
‘The Women’”Women” Question in International Relations,’ Millennium 23:2

Some relevant websites:
European Women’s Lobby: http://www.womenlobby.org/index2.htm

Seminar Presentation: Explore the tensions between poststructural deconstruction of gender and transnational feminism. Critically assess the difficulties that universalising produces within feminisms.
Learning outcome: To understand the significant of the category of ‘difference’ within current feminist theories and to consider the implications of difference for global feminisms.
WEEK 10: THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: TO SUPPLEMENT OR RADICALLY REVISE?

Questions: Can IR as a discipline be reformed in feminist terms? How and why have feminists been ghettoised in the discipline of IR?

Required reading:
Keohane, R. O. (1991)


Supplementary reading:
Alternatives (1993)
Special Issue: Feminists Write International Relations, 18:1.


Tickner, J. A. (1997)

Tickner, J. A. (2001)
Gendering World Politics (New York: Colombia University Press) Ch 5.

Walker, R.B.J. (1992)


Zalewski, M. (1994)
‘The Women/’Women’ Question in International Relations,’ Millennium 23:2

Seminar Presentation: Critically assess the relationship between feminisms and the discipline of IR.

Learning Outcome: To develop an understanding of the relationship between feminisms of various forms and the discipline of international relations.

15

ADDITIONAL READINGS

Gender, War and Security
Cohn, Carol, ‘Wars, Wimps and Women: Talking Gender and Thinking War,’ in Miriam Cooke and
Elshtain, Jean Bethke, ‘Reflections on War and Political Discourse: Realism, Just War, and Feminism,’
Chapter 5-7.
Ruddick, Sara, ‘Notes towards a Feminist Peace Politics,’ in Miriam Cooke and Angela Woolacott (eds.),
*European Journal of International Relations* 7 (2) pp211-238.
5
Thompson, Janna, ‘Women and War,’ *Women’s Studies International Forum* 14:1/2, 63-75.
**Gender, International Political Economy and Development**
Grant, Rebecca, and Kathleen Newland (eds.), *Gender and International Relations* (Milton Keynes: Open University Press, 1991), Chapters 7, 8, 9.

**Gender, Colonialism and Race**
Burton, Julianne, ‘Don (Juanito) Duck and the Imperial-Patriarchal Unconscious: Disney Studios, the Good Neighbor Policy, and the Packaging of Latin America,’ in Andrew Parker, Mary Russo, Doris Sommer, and Patricia Yeager (eds.), Nationalisms and Sexualities (NY: Routledge, 1992).


Stasiulis, Daiva, and Nira Yuval-Davis (eds.), Unsettling Settler Societies: Articulations on Gender, Race, Ethnicity and Class (London: Sage, 1995).


Ware, Vron, Beyond The Pale: White Women, Racism and History (London: Verso, 1992)

Gender and Nationalism


Collins, P. Hill ‘Producing the Nation: Race, Class and Contemporary US Population Politics’ in N.


**Gender and Globalisation**


18


Women’s Rights/Human Rights
Signs, Special Issue on Feminism and the Law, 19:4 (1994).

Transnational Feminism
Nicholson, Linda (ed.), *Feminism/Postmodernism* (London: Routledge, 1990), Chapters 1, 3, 6, 8, 12.
The Relationship Between Feminism and IR
Whitworth, Sandra, *Feminism and International Relations: Towards a Political Economy of...*
Gender in *Interstate and Non-Governmental Institutions* (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1994), Chapters 1, 2.