Transnational feminisms

4 credits
Winter term, 2018-19

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Course description
This course examines the intersections and antagonisms of transnational feminism, as both a disciplinary perspective and a mode of solidarity and activism. In a world characterized by globalization, neoliberalism and uneven capital accumulation, the course seeks to examine feminist solidarities and solutions in global politics and international organizations, while being attentive to the problematics that are also produced. Given its transnational and globalized focus, the course considers how different groups are positioned and impacted within global politics, and the relations of power that underpin complex experiences. In doing so, it pays attention to broader contexts of globalization and globalizing neoliberalism, drawing on IR and political economy frameworks of analysis. We will therefore engage with debates on the gendered nature of (in)equity and representation within global politics, as well as critically engage with the central question of what transnational feminisms can be and do, and the potentials and pitfalls in transnational feminist solidarities. Given the broad remit of transnational feminisms, the course stays focused through a grounding in IR, global governance and development literature.

Learning outcomes
1. Understand concepts and issues associated with transnational feminist strategies, within and outside international institutions.
2. Understand a history of feminist transnational networks and activism.
3. Analyze the impacts and experiences of globalization on different groups of both men and women.
4. Understand complex gendered and other relations of power that structure global inequalities

Expectations
Mobile phones are not allowed in class and must be on silent and in bags. You can work from a tablet or laptop, but please do not use it to look up unrelated material while in class. Part of participation is also paying attention to your peers and their contributions to discussion. Please minimise disruption by avoiding exiting the class where possible. Please be on time. Please check the learning site regularly – this is where new information and updates will be placed.

Assessment
All written work for this class is to be submitted electronically via the learning site, and will be processed via Turnitin. This is also how comments and grades will be returned. All work must be fully referenced and include a bibliography following one of the style formats (either footnotes or in-text citations – guides are available via CEU library site). Please do not plagiarise – to do so may result in failure of the assessment or the course. Work submitted late without obtaining an extension will be subject to penalty. Extensions will be granted only in exceptional circumstances and/or where documentation is provided. If you think you need an extension, please get in touch with me as early as possible.

Participation & attendance: 20%
Critical commentaries (x2): 30%
Research project:
   Research presentation: 20%
   Research essay: 30%
Participation and attendance – 20%, ongoing
Active participation from all students is required. You are expected to attend every seminar and engage actively in the conversation, based on the weekly readings and your understanding/interpretation of them. Please come to each class prepared for informed discussion – this means bring discussion questions/discussion points with you. In each class I will ask you for discussion questions.

Critical commentary 1 – end of Week 4, 15%
Write a 750-1000 word critical commentary (also known as a review) of the set readings for one seminar in weeks 2-4 (inclusive).

A critical commentary asks you to critically engage with the texts under review and how they speak or relate to each other. Rather than just summarise, you should assess the contribution made and what insights it provides in the study of Transnational Feminisms.

Critical commentary 2 – end of Week 7, 15%
Write a 750-1000 word critical commentary (also known as a review) of the set readings for one seminar in weeks 5-7 (inclusive).

Research project:
The research project is a chance for you to explore an issue of your choosing, drawing on the themes, concepts and theories covered in the course. It is an independent research project, and you are expected to read beyond the syllabus. There are two components to the research project:

Presentation – Week 11, 20%
In week 11, we will hold a mini-conference, at which each student is required to present their research essay. Presentations will be approximately 15 minutes in length, depending on the size of the class. You should: 1) provide a summary of your research question and any case study/ies; 2) outline your main contention and how you will make this case; 3) identify key sources and position your argument in relation to existing literature. This is an opportunity for you to get feedback on any issues or tensions you have come across as well. I would suggest that you think of it as presenting the final draft of your essay – not fully complete, a ‘work in progress’ to some extent, but with depth and development nonetheless.

You are required to upload a 100-200 word abstract, with title, for your presentation to the dedicated forum on the learning site by the end of week 9.

Research essay – TBC, 30%
Students are required to write a final research essay on their research project of 3000 words (+/-10%). Your essay is expected to be fully research and referenced and, where applicable, incorporate any feedback from the presentation and abstract submission.
Reading schedule

**Week 1: Introductions, theories and approaches**

**Seminar 1**


**Seminar 2**


**Week 2: Transnational movements in globalisation and neoliberalism**

**Seminar 1**


**Seminar 2**


And continuing conversation from the first seminar.

**Week 3: The politics of solidarity**

**Seminar 1**


Seminar 2

Watch Nikita Dhawan lecture at CEU: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hgafacZ_RuE

Week 4: Theorizing transnational feminisms

Seminar 1


Seminar 2

Guest lecture TBC

Week 5: Transnational movement building at and within the UN

Seminar 1


Seminar 2


Week 6: Localisation, translation, NGO-isation

Seminar 1


Seminar 2


Week 7: Movements, regions

Seminar 1


Seminar 2

Sam Grey and Rag Patel. 2015. “Food sovereignty as decolonization: some contributions from Indigenous movements to food system and development politics.” Agriculture and Human Values 32 (3): 431-444.


Week 8: Movements, regions cont.

Seminar 1

Guest seminar – TBC

Seminar 2 – Transnational activism in the digital age


#MeToo, feminism and anti-feminism: a reflection from Sweden:

Roxanne Gay, ‘Why the #MeToo movement still has a lot left to do’,

Week 9: Transnational anti-feminist movements

Seminar 1


Sarah Smith. 2018. ‘(Anti-)Gender in International Relations’. *LSE Engenderings:*

Seminar 2


Watch: Prejudice and Pride in Hungary: Inside the far right, *Aljazeera:*

Week 10: Resistance and protest

Seminar 1


https://www.ids.ac.uk/files/dmfile/bull39.6intro3.pdf


Seminar 2

Discussion and reflections. Please come prepared to talk. Bring example of transnational movement, protest, something that picks up on the themes and issues discussed.
Week 11: Presentations

Week 12: NO CLASSES – Sarah at International Studies Association conference.

Please use this time to work on your final assessment.