Gender, Labor Markets, Neoliberalism

Department of Gender Studies, CEU
Winter 2019, 2 CEU credits
Instructor: Eva Fodor (fodore@ceu.edu)
Office: Zrinyi utca 14, room 507/b

Tuesday 9:00-11:40

Course description:
Relying on literature primarily from the social sciences, this course examines gender relations embedded and manifested in various aspects of paid, unpaid, formal and informal work in today’s global, “neoliberal” economy. We will explore the gendered character of the concept of work, the worker, the organization of the career track, and the workplace, as well as the division of labor on both micro and macro levels, the relationship between various aspects of work and the gendered preconditions and consequences of “economic development” and “neoliberalism” worldwide. A research paper is required in this course so we will also discuss research methods to be used to study gender, work and the gendered workplace.

Learning outcomes
By the end of this course you will have developed…
- an understanding of the basic concepts in the field of gender and work;
- your ability to summarize and synthesize scholarly theories and apply them to empirical problems;
- your research skills, including ability to formulate research questions, design a project that would answer them, carry out some social science research and write up the results.

Course requirements:
- Active class participation (approx. 20%)
- Four, one-page reaction papers distributed during the term. (approx. 30%)
- Submission of research paper plans and individual discussion (no grade)
- Individual research paper based on 3-4 in-depth interviews, or a small sample of texts or some other empirical material (approx. 50% of grade),

A reaction paper is a maximum one-page essay, which contains a brief summary of the readings – a synthesis if more than one reading is assigned- as well as your critical comments, ideas and reflections about it. Reaction papers are due in hard copy format in class. No late reaction papers please, no emails either.

The research paper will be based on a set of in-depth interviews (about 3-5) on a topic of your choice related to the class material. It should be about 10-15 double spaced pages. This is a social science exercise, you will write an empirically based research paper, not an essay, not a literature review, not a purely theoretical piece (not that those are not fun to read, only this is not the point here.) I will give you guidance as
we go along, including potential research questions, should you need some help with that.

Reading schedule:

Week 1 (Jan 8): What do we mean by “neoliberalism”?


Week 2 (Jan 15): How is the concept of “gender” useful to understand the practice and principles of neoliberalism?


- Scharff: [https://www.theoryculturesociety.org/christina-scharff-on-gender-and-neoliberalism/](https://www.theoryculturesociety.org/christina-scharff-on-gender-and-neoliberalism/)

Week 3 (Jan 22): The work women do: theoretical considerations of paid and unpaid care work


Week 4 (Jan 29): Transnational care chains in a global economy


**Week 5 (Feb 5): The way gendered and sexed bodies are used at work**


**Week 6 (Feb 12): The gender pay gap, job segregation and other measures of gender inequality**


Week 7 (Feb 19): Let’s examine more closely a specific female dominated sector: working in the services


Week 8 (Feb 26): Tools to end gender inequalities?


Week 9 (March 5): Do organizations have a gender?


Week 10 (March 12): Gender, production and the production of gender in global factories


**Week 11 (March 19): Knowledge economy and the future of work**

**Week 12 (March 26): Wrapping up**