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Department of Development Studies, Palacky University, Olomouc

## **Course: Introduction to gender studies**

Lecturer: Dr. Urmila Goel, Berlin, <http://www.urmila.de>, [class@urmila.de](mailto:class@urmila.de)

The world is gendered. People, behaviour and nations are categorised as masculine or feminine. The masculine is the norm of theory and politics; women are seen in most cases as a special case. This course will offer an introduction to gender studies from a postcolonial studies perspective. We will discuss feminism, the social construction of gender, gender as a perspective of analysis and look at queer and intersectional criticism.

The course will offer brief introductions to critical theories in order to illustrate the basic approaches. We will read in particular theoretical texts from India. The meetings will be organised interactively. The students will be asked to apply the theories on the basis of the course literature both to their life in the Czech Republic and to development studies.

Credit requirements:

1. register yourself in STAG (DEV1)
2. and then register for a presentation latest by 27th September with Simona Šafaříková (please pay attention to having same sized groups for all presentations)
3. students can miss only 1 sessions from 4
4. reading for each session is obligatory
5. each student has to be part of a group presenting the literature for one session
6. form of the presentation:
  - 15 minutes
  - visualised
  - content of the presentation: see questions in the respective sessions
  - presentations should be sent to the lecturer ([class@urmila.de](mailto:class@urmila.de)) by the Monday before the presentation
  - will be discussed with the lecturer on the Wednesday before the presentation (place and date will be communicated later by email)

The course literature will be made available as pdf by the middle of September.

Updated information will be provided on <http://www.urmila.de/english/classes/>

## **Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013: Feminism – a postcolonial perspective**

14.00 – 17.30 hours

Film:

- Unlimited Girls (2002) von Paromita Vohra, <http://www.cultureunplugged.com/play/452>

**Everybody reads:**

- Mohanty, Chandra Talpade (1984), "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and colonial discourse", in: Ashcroft, Bill et al. (2006) (eds.), The Postcolonial Studies Reader, London: Routledge, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 242 – 245.

**Group 1 Presentation: Mohanty (1984)**

Questions:

- What does Mohanty criticise about Western feminism?
- How does this criticism relate to development studies?
- What kinds of feminism do you find in the Czech Republic?

Preparation of presentation:

- Send the visualised presentation by Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> September to the lecturer ([class@urmila.de](mailto:class@urmila.de))
- There will be a preparatory discussion of the presentation with the lecturer on Wednesday, 2nd October (time and place will be communicated by email).

## **Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2013: Introduction to gender studies**

10.00 – 13.30 hours

### **Everybody reads:**

- Geetha, V. (2009), Gender, Kolkatta: Stree, 104-135.
- Butler, Judith (2007), Gender Trouble, New York: Routledge, 1-10.

### **Group 2 Presentation: Geetha (2009)**

Questions:

- What is the male gaze? How are women made into an object?
- How does this relate to development studies?
- How does this relate to the situation in the Czech Republic?

### **Group 3 Presentation: Geetha (2009)**

Questions:

- How is masculinity and feminity socially constructed?
- How does this relate to development studies?
- How does this relate to the situation in the Czech Republic?

### **Group 4 Presentation: Geetha (2009)**

Questions:

- What roles are ascribed to men and women in intimate relationships, marriage and parenthood?
- How does this relate to development studies?
- How does this relate to the situation in the Czech Republic?

Preparation of presentations:

- Send the visualised presentations by Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> September to the lecturer (class@urmila.de)
- There will be a preparatory discussion of the presentations with the lecturer on Wednesday, 2nd October (time and place will be communicated by email).

## Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013: Gender as a perspective of analysis

14.00 – 17.30 hours

### Everybody reads:

- Yuval-Davis, Nira (1997), "Ethnicity, Gender Relations and Multiculturalism", in: Pnina Werbner and Tariq Modood (eds.), *Debating Cultural Hybridity*, London: Zed Books, 193-208 (**read pp.195-197: section "women and culture"**).
- Palriwala, Rajni and Patricia Uberoi (2009), "Exploring the Links: Gender Issues in Marriage and Migration", in: Palriwala, Rajni and Patricia Uberoi (eds.), *marriage, migration and gender*, New Delhi: Sage, 23 – 60.

### Group 5 Presentation: Yuval-Davis (1997)

Questions:

- How should women reproduce the nation culturally?
- How are nation and gender connected in development studies?
- Which roles have Czech women in reproducing the nation culturally?

### Group 6 Presentation: Palriwala and Uberoi (2009)

Questions:

- What do Palriwala and Uberoi criticise about mainstream analysis of marriage and migration?
- What critical perspectives of analysis of the connections between marriage and migration do they suggest?

### Group 7 Presentation: Palriwala and Uberoi (2009)

Question:

- How can you apply Palriwala's and Uberoi's criticism and alternative approach to development studies?

Preparation of presentations:

- Send the visualised presentations by Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> October to the lecturer (class@urmila.de)
- There will be a preparatory discussion of the presentations with the lecturer on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> October (time and place will be communicated by email).

## **Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2013: Queer and intersectional criticism**

10.00 – 13.30 hours

### **Everybody reads:**

- Sharma, Jaya und Dipika Nath (2005): "Through the Prism of intersectionality: Same sex sexualities in India", in: Misra, Geetanjali und Radhika Chandiramani (2005): Sexuality, Gender and Rights: Exploring Theory and Practice in South and Southeast Asia, New Delhi: Sage, 82-97.
- Menon, Nivedita (2005): "How natural is normal? Feminism and compulsory heterosexuality", in: Narrain, Arvind und Gautam Bhan (2005): Because I have a Voice. Queer Politics in India. Delhi: Yoda, 33-39.

### **Group 8 Presentation: Sharma and Nath (2005)**

Questions:

- What is intersectionality?
- Why do Sharma and Nath criticise identity-based politics?
- How can their criticism be applied to development studies?

### **Group 9 Presentation: Menon (2005)**

Questions:

- What is compulsory heterosexuality?
- What does Menon criticise about Indian feminism?
- How can one apply this criticism to development studies?
- How could it be applied to the situation in the Czech Republic?

Preparation of presentations:

- Send the visualised presentations by Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> October to the lecturer (class@urmila.de)
- There will be a preparatory discussion of the presentations with the lecturer on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> October (time and place will be communicated by email).