

Sociology of Gender

Semester One

2021/2022

Thursday 9:10-12:10

Course Instructor: Dr. Lake Lui

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Office hours: By appointment

The seminar focuses on the variety of gender theories that help explain the sources of gender inequality and the politics to redress gender inequality. We begin with an overview of the field and discuss why gender is important in science and knowledge production. Then, the course scrutinizes the most common approaches in the study of gender. The large body of gender literature and their usage of different metaphors and lexicons sometimes confuse students as well as scholars. Some speak of gender as a synonym of sex and sexuality, or individual attributes like identities or roles; others argue that gender is a structure that organizes people's way of life. Much argumentation and empirical work tend to essentialize gender as a dichotomous variable with static qualities. Yet recent scholarship challenges this notion in the view that gender is fluid, multidimensional, and ever-changing. It is both an interactional process and an accomplishment given the institutional and structural constraints. We will also further discuss how gender inequality intersects with other categories of differences, such as social class, race and ethnicities, and sexualities. Finally, situating gender in the global setting, we go back to the original question of "whose knowledge" from the perspective of postcolonial feminism, while centering on the question of objectivity and diversity.

Course Objectives:

- Explore gendered modes of knowledge production in the field
- Develop understanding on the complex and sophisticated conceptualization of gender

- Be able to construct and defend an argument about gender based upon theoretical perspective and research in the field
- Have students' verbal and written skills honed to facilitate their articulation inside and outside classrooms

Assessment

1. Class Discussions 20%
2. Presentation 20%
3. Response papers 60%

1. *Class Discussions (20%)*. Students are expected to do the assigned readings before class, and will be rated based on the contributions in the discussions.

2. *Presentation (20%)*. Each student has to pick one weekly topic for presentation. While the presenter can summarize the readings, critical and thought-provoking questions should be raised to facilitate the discussion. The presenter is also responsible for leading the discussion.

3. *Response papers (60%)*. Each student will write two response papers on any two weeks' readings EXCEPT FOR THE WEEK YOU PRESENTED. It is a paper around 5-7 pages (double-line spacing). Students should show critical thoughts on those readings. They can also relate it to their own research.

Class schedule and Readings

OVERVIEW OF GENDER SCHOLARSHIP, EPISTEMOLOGY AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

Week 1:

Readings:

Harding, Sandra. 2015. *Objectivity and diversity*. University of Chicago Press.

CONCEPTUALIZING GENDER AND EMPIRICAL ANALYSES OF GENDER

Week 2: Gender – ordained by nature?

Udry, J. Richard. 2000. "Biological limits of gender construction." *American Sociological Review*: 443-457.

Fausto-Sterling, Anne. 2005. "The Bare Bones of Sex: Part 1—Sex and Gender." *Signs* 30:1491- 1527.

Martin, Emily. 1991. "The Egg and the Sperm: How Science Has Constructed a Romance Based on Stereotypical Male-Female Roles." *Signs* 16:485-501.

Ameling, Rene. 2007. "Selling Genes, Selling Gender: Egg Agencies, Sperm Banks, and the Medical Market in Genetic Material." *American Sociological Review* 72:319-40.

Week 3: Gender as a role (a)

Kessler, Suzanne J. and Wendy McKenna. [1978] 1985. *Gender: An Ethnomethodological Approach*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.* [1-41]

Stockard, Jean. "Gender socialization." *Handbook of the Sociology of Gender*. Springer, Boston, MA, 2006. 215-227.

Wood, Wendy, and Alice H. Eagly. "Two traditions of research on gender identity." *Sex Roles* 73.11 (2015): 461-473.

Eagly, Alice H., and Steven J. Karau. 2002. "Role congruity theory of prejudice toward female leaders." *Psychological review* 109.3: 573.

Week 4: Gender as an identity/a role

Stacey, J. & Thorne, B. 1985. "The Missing Feminist Revolution in Sociology." *Social Problems* 32: 301-16.

Komarovsky, Mirra. 1992. "The Concept of Social Role Revisited." *Gender & Society* 6:301-13

Lopata, Helena Z. and Barrie Thorne. 1978. "On the Term 'Sex Roles.'" *Signs* 3:718-21.

Week 5: Gender as a frame

Ridgeway, Cecilia L. 2011. *Framed by gender: How gender inequality persists in the modern world*. Oxford University Press.

Week 6: Gender as a social structure

Martin, Patricia Yancey. 2004. "Gender as a Social Institution." *Social Forces* 82:1249-73.

Acker, Joan. 1992. "From Sex Roles to Gendered Institutions." *Contemporary Sociology* 21:565-69.

Moore, Mignon R. 2006. "Lipstick or Timberlands? Meanings of Gender Presentation in Black 7 Lesbian Communities." *Signs* 32:113-39.

Week 7: Gender as a social structure – masculinities literature

Connell, R. W. 1987. *Gender and Power: Society, the Person and sexual politics*.

Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press. [p. 91-190]

Connell, Robert William. "A very straight gay: Masculinity, homosexual experience, and the dynamics of gender." *American sociological review* (1992): 735-751.

Week 8: Gender as a process and an enactment (a)

West, Candace and Don H. Zimmerman. 1987. "Doing Gender." *Gender & Society* 1:125-51.

West, Candace and Sarah Fenstermaker. 1995. "Doing Difference." *Gender & Society* 9:8-37.

Cooke, Lynn Prince. 2006. "'Doing' Gender in Context: Household Bargaining and Risk of Divorce in Germany and the United States." *American Journal of Sociology* 112:442-72.

Week 9: Gender as a process and an enactment (b)

Deutsch, Francine M. 2007. "Undoing Gender." *Gender & Society* 21:106-27.

Connell, Catherine, 2010. "Doing, Undoing, or Redoing Gender: Learning from the Working Experiences of Transpeople." *Gender & Society* 24:30-53.

West, Candace, and Don H. Zimmerman. "Accounting for doing gender." *Gender & society* 23.1 (2009): 112-122.

Week 10: Intersectionality (a)

Crenshaw, Kimberlé. 1991. "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics and Violence against Women of Color." *Stanford Law Review* 43:1241-99.

Collins, Patricia Hill. 2000. *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment*, 2nd Edition. Boston: Unwin Hyman.

McCall, Leslie. 2005. "The Complexity of Intersectionality." *Signs* 30:1771-800.

Additional readings:

Collins, Patricia Hill. *Intersectionality as critical social theory*. Duke University Press, 2019.

Week 11: Intersectionality (b)

Choo, Hae Yeon and Myra Marx Ferree. 2010. "Practicing Intersectionality in Sociological Research: A Critical Analysis of Inclusions, Interactions and Institutions in the Study of Inequalities." *Sociological Theory* 28:129-49.

Buitelaar, M. (2006) "'I Am the Ultimate Challenge': Accounts of Intersectionality in the Life-Story of a Well-Known Daughter of Moroccan Migrant Workers in the Netherlands", *European Journal of Women's Studies* 13(3): 259-76.

Lui, Lake. "Marital power in inter-hukou families in China: An intersectionality approach." *Journal of Family Issues* 39.5 (2018): 1165-1190.

Week 12: Gender categories and continua

Valentine, David. 2007. *Imagining Transgender: An Ethnography of a Category*. Durham and London: Duke University Press.

Week 13: Gender and development (a)

Connelly, Jane L., and Patricia Barriteau. *Theoretical perspectives on gender and development*. IDRC, 2000. (Chapter 2 and 3)

Lan, Pei-Chia. 2006. *Global Cinderellas*. Duke University Press.

Week 14: Gender and development (b)

Constable, Nicole. 2014. *Born out of place*. University of California Press.

Week 15: Resistance

Kandiyoti, Deniz. 1988. "Bargaining with Patriarchy." *Gender & Society* 2:274-90.

Herzog, Hanna and Taghreed Yahia-Younis. 2007. "Men's Bargaining with Patriarchy: The Case of Primaries within Hamulas in Palestinian Arab Communities in Israel." *Gender & Society* 21:579- 602.

MacLeod, Arlene Elowe. "Hegemonic relations and gender resistance: The new veiling as accommodating protest in Cairo." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 17.3 (1992): 533-557.

Week 16: Taiwan gender scholarship and the way forward

(a book / articles suggestion nominated by students)

Penalties:

1) Late Submission of Assignment

In the interests of equity and fairness, late assignments attract a penalty of -10% per day.

*****No excuses for late homework / no-show in presentation are accepted unless there is a severe crisis (e.g., Emergency room medical treatment, decease of a family member). For those cases, please provide formal and written documentation.

2) Plagiarism

NTU views plagiarism as a serious disciplinary offence. Some plagiarism cases are handled by your teacher or your Department. Other cases are referred to the Student Discipline Committee. Penalties vary according to the circumstances but you might expect one of the following if you plagiarise:

- A lower grade or a fail for the plagiarized work
- A lower classification than you might otherwise have got for your degree
- Suspension of studies for a specified period of time
- Expulsion for a specified or indefinite period