Gender, Planning and the Politics of Development
University of Toronto
JPG 1509S/Spring 2005

Professor: Katharine N. Rankin
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Place & Time: Room SS2124A, Thurs., 4-6 pm

Course Description:

This course examines the gender politics of planning practices in the context of
international development. It begins by claiming development as a feminist practice and
proceeds to explore the implications of neoliberalism for doing ‘feminist development’.
We then consider the genealogy of the existing, mainstream field of ‘gender and
development’, through which we explore how different strains of feminism—liberal,
Marxist, postmodern, post-colonial—have informed development theory and practice.
These perspectives help us to examine key themes animating debates about the role of
development in feminism today: social capital, empowerment, capabilities and
masculinities. We conclude by exploring [a] how feminism has/has not been
institutionalized in gender training and development organizations and [b] what are the
ideal institutions and methodologies for realizing a feminist theory of justice?

Evaluation of Students:

Classes will be conducted as seminars. It is crucial that students read the required
materials and be prepared for class discussions. Each student will be expected to lead
in-class discussions during the semester, as well as prepare two short written
assignments related to course readings (see below for due dates). For the written
assignments, students will be given 3-4 questions from which they may select one
question to address in their writing. In addition, each student will have an opportunity to
elaborate on one issue or case of gender planning and development through a final
research paper. The production of the research paper is staged over the course of two
months, with interim due dates and peer evaluation of working drafts. Papers will be
presented orally to the class at the end of term.

The final grade will be based on the following criteria:

- Class discussions and participation 15%
- Short written assignments [3-4 pp.] 20% ea. Due 2/6 & 3/20
- Final paper [15 pp.] 40% Due 4/10
- Final paper--oral presentation 5%  Due 4/3

Required Texts: The following course books are available for purchase at the Toronto
Women’s Bookstore [73 Harbord St., just West of Spadina]. It is also on reserve,
Robarts Library, 3rd Floor.


A course reader, containing other required readings for the course, can be compiled from the photocopied material in Donna’s office.

**Course Outline and Readings**

**Week 1 (Jan. 6):** Course Introduction

**Week 2 (Jan. 13):** Feminists Doing Development


*Suggested Reading:*

**Week Three [Jan 20]:** Neoliberalism and the Reconstitution of Gender


Lourdes Benería, “Global/Local Connections: Employment Patterns, Gender, and Informalization,” in *Gender, Development and Globalization*, 91-130.

*Plus, any 2 of the following 3 readings:*


*Film: Made in Thailand*

**Week Four [Jan 27]: Gender and Development: The Making of a Field**


*Suggested Reading:*


*Film: Beyond Beijing*

**Week Five [Feb. 3]: Feminist Economics of Development**


Plus


Or

Diane Elson, Barbara Evers, Jasmine Gideon, Gender Aware Country Economic Reports: Working Paper Number 1: Concepts And Sources (Manchester: University Of Manchester Graduate School Of Social Sciences GENECON Unit), July 1997

First short paper due

Week Six [Feb 10]: Development and its Discontents: Contributions of Postmodern and Post-colonial Feminisms

Mridula Udayagiri, “Challenging Modernization: Gender and Development, Postmodern Feminism and Activism,” in Feminism/Postmodernism/Development, 159-178.


Suggested Reading:

**** READING WEEK: FEB. 14-18 ****
Week Seven [Feb. 24]: Social Capital, Civil Society, and the Feminization of Development


Plus


Or


Suggested Reading:

Week Eight [Mar. 3]: Empowerment and Social Movements


Plus:


OR

Film: Made in India

Week Nine [Mar 10]: The Capabilities Approach


Lourdes Benería, “Development as if All People Mattered,” in Gender, Development and Globalization, 161-170.


Second short paper due

Week Ten [Mar. 17]: Masculinities in Development


Week Eleven [Mar 24]: Gender Training


Naila Kabeer, “Triple Roles, Gender Roles, Social Relations: The Political Subtext of Gender Training Frameworks,” Reversed Realities, 264-305.

Suggested reading:

Week Twelve [March 31]: Getting the Institutions Right


Plus


Or


Suggested Reading:

Week Thirteen [Apr. 7]: Class Presentations:

Oral presentations based on research papers

Final papers due
Questions for gender and development policy in the twenty-first century. Sylvia Chanta,* and Matthew C. Gutmannb. aLondon School of Economics and Political Science, London, UK bDepartment of Anthropology, Brown University, Providence, USA.Â in 1985 is now replicated by the tendency of â€œgender planningâ€”to slip subtly and imperceptibly into the much older â€œprojects for womenâ€”. A relational approach to gender is replaced by a focus on women while male gender identities lie unexamined in the background.Â Examining masculinity and the role it plays in the development process is not simply an analytical exercise, but has widespread implications for the effectiveness of programmes that seek to improve economic and social outcomes in virtually every country . . . Politics & Gender is an agenda-setting journal that publishes the highest quality scholarship on gender and politics and on women and politics. It aims to represent the full range of questions, issues, and approaches on gender and women across the major subfields of political science, including comparative politics, international relations, political theory, and U.S. politics. The Editor welcomes studies that address fundamental questions in politics and political science from the perspective of gender difference, as well as those that interrogate and challenge standard analytical categori Politics and Decision Making. Gender and Environment Gender Based Violence. Health. Media and ICTS. POLICY GOAL To eradicate gender discrimination and inequalities in all spheres of life and development. Table of contents. Acronyms. I.Â The policy and legislative framework and the prevailing social, economic and political developments provide a firm basis to pursue gender equality and equity defined in this NGP. 2.0 SITUATION ANALYSIS. 2.1. Overview. Since 2004, significant progress has been made towards providing the legislative, planning and implementation frameworks for gender equality programming.