

Department of Anthropology and Sociology (ANSO)

Academic year 2019-2020

Gender, Culture and Power

ANSO033- Autumn - 6 ECTS

[Schedule & Room](#)

Course Description¹

If "gender is a primary way of signifying relationships of power" (J. Scott, 1986), how can we observe these relationships of power and how do they work? More specifically, how do the symbolic, institutional and social hierarchies between the 'masculine' and the 'feminine' produce and reproduce discriminations, exclusions and marginalisations, and how are they legitimized? How do gendered hierarchies intersect with other systems of domination (race, class, age, sexuality)? Can we understand the underlying mechanisms of discrimination and exclusion when (dominant) cultural values (*doxa*) are taken for granted? Students will revisit a number of referential social scientists who have theorized the concept of power (M. Weber, Bourdieu, Durkheim, Foucault, ...) and reassess these theories from a critical feminist, anthropological and gender perspective. Through a number of reflexive exercises students are invited to translate the abstract concepts of gender, culture and power into observable social interactions.. Creative critical pedagogics will link theoretical thinking with everyday experiences.

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Syllabus

Session 1 Introduction, Gender a Multi-layered Concept (September 20th, 2019)

Issues:

- What is gender?
- How does gender operate?

¹ The programme may be subject to minor changes. An additional reading list will be provided at the start of the term.

- Why does gender matter?
- The three dimensions of gender
- Standpoint epistemology and Situated Knowledge

Readings:

Dauids, Tine & Francien van Driel (2005). Changing Perspectives. In: Dauids, Tine & Francien van Driel (ed). *The Gender Question in Globalization. Changing Perspectives and Practices*. London: Ashgate, chapter 1, pp. 3-22

Harding, Sandra (2008). What is Gender? In: Harding, Sandra (2008) *Sciences from Below. Feminisms, Postcolonialities, and Modernities*. Durham & London: Duke University Press, pp. 110-114

Scott, Joan (1986). Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis. *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 91(5), pp. 1053-1075

Exercise 1 Write a short autobiography on your gendered self (max. 1500 words). Due on September 26th, 21:00PM

Session 2 Beyond dichotomies (September 27th, 2019)

Issues:

- On dichotomies and cultural classifications
- Dichotomies and beyond?

Readings:

Durkheim, Emile & Marcel Mauss (1903). "On Some Primitive Forms of Classification: Contribution to the Study of Collective Representations." (*Année sociologique*). Reprinted in 1963 by Rodney Needham "Primitive Classification", in revival series by Routledge, 2009. (pages to be specified)

Butler, Judith (2004). Faire et défaire le genre. Conférence donnée le 25 mai 2004 à l'Université de Paris X-Nanterre, dans le cadre du CREART (Centre de Recherche sur l'Art) et de l'Ecole Doctorale « Connaissance et Culture », publié par : *Multitudes*. 2004, <http://multitudes.samizdat.net/Faire-et-defaire-le-genre>.

Jay, Nancy (1981). Gender and Dichotomy. *Feminist Studies*, Vol. 7(1), pp. 38-56

Raz, Michal (2016). Bi-catégorisation. In: Rennes, Juliette (dir.) 2016, *Encyclopédie critique du genre*. Paris. La Découverte, pp. 87-95

West, Candace & Sarah Fenstermaker (2002). Power, Inequality, and the Accomplishment of Gender : An Ethnomethodological View, in : Fenstermaker, Sarah & Candace West (ed.) 2002, *Doing Gender, Doing Difference. Inequality, Power and Institutional Change*, New York & London: Routledge, pp.41-54

Exercise 2 Write a short essay on the theme "dichotomies and beyond" (max. 3000 words). Due on October 3rd, 21:00PM

Session 3 Intersectionality: Contradictions of Structural Determinisms (October 4th, 2019)

Issues:

- Concomitant and contradictory systems of oppression
- “Gender a primary way of signifying relationships of power?”
- Implications for collective action?

Readings:

Crenshaw, Kimberle (1991). Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color, *Stanford Law Review*, Vol. 43, No. 6 (Jul., 1991), pp. 1241-1299

Essed, Philomena (1994). Contradictory Positions, Ambivalent Perceptions: A Case Study of a Black Woman Entrepreneur. *Feminism & Psychology*, Vol. 4(1), pp. 99-118

Hill-Collins, Patricia (2007). Pushing the Boundaries of Business as Usual? Race, Class and Gender Studies and Sociological Inquiry. In: Calhoun, Craig (ed). *Sociology in America. A History*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 572-596

Exercise 3 Make a multi-layered gender analysis of a class-mate’s autobiography (max. 1500 words).
Due on October 4th, 2019

Exercise 4 (in class) Discuss your biographical gender analysis with your class-mate.

Session 4 Domination and Power according to Max Weber (October 11th, 2019)

Issues:

- Power according to Max Weber
- Legitimation processes
- Masculine rule

Readings:

Weber, Max (orig. 1921). Chapter III. The Types of Legitimate Domination. In: *Economy and Society: an Outline of Interpretive Sociology*/ Max Weber ; ed. by Guenther Roth and Claus Wittich; [transl.: Ephraim Fischhoff ... et al.], pp. 212-288

Weber, Marianne & Bermingham Craig (2003, orig. 1912). Authority and Autonomy in Marriage. *Sociological Theory*, Vol. 21, No. 2, pp. 85-102

Brown, Wendy (1992). Finding the Man in the State. *Feminist Studies*, Vol. 18(1), pp. 7-34

Ortner, Sherry B. (1974). Is Female to Male as Nature is to Culture? In: Rosaldo, Michelle Zimbalist & Louise Lamphere (1974). *Woman, Culture & Society*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, pp. 67-87

Varikas, Eleni (2010). Max Weber, la cage d'acier et les dames. In: Chabaud_Rychter, Danielle, Descoutures, Virginie, Anne-Marie Devreux & Elina Varikas, *Sous les sciences sociales, le genre. Relectures critiques de Max Weber à Bruno Latour*. Paris : La Découverte, pp. 373-389

Exercise 5 Write a short narrative on your experiences with legitimate authority. How do your experiences fit into Weber's typology? (max. 1000 words). Due October 17th, 21:00PM.

Session 5 Doxa, Orthodoxy, Heterodoxy (October 18th, 2019)

Issues:

- “The fish don't talk about the water”
- Defamiliarization
- Cultural critique

Readings:

Bourdieu, Pierre (1998). Chapitre III, Permanences et changement. In : Pierre Bourdieu, *La domination masculine*, Paris : Editions du Seuil, collection Liber, pp. 89-119

Devreux, Anne-Marie (2010). Pierre Bourdieu et les rapports entre les sexes: une lucidité aveuglée. In : Chabaud_Rychter, Danielle, Descoutures, Virginie, Anne-Marie Devreux & Elina Varikas, *Sous les sciences sociales, le genre. Relectures critiques de Max Weber à Bruno Latour*. Paris : La Découverte, pp. 77-93

McCall, Leslie (1992). Does Gender Fit? Bourdieu, Feminism, and Conceptions of Social Order. *Theory & Society*, Vol. 21(6), pp. 837-867

McNay, Lois (2004). Agency and Experience: Gender as a Lived Relations. In: Adkins, L (2004). *Feminism after Bourdieu*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, pp. 175-190

Exercise 6 (in tandem) Discuss some “doxa” that you have unraveled in your life and what triggered the insight. Summarize your discussion in max. 500 words. Due on October 24th, 21:00PM

Exercise 7 Write a short summary of your problem statement of the final essay (including the construction of your data-set and your theoretical frame(s)) (max. 1500 words). Due on October 24th, 21:00PM

Session 6 Reading Foucault the Governance of Bodies (October 25th, 2019)

Issues:

- Effects of power on bodies
- Disciplinarization
- Resistance

Readings:

Deveaux, Monique (1994). Feminism and Empowerment: A Critical Reading of Foucault. *Feminist Studies*, Vol. 20(2), pp. 223-247

Foucault, Michel (1997, orig. 1975). The Means of Correct Training. In: *Discipline and Punish: the Birth of the Prison / Michel Foucault*; transl. from the French by Alan Sheridan. Harmondsworth; London [etc.]: Penguin Books, pp. 170-194

Mainsant, Gwénaëlle (2016). Gouvernement des corps. In: Rennes, Juliette (dir.) 2016, *Encyclopédie critique du genre*. Paris. La Découverte, pp. 273-282

Naidu, Maheshvari (2009). Glaring invisibility: dressing the body of the female cleaner. *Anthropology Southern Africa*, 32(3&4), pp. 128-138

Exercise 8 Identify and describe two cases, one of body politics and one of biopower that you have experienced. How do your experiences relate to the theoretical frame developed by Foucault? (max. 1000 words). Due on October 31st, 2019, 21.00 PM

Session 7 **Hegemonic masculinities (November 1st, 2019)**

Issues:

- Manhood and masculinities
- Ideal-types and realities
- “Can subaltern men speak?”

Readings:

Connell, R.W. (1993). The Big Picture: Masculinities in Recent World History. *Theory and Society*, 22(5), pp. 597-623

Peteet, Julie (1994). Male Gender and Rituals of Resistance in Palestinian Intifada: a Cultural Politics of Violence. *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 21(1), pp. 31-49

Reysoo, Fenneke (2005). Social Construction of Masculinity in Mexico. In: Gibson, Diana & Anita Hardon, *Rethinking Masculinities, Violence and AIDS*. Amsterdam: Het Spinhuis

Exercise 9 Make a collage of the hegemonic man that is on your mind (photoshop, cut-paste, draw, paint, ...). Bring to class on November 1st, 2019

Session 8 From Traditional Forms of Gender to the Post-Feminist Sexual Contract (November 8th, 2019)

Issues:

- Post-feminist contract and hypersexuality
- Social change
- Inverted hierarchies

Readings:

Ferguson, Jane M. & Arratee Ayuttacorn (2019): Air Male: Exploring Flight Attendant Masculinities in North America and Thailand, *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology*, pp. 1-16

Levy, Ariel (2005). *Female Chauvinist Pigs. Women and the Rise of the Raunch Culture*. New York: The Free Press, pp. 1-45

McRobbie, Angela (2007). Top Girls? Young women and the Post-Feminist Sexual Contract. *Cultural Studies*, 21(4-5), pp. 718-737

Huaren, Vivian Liang (2017). *Lifestyle Influencers or Beauty Gurus: Consumerists under the Disguise of Female Empowerment*. Genève: IHEID, final paper ANSO033 Spring 2017.

Session 9 New International Division of Labour, Social Reproduction and Migration (November 15th, 2019)

Issues:

- Care and emotional labour
- Left-behinds

Readings:

Federici, Silvia (2005, orig. 1999). Reproduction et lutte féministe dans la nouvelle division internationale du travail. In : Verschuur, Christine & Fenneke Reysoo, 2005, *Genre, nouvelle division internationale du travail et migrations*, Genève : iuéd-efi, Cahiers Genre et Développement No. 5, Paris : L'Harmattan.

Hochschild, Arlie Russell (2002). Love and Gold. In: Ehrenreich, Barbara & Arlie Russell Hochschild, 2002, *Global Woman. Nannies, Maids and Sex Workers in the New Economy*, London: Granta Books, pp. 15-30

Ye Jingzhong (2011). Left-behind children: the social price of China's economic boom, *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 38:3, 613-650.

Ye Jingzhong, Congzhi He, Juan Liu, Weijing Wang & Shidong Chen (2016). Left-behind elderly: shouldering a disproportionate share of production and reproduction in supporting China's industrial development, *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 1-29, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03066150.2016.1186651>

Ye Jingzhong, Huifang Wu, Jing Rao, Baoyin Ding & Keyun Zhang (2016). Left-behind women: gender exclusion and inequality in rural-urban migration in China, *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 43:4, 910-941.

Session 10 “Surprising Appeal and Extraordinary Rise of Living Alone” (November 22nd, 2019)

Issues:

- Women’s Empowerment and Child Penalty
- New Families?

Readings:

Klinenberg, Eric (2014). “Redesigning Solo Life” and “Conclusions”, in: Klinenberg, Eric (2014), *Going Solo. The Extraordinary Rise and Surprising Appeal of Living Alone*, London: Dockworth Overlook, pp. 185-233

Session 11 Gender and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation (November 29th, 2019)

Issues:

- How to relinquish habits of violence?
- Community-based gender analysis
- Social order/disorder re-established.

Readings:

Harris, Colette (2015). Gender and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation. In: Coles, Anne, Gray Leslie & Janet Momsen (2015). *The Routledge Handbook of Gender and Development*. London & New York: Routledge Handbook, pp. 407-417

Session 12 Humanitarian Aid, Camps and Gender (December 6th, 2019)

Issues:

- Camps and Settlement as Micro-cosmos
- “Bare Lives”?

Readings:

Baughman, Keri Leigh (2017). *Invisible households: a gendered analysis of single male-headed households in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement in Uganda*. Genève: IHEID, Global Migration Centre, Research Paper No. 19 https://repository.graduateinstitute.ch//record/294863?_ga=2.60739949.1596464398.1566072801-91143835.1528120411

Nibbe, Anne Ayesha (2015). Women, Camps and “Bare Life”, In: Coles, Anne, Gray Leslie & Janet Momsen (2015). *The Routledge Handbook of Gender and Development*. London & New York: Routledge Handbook, pp. 418-428

Session 13: Présentation of students’ papers, December 13th, 2019

Session 14: Présentation of students’ papers, December 20th, 2019

Evaluation:

Final essay is due on December 20th, 2019 at midnight. The essay is maximum 5000 words, excluding bibliography and annexes (Times Roman, font 11, interline space 1.5, page numbers bottom right).

Ponderation of the final grade: 1) participation in class and presentation of a session 20%; 2) the average grade of the 10 exercises 40%; 3) the final essay (**due on December 20th, 2019 Midnight**) 40%
