

# WSSR

## WORKSHOPS ON SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

### Feminist Policy in Action: Making Democracies More Democratic?

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May 8-9, 2017

9:00am – 4:30pm

**Summary:**

What is feminist policy? Why is it so important for our contemporary democratic systems to adopt and actually implement policies that formally promote women's rights and status, however those rights and status are defined in a specific national context, and to strike down gender hierarchies? How do students of democratic performance actually assess feminist policy success as it is placed on government agendas and pursued in specific policies across a wide range of sectors of government action?

These are especially crucial questions given how on one hand women's movements, representing a broad range of voices and taking a multitude of forms, have been demanding governments to take action since the mid-1960s and on the other hand, governments have often responded to these demands through quite symbolic reforms- policy outputs without any real results. Thus, the puzzle we seek to examine in this workshop is how, to what degree and why does feminist policy matter in western post industrial democracies and do they make our stable and consolidated democracies more democratic.

The highly active and successful field of study that focuses on these questions, Feminist Comparative Policy, will be first covered. Next, students will be exposed to the thorny problems of how to define and measure feminist government action and determine what constitutes a feminist policy success. The workshop will take a close look at the approach, framework and research methodology of the current 100 member research group the Gender Equality Policy in Practice Programme (<http://www.csbbpl.com/gepp/>). On the second day, we will look at two crucial sectors of feminist policy – violence against women and political representation- to better understand these two policy sectors and the challenges of studying in any definitive way whether feminist policy matters. As such, this seminar, provides a hands on detailed insight into a major research problem and issue for understanding how our contemporary democracies function in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



## Required Readings

Note readings with \* can be browsed or skimmed, but should be brought to class for small group discussion, in either electronic or hard copy form.

### General (Day 1):

- Mazur, Amy G. 2002. *Theorizing Feminist Policy*. London: Oxford University Press. 2002. Chapters, 1,2 and 10.
  - Mazur Amy, G. 2017. “Does Feminist Policy Matter in Post Industrial Democracies?: A Proposed Analytical Roadmap”.In *Policymaking: Insights and Challenges from Gender and Other Equality Perspectives*. Edited by Emanuel Lombardo, Petra Meier and Mieke Verloo. Special Issue for *Journal of Women, Politics and Policy*. 38 (1) 64-83. 2017.
  - Mazur, Amy G. And Season Hoard. 2014. “Gendering Comparative Policy Studies: Towards Better Science.” With Season Hoard. In *Comparative Policy Studies: Conceptual and Methodological Challenges*. Edited by Isabelle Engeli and Christine Rothmayr. London: Palgrave. 2014. 205-36.
- \*GEPP Website – <http://www.csbppl.com/gepp/>  
\*GEPP Implementation Worksheet  
\* GEPP Mapping Template

### Sector Oriented (Day 2):

#### *Political Representation:*




- Mazur, Amy G. 2002. *Theorizing Feminist Policy*. London: Oxford University Press. 2002. Chapters 4.
- Krook, Mona Lena and Pippa Norris. 2014. "[Beyond Quotas: Strategies to Promote Gender Equality in Elected Office](#)". *Political Studies* 62 (1): 2-20.
- Krook, Mona Lena and Par Zetterberg. 2014. "[Electoral Quotas and Political Representation: Comparative Perspectives](#)". *International Political Science Review* 35 (1): 3-11, 2014.

\*EIGE Gender Index and Country Reports - Gender database is also on the EIGE website in e-form at <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-indexEIGE>.

#### *Violence:*

- Mazur, Amy G. 2002. *Theorizing Feminist Policy*. London: Oxford University Press. 2002. Chapter 9..
- Htun, Mala and S. Laurel Weldon. 2015. “The Civic Origins of Progressive Policy Change: Combating Violence Against Women in Global Perspective, 1975–2005.” *American Political Science Review*. 107 (3) 548 569.

\*EIGE Gender Index and Country Reports - Gender database is also on the EIGE website in e-form at <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-indexEIGE>.





## **Schedule:**

### **Monday May 8<sup>th</sup>**

Introduction (9:00-9:30): Welcome, Introductions, Overview of Seminar

Session 1 (9:30-10:30): Feminist Policy in Research: Challenges in Defining and Measuring Feminist Action and Success

Session 2 (10:30-12:00): Feminist Policy in Action: Why So Important for Democracy?

#### **LUNCH 12-1:30**

Session 3 (1:30-3:00): The Gender Equality Policy in Practice Programme (GEPP): Towards Studying Feminist Policy in Action

Session 4 (3:00-4:30): Small Group/ Plenary Discussion

In the first part of the session, students will meet in small groups to discuss the GEPP Approach and how researchers are using the worksheet to analyze cases of gender equality policy implementation. In the last part of the session, we will meet as a whole group to discuss the lessons and next steps for understanding feminist policy in action.

### **Tuesday May 9<sup>th</sup>**

Session 1 (9:00-10:30): Looking at the Sectors: Issues in Political Representation Policy in Action

Session 2 (10:30-12:00): Small Group/ Plenary Discussion

In the first hour, students will meet in small groups and discuss what are the issues in trying to understand political representation as a policy sector in terms of outputs, outcomes, implementation and impact using the case analyses in TFP, the current research articles and the EIGE indexes. In the last part of the session, we will meet as a whole class and discuss lessons learned and conclusions from the small group analyses

#### **LUNCH 12-1:30**

Session 3 (1:30-3:00): Looking at the Sectors: Issues in Violence Against Women Policy in Action

Session 4 (3:00-4:30): Small Group/ Plenary Discussion

In the first hour, students will meet in small groups and discuss what are the issues in trying to understand violence as a policy sector in terms of outputs, outcomes, implementation and impact using the case analyses in TFP, the current research article and the EIGE indexes. In the last part of the session, we will meet as a whole class and discuss lessons learned and conclusions from the small group analyses

