



Feminist Policy in Action (in Democracies): What should we make of the 'me too' movement?

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November 16-17, 2018

9:00am – 4:30pm

Summary (Abstract)

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? Who are the major actors that push for feminist policy?

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.

On the first day, 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 Network (<http://www.csbdpl.com/gepp/>). On the second day, the tools of the Comparative Feminist Policy Approach will be applied to examining the on-going process of if, how and why the "me too" movement has been transposed into government policy responses, with opportunities for participants in the seminar to get some hands on experience in conducting policy research. As such, this seminar, provides detailed insight into and tools for studying how well our contemporary democracies function in the 21st century.





Outline

Friday, November 16

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, Actors and Success

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

LUNCH (12:00-1:30)

Session 3 (1:30-3:00): The Gender Equality Policy in Practice Network (GEPP): 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 it is being concretely used by GEPP researchers to study 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.

Saturday, November 17

Session 1 (9:00-10:30): Applying a Comparative Feminist Policy Perspective to the “Me Too” Movement

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

In the first part of the session, students will meet in small groups to discuss how the tools of GEPP and the Comparative Policy Feminist Approach can be used to study the “Me Too Movement”. In the last part of the session, we will meet as a whole group to develop a research plan for studying feminist policy responses to the ‘me too movement’ in comparative perspective.

LUNCH (12:00-1:30)

Session 3 (1:30-2:00): Studying Policy Responses to “Me Too” as a Moving Target: What is Possible?

Session 4 (2:00-4:30) Small Group/ Plenary Discussion

In the first part of the session, students will meet in small groups to try to apply the class research design to identifying the dynamics and determinants of policy responses to the “me too “ movement from the research sources provided to the seminar and any others they are able to locate online prior to or during class. Each group will present its findings to the rest of the class. As a whole group, we will discuss the next steps for studying the policy responses to “me too” and the implications of our exploration for better understanding feminist policy formation and democratic performance more broadly speaking.





Required "Readings"***

Note sources with * can be browsed or skimmed, but should be brought to class for small group discussion, in either electronic or hard copy form. Students should bring all sources with them as well as computers, tablets or phones that they can use to do research on the web

Day 1:

- *Achin et al. 2018. "Party Penalties for Parity in National Assembly Elections Since 2000: Gender Accommodation Resists the State Feminist Lobby and Society-Wide Acceptance", DRAFT <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF30DC>
- Mazur, Amy G. 2002. *Theorizing Feminist Policy*. London: Oxford University Press.
Chapter 1 "Introduction", pp. 1-24: <http://0-www.oxfordscholarship.com.mercury.concordia.ca/view/10.1093/0199246726.001.0001/acprof-9780199246724-chapter-1>
Chapter 2 "Towards Solving the Feminist Policy Formation Puzzle", pp. 25-46: <http://0-www.oxfordscholarship.com.mercury.concordia.ca/view/10.1093/0199246726.001.0001/acprof-9780199246724-chapter-2>
Chapter 10 "Conclusion", pp. 172-199: <http://0-www.oxfordscholarship.com.mercury.concordia.ca/view/10.1093/0199246726.001.0001/acprof-9780199246724-chapter-10>
- McBride, Dorothy E. 2008. "Women's Movements, Feminism, and Feminist Movements." In *Politics, Gender and Concepts: Theory and Methodology*. Edited by Gary Goertz and Amy G. Mazur. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp. 219-243. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF3000>
- Mazur, Amy and Dorothy E. McBride. 2008. "State Feminism." In *Politics, Gender and Concepts: Theory and Methodology*. Edited by Gary Goertz and Amy G. Mazur. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp. 244-269. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF3001>
- Engeli, Isabelle and Amy G. Mazur. 2018. "Taking Implementation Seriously in Assessing Success: The Politics of Gender Policy In Practice". *European Journal of Gender and Politics*. 1(1): 11-29. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF3002>
- *EIGE 2017 Report and <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-index/publications> - country reports.
- *GEPP Website – <http://www.csbppl.com/gepp/>
- *GEPP Worksheet/ Guide - <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF30DD>

Day 2:

- Mazur, Amy G. 2002. *Theorizing Feminist Policy*. London: Oxford University Press.
Chapter 5 "Equal Employment Policy", pp. 80-101: <http://0-www.oxfordscholarship.com.mercury.concordia.ca/view/10.1093/0199246726.001.0001/acprof-9780199246724-chapter-5>
Chapter 9 "Body Politics II: Sexuality and Violence Policy", 155-171: <http://0-www.oxfordscholarship.com.mercury.concordia.ca/view/10.1093/0199246726.001.0001/acprof-9780199246724-chapter-9>



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Htun, Mala and S. Laurel Weldon. 2012. "The Civic Origins of Progressive Policy Change: Combating Violence against Women in Global Perspective, 1975–2005." *The American Political Science Review*. 106 (3): 548-569.

<http://0-www.jstor.org/mercury.concordia.ca/stable/23275433>

Zainab Salbi. "Me Too? Now what?" Hosted. Five Part Series PBS Series: <http://www.pbs.org/program/metoo-now-what/>.

*European Institute for Gender Equality. 2018. "Gender-based Violence". <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-based-violence>

See also: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Me_Too_movement

**If you are registered for non-credit and are unable to locate the readings, please contact us at wssr@concordia.ca

