Outline:

Human security, liberty, political voice, economic status, education, health, freedom of expression, access to markets and public spaces as well as institutional behaviour are all fundamentally shaped by gender. This paper aims to introduce students to the various ways in which different understandings of gender (broadly conceived) impact on recent political debates. Rather than presenting holistic theoretical overviews, these lectures will discuss a range of key concepts and debates in relation to current empirical examples. Lectures will be structured by seven themes: Power and the Body, Inequality, Rights, Development and Humanitarianism, Conflict and Violence, Social Movements and Radical Politics, and Climate and the Environment.

Lectures:

Lectures take place in two-hour blocks, with a break, in weeks 1-6 in Michaelmas and 1-7 in Lent. Please check the Timetable for updated lecture times. Lectures will not be recorded, and recording is not permitted without permission of the lecturer.

Supervisions:

Supervision for this paper will be centrally organised across Michaelmas and Lent terms. Students will be able to sign up for six supervisions (all categories except Gender, Climate, and the Environment which may be addressed along with essays in Social Movements and Radical Politics and/or Humanitarianism and Development). Due to student feedback on workload issues, students may choose to do a presentation of 5 minutes instead of an essay for ONE of their supervisions EACH TERM. Students must indicate WHICH supervisions they will do a presentation form on the sign up sheet (a Google Doc linked to the Moodle). That is, the presentation option should be chosen ahead of time based on the student’s interests and work schedule, not be used at the last minute when one has failed to meet the deadline for an essay. We will also organize revision supervisions in Easter.

Supervisors:  
Holly Porter hep44@cam.ac.uk  
Lauren Wilcox lw487@cam.ac.uk  
Anna Forringer-Beal af605@cam.ac.uk  
Jenny Carla Moran jcm211@cam.ac.uk  
Nate Roundy nlr27@cam.ac.uk  
Kyla Piccin ksp38@cam.ac.uk  
Aaron Muldoon amm316@cam.ac.uk  

Assessment:

As of 16 August we are still waiting to hear about final examination arrangements for Easter 2024. There will be three questions to answer out of around 10-12 to pick from.
### Lectures Michaelmas Term:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender and the Political Subject. Introduction I.</td>
<td>Dr Lauren Wilcox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender and the Political Subject. Introduction II.</td>
<td>Dr Lauren Wilcox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender, Power, and the Body I.</td>
<td>Dr Lauren Wilcox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender, Power, and the Body II.</td>
<td>Dr Lauren Wilcox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender, Power, and the Body III</td>
<td>Dr Lauren Wilcox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender, Power, and the Body IV.</td>
<td>Dr Lauren Wilcox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender and Inequality I.</td>
<td>Ms Anna Forringer-Beal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender and Inequality II.</td>
<td>Ms Anna Forringer-Beal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender and Rights I.</td>
<td>Ms Anna Forringer-Beal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender and Rights II.</td>
<td>Ms Anna Forringer-Beal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Lectures Lent Term:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender, Development, and Humanitarianism I.</td>
<td>Dr Holly Porter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender, Development, and Humanitarianism II.</td>
<td>Dr Holly Porter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender, Development, and Humanitarianism III.</td>
<td>Dr Holly Porter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender, Development, and Humanitarianism IV.</td>
<td>Dr Holly Porter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender, Conflict, and Violence I.</td>
<td>Dr Holly Porter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender, Conflict, and Violence II.</td>
<td>Dr Holly Porter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender, Conflict, and Violence III.</td>
<td>Dr Holly Porter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender, Conflict, and Violence IV.</td>
<td>Dr Holly Porter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender, Radical Politics, and Social Movements I.</td>
<td>Dr Lauren Wilcox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender, Radical Politics, and Social Movements II.</td>
<td>Dr Lauren Wilcox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender, Radical Politics, and Social Movements III.</td>
<td>Dr Lauren Wilcox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender, Radical Politics, and Social Movements IV.</td>
<td>Dr Lauren Wilcox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender, Climate, and the Environment I.</td>
<td>Ms Jenny Carla Moran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender, Climate, and the Environment II.</td>
<td>Ms Jenny Carla Moran</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Course Content:

1-2. Gender and the Political Subject: An Introduction

These two introductory lectures will provide students with useful key concepts and ideas relating to a range of perspectives on critical gender debates in politics relevant to the lecture series.

[No reading required but handouts will give refs to lectures]

3-6. Gender, Power and the Body

Key themes: embodiment, discipline, desire, sexuality, transgender politics, performativity, technology

Suggested supervision question: How does the politicization of the body shape the politics of gender/sexuality?

Core Reading:


Halberstam, J. (2017) Trans*: A Quick and Quirky Account of Gender Variability. Oakland, CA: University of California Press, pick whichever chapters you are interested in (available online at UL)


Further Reading:

(Note: some productive overlap with Gender, Environment, and Climate)


7-8. Gender and Inequality

**Key Themes:** global gender gaps, lack of representation, identities shaping inequality, structural injustice, the familial, political economy

**Suggested supervision question:** What would gender parity look like?

**Core Reading:**


Browne, J (ed.). (2021) *Why Gender?* Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. (available online at UL)


Further Reading:


9-10. Gender and Rights

**Key Themes:** human rights, gender-specific rights, political framework for rights, counter-imaginaries, defining rights

**Suggested supervision question:** Who are rights for?

**Core Reading:**

Abu-Lughod, L. (2013) *Do Muslim Women Need Saving?* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. (available online at UL)


**Further Reading:**


**LENT TERM**

**13-16. Gender, Development & Humanitarianism**

**Key Themes:** global responses to poverty & war, forced migration, the ‘household’, feminization of poverty, empowerment, vulnerability, NGOs, measuring ‘progress’, Women Peace and Security Agenda

**Suggested supervision question:** Should we speak more or less about sex in development/humanitarianism? (select one).

**Core Reading:**


Merry, S. E. (2016) The Seductions of Quantification: Measuring Human Rights, Gender Violence and Sex Trafficking. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. [Ch 1: A World of Quantification] (available online at UL)


Further Reading:


17-20. Gender, Conflict and Violence

Key Themes: gendered dynamics of war, continuums of violence, militarization, ‘conflict-related’ sexual violence, militarized women, ‘violent’ masculinities, gender and displacement

Suggested supervision question: How does a feminist and/or queer perspective help to understand war?

Core Reading:


Further Reading:


21-24. Gender, Social Movements and Radical Politics

**Key Themes:** sexuality, queer theory, radical politics, transnational feminist movements, anti-racist feminisms, identity politics, globalization and LGBTQ+ politics.

**Suggested supervision question:** To what extent is political mobilization around the concept of ‘gender’ capable of meeting the challenges of the contemporary political condition(s)?

**Core Reading:**


Corredor, E. (2019) ‘Unpacking “Gender Ideology” and the Global Right’s Antigender Countermovement’, *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 44(3), pp. 613-638. (See also the other articles in this special issue on gender and the far-right.)


**Further Reading:**


Goldman, E. (1910) *Anarchism and Other Essays*. Mother Earth Publishing.


---

Video: Judith Butler, “Who is Afraid of Gender?” University of Cambridge, 26 April 2022.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vD6UukShAMs

**17-18 Gender, Climate, and the Environment:**

**Key Themes:** bodies, coloniality, environment, nature, science and industry, toxicity, pollution.
**Suggested supervision question:** What light can 'gender' analysis shed on the origins and possible solutions of the climate/ environmental crisis?

**Core Reading:**


**Further Reading:**


Women, Gender Equality and Climate Change Fact Sheet. UN WomenWatch. Available at https://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate_change/downloads/Women_and_Climate_Change_Factsheet.pdf

[Podcast] The Dark Laboratory (2023) Dark Laboratory. Available at https://player.captivate.fm/episode/365a28e9-5508-4a61-9d56-b15406d3be95


---

[Also see Moodle for past exam papers and Examiners’ Reports

NB: a previous title of this paper was POL 18]

---