UNIVERSITY OF BATH

PL51030: The Politics of Gender Inequality

2020-2021

Lecture: Online, posted by Monday 5pm
Seminar: Live Zoom Thurs 3:15pm
Zoom link: on Moodle and https://bath-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/98039197623?pwd=NXdENk9CbFB6U1IrWGhUOHA3VzdaUT09

Unit Description

Why are women underrepresented in national parliaments and as leaders of countries? What determines policy change to promote gender equality? Can policy interventions shift culture and gender norms, and how can we prevent backlash? This unit examines the causes and consequences of gender inequality broadly considered (in the workforce, political life, and the household) from an interdisciplinary perspective. We will draw on theory and literature from political science, economics, sociology and other disciplines to learn about cutting edge research in the field. Starting with definitions of gender and the evolution of gender norms and preferences over time, we will critically analyze links between gender identity and multiple facets of life, from reaching senior management roles to organizing child care within the family to running for office. The unit takes an in-depth look into areas where ongoing challenges exist, including the implications of COVID-19 for gender equality, paying special attention to promising policies or interventions to close gender gaps. Additionally, the unit introduces students to the process of writing an independent research proposal, with a focus on selecting an appropriate method to answering the research question.

Unit Aims

The goals of the course are for students to become experts in the politics of gender inequality, to improve their writing, learn to give and receive academic feedback, and to hone critical thinking skills by analyzing potential solutions to gender inequality across democracies. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Describe the current state of gender gaps in the corporate world, political opportunity, and within households
- Assess the efficacy (advantages and limitations) of various methods of closing these gender gaps
• Develop their own perspectives of what we know and don’t know yet about the causes, consequences, and proposed solutions to gender inequality, and debate these with peers

• Design a feasible empirical research proposal related to closing gender gaps, and give feedback to peers on their proposals

Assessment

• **Coursework: 15%**. Students will be asked to complete three short assignments (400-500 words each, worth 5% each), reflecting the need to synthesize knowledge from a selected topic and class materials and apply it to empirical research questions. The material from these short assignments can be incorporated into your research questions and final research proposal. The coursework assignments require that you: a) identify additional key literature, b) identify realistic data sources; c) identify potential methods of answering a research question. Guidelines to be posted on Moodle. **Deadlines:** 19/10, 2/11, 23/11

• **Initial research questions proposal: 15%**. Students will propose two empirical research questions related to gender equality (they may be on the same topic). Each research question should include the motivation for studying the question, theory, and 1-2 methods of answering the research question. You will receive feedback from me and peers on the research questions, and you will select one to develop into a research proposal. 1500 total words (+/- 10%). **Deadline:** 27/11

• **Peer review exercise: 15%**. Students will provide peer review comments (constructive criticism) on 2 peers’ research questions proposal (each review is thus worth 7.5%). Guidelines for peer review will be posted on Moodle. Feedback is to be written, 300-500 words for each review, and talked through in discussion in group breakout sessions. **Deadline:** 3/12, 3:15pm (in time for live Zoom session)

• **Final research proposal: 55%**. Students will submit a research proposal of 2500 words (+/- 10%), demonstrating the student’s ability to formulate an interesting and important empirical research question related to gender equality (Introduction), discuss the relation of the question to existing research in this area (Literature Review), propose initial theory and hypotheses (Theory), and identify an appropriate method to answer the question (Methods). Please note that the proposal is hypothetical; you are not expected to actually carry out the research for the sake of this unit. The proposal is however an excellent way to start thinking about the final MA dissertation. It is in your interest to be realistic about what is possible / the scope of research given your timeline and resources. **Deadline:** TBA

The pass mark for assignments is 40%.

**Extensions can only be agreed by your Director of Studies.**

Organization

**Unit Convenor:**
Dr. Ana Catalano Weeks (A.C.Weeks@bath.ac.uk)
Office hours: Tuesdays, 11am – 1pm. sign up here: https://calendly.com/anacweeks/office-hours. If this time does not suit, email me and we can arrange an alternative meeting time.
The course is structured as one hour lecture plus one hour seminar sessions each week. Lecture will be online, posted in short segments so that students can view when it is convenient for them (but ideally before the seminar). Seminars will be live online Zoom sessions. We will typically use the Thurs 3:15pm hour slot for seminar, which means we will not usually need to use the Monday 10:15 session allocated by timetabling.

I encourage you to attend live seminar and turn on camera if you are comfortable doing so, so that we can get to know each other as we would in person. Seminars will be recorded for those who cannot attend live for any reason.

Students are expected to prepare for seminar by reading the key literature listed in the unit outline below (and Moodle page).

**Summary of Lectures and Seminars**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Format / Timing</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28/09</td>
<td><em>Introduction</em></td>
<td>The empirical study of gender</td>
<td>Posted online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/10</td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Introductions, Q&amp;A</em></td>
<td>Live Zoom 3:15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/10</td>
<td><em>Gender Equality in the Household</em></td>
<td>Gender norms and gendered preferences</td>
<td>Posted online</td>
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<td>8/10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Live Zoom 3:15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/10</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Live Zoom 3:15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/10</td>
<td></td>
<td>The second shift and “mental load”</td>
<td>Posted online</td>
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<tr>
<td>15/10</td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Literature review breakout sessions</em></td>
<td>Live Zoom 3:15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>19/10</td>
<td></td>
<td>Work-family policies</td>
<td>Posted online</td>
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<tr>
<td>22/10</td>
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<td>Live Zoom 3:15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>26/10</td>
<td><em>Gender Equality in Politics</em></td>
<td>Gender and political ambition</td>
<td>Posted online</td>
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<tr>
<td>29/10</td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Data breakout sessions</em></td>
<td>Live Zoom 3:15pm</td>
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<td>2/11</td>
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<td><em>No class</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>9/11</td>
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<td>Backlash Against Gender Equality (Guest Dr. Jennifer Thomson)</td>
<td>Posted online 9/11</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/11</td>
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<td>Live Zoom 3:15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>16/11</td>
<td></td>
<td>Gender quotas</td>
<td>Posted online</td>
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<tr>
<td>19/11</td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Methods breakout sessions</em></td>
<td>Live Zoom 3:15pm</td>
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LECTURE 1: THE EMPIRICAL STUDY OF GENDER

“Sex Redefined”, *Nature*, 18 February 2015. [Link](#)


**Theme 1: Gender Equality in the Household**

LECTURE 2: GENDER NORMS AND GENDERED PREFERENCES


For seminar: Take a gender IAT: [https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html](https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html)

LECTURE 3: THE SECOND SHIFT AND THE “MENTAL LOAD”


“You Should’ve Asked” comic by Emma: [https://english.emmaclit.com/2017/05/20/you-shouldve-asked/](https://english.emmaclit.com/2017/05/20/you-shouldve-asked/)

Lyttelton, T., Zang, E. and Musick, K., 2020. Gender Differences in Telecommuting and Implications for Inequality at Home and Work. Available at SSRN 3645561. Link

**COVID19 research**

LECTURE 4: WORK-FAMILY POLICIES


Theme 2: Gender Equality in Politics

LECTURE 5: GENDER AND POLITICAL AMBITION


LECTURE 6: BACKLASH AGAINST GENDER EQUALITY

This week Dr. Jennifer Thomson will give a guest lecture (posted online, and also for part of the seminar this week) to discuss backlash against gender equality, focusing on the international / transnational arena.


UNDP 2020 Human Development Perspectives: Tackling Social Norms, A game changer for gender inequalities. Link  **Skim only, no need to read the whole thing.**

**LECTURE 7: GENDER QUOTAS**


**Theme 3: Gender Equality in the Workplace**

**LECTURE 8: THE GENDER PAY GAP**


**LECTURE 9: WOMEN IN THE EXECUTIVE**


Brooks DJ, Saad L. “Double Whammy: Why the underrepresentation of women among workplace and political decision-makers matters in pandemic times.” Politics & Gender., 1-3. Link **COVID19 research**

See also


Conclusion

**LECTURE 10: THE FUTURE OF GENDER EQUALITY? BROADENING THE DISCUSSION**


**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

**Fun TV series and documentaries**

- *Borgen* on Netflix (drama series about a Female PM in Denmark / gender in parliamentary democracies and coalition politics)
- *Mrs. America* on BBC iPlayer (drama series about the fight for the Equal Rights Amendment in the US)
- *RBG* on Netflix (documentary about Ruth Bader Ginsburg)
- *Knock Down the House* on Netflix (documentary about AOC and other women running in 2018 US congressional elections)
- *Chisolm '72: Unbought and Unbossed* on Netflix (documentary about Shirley Chisolm’s campaign for the Democratic party’s presidential nomination in 1972)

**Gender gaps data**

- Women in parliaments data: http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm
- Gender quotas in politics data: http://www.quotaproject.org/ and https://www.openicpsr.org/openicpsr/project/100918/version/V1/view
- Harvard Kennedy School WAPPP Gender Action Portal (focus on gender and international relations / security / war this semester) https://gap.hks.harvard.edu/, see also podcast series https://us1.campaign-archive.com/?u=eb78de0c7b7f8abf929af7a3a&id=c3a4d0804a&fbclid=IwAR3SR7wByRC7bhOD1nVSmvJkv5vlgk9R_SXeA0v7G AH68-jwt7fPHHG4oRs
- Kings College London Global Institute for Women’s Leadership – Podcast series https://www.kcl.ac.uk/giwl/podcast

Cross-national Survey Research Projects and Data

- The World Values Survey: http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/wvs.jsp
- European Values Survey: http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu
- European Social Survey: http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org
- International Social Survey Programme http://www.issp.org/menu-top/home/
- European Elections Studies: http://europeanelectionstudies.net/
- Eurobarometer: http://ec.europa.eu/echo/eurobarometer_en
- Latinobarometer: http://www.latinobarometro.org/lat.jsp
- Afrobarometer: http://www.afrobarometer.org/

Political party data (cross-national)

- The Manifesto Project: https://manifesto-project.wzb.eu/

National Election Studies:

You can also find online data and relevant documentation from several election studies across the world. For instance:

- American National Election Studies (http://www.electionstudies.org)
- British Election Study (http://www.britishelectionstudy.com)
- French election study (http://www.ceviopo.com/fr/ee2017/fnes/)
- German Election Study (http://gles.eu/wordpress/) to name a few.

Ethnic minorities in politics

- “Pathways to Power: The Political Representation of Citizens of Immigrant Origin in Seven European Democracies” http://pathways.eu/

ON WRITING IN POLITICAL SCIENCE


George Orwell, On Politics and the English Language: https://faculty.washington.edu/rsoder/EDLPS579/HonorsOrwellPoliticsEnglishLanguage.pdf

Patrick Dunleavy blog on how to write paragraphs:
**Gerring et al. advice on social science writing:**


**Advice on literature reviews:**


Raul Panchego-Vega’s blog on many aspects of writing process, including

- [How to write an introduction](https://medium.com/advice-and-help-in-authoring-a-phd-or-non-fiction/how-to-write-paragraphs-80781e2f3054)
- [How to do a literature review](https://medium.com/advice-and-help-in-authoring-a-phd-or-non-fiction/how-to-write-paragraphs-80781e2f3054)