Overview
This seminar explores current issues and debates relating to the gendered effects of globalization and women’s political responses to it. The emergence of transnational feminism reflects the growing linkages between and among local, national, and global movements and international advocacy organizations. First, we examine transnational connections and relationships between women workers in various parts of the world in the context of economic globalization and migration. Mobilization around women’s labor rights and violence against women serve as examples of women’s political activism that include non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and grassroots mobilization around the world. Finally, we will examine gender politics in the European Union and the United Nations, since these international and supra-national organizations have created and reshaped political opportunities for women’s/feminist movements.

Requirements:
1. Preparation and participation. This seminar is primarily based on discussions. Thus, you are expected to do all assigned readings, and to thoughtfully reflect on them in preparation for an active participation. To facilitate this, there are 5 short reaction papers (2 double-spaced pages, 12 point Times Roman that means 700 words) required. The reaction paper should not be a summary of the readings, but instead a critique of the materials. Thus, they provide an opportunity to compare or contrast the main points the authors make. You might identify contradictions, puzzles or problems in the readings. Each reaction paper should have at least two explicit questions for discussion and refer to all readings. These weekly papers will also give you the opportunity to relate the readings directly to your own research paper. The response papers are due at 6 pm on Monday before the seminar meets to discuss the assigned readings. Please post the reaction papers on the seminar e-mail distribution list (as text not as attachment).

2. Seminar Discussion Facilitator/Leader: Each student will be a facilitator for a seminar discussion. This includes a 10 minute in-class presentation. The presentation should be based on the readings, but can also include a brief review of a book pertinent to that week’s readings, for example from the recommended reading list. The discussion leader then presents about 3 questions for the discussion. These short presentations should not be a summary of the readings, instead the purpose is to compare and/or contrast perspectives/theories/findings across the readings for this week. The task of facilitator also includes a careful reading of participants’ weekly reaction papers and possible inclusion of the questions raised in them. Provide a handout with the key concepts, theories, and terms from the readings for the discussion.

3. Seminar Paper on a topic of your choice related to the themes of the class. A short paper proposal is due on February 1st. This proposal includes a brief statement of topic/research question and a tentative bibliography see instructions below. A draft of the paper is due for peer review by Monday April, 17th at 6 pm via e-mail. The comments are due on Wednesday, April 19th in the seminar. All students will give an oral presentation on their papers in the last session of the seminar on Wednesday April 19th. The final paper is due on Monday April 24th by 4:30 pm in the main office of the Department of Sociology, 500 Holmes Hall. The final paper should be 6,000 words (without the bibliography) (that is approx. 20 pages, 12 point Times Roman, double spaced, margins 1.5 inch). Please include in your final paper: The copy of your proposal (with my comments), the draft (with the comments from your colleague), and the final paper.

The final grade for the course will be composed of: active seminar participation including the reaction papers (30%), discussion facilitation (10%), peer review (5 %), and the final research paper: paper proposal (5%) and final paper (50%).
Readings
The books have been ordered through the NU Bookstore and are on reserve in the NU Library. In the first meeting of the course, the readings will be discussed in detail.

Required

Recommended for Globalization Studies in general:

Recommended for Transnational Social Movements in general:

Recommended for Gender & Globalization Studies:
Kelly, Rita Mae, Jane Bayes, Brigitte Young eds. 2001. Gender, Globalization, and Democratization. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield. (GGD)
Seminar WWW page

We will use Blackboard for other course materials or for our online communication. There is a WWW page for this seminar – that provides useful links; and I invite you to contribute to it throughout the seminar http://www.atsweb.neu.edu/zippel/courses/272

Tentative Seminar Schedule

1. Meeting Tuesday Jan 11 - Introduction to the Course

Required Readings:


2. Meeting January 18 - Theorizing about Women’s Movements in the Context of Globalization

Required Readings:

- Naples, Nancy. “Changing the Terms.” In WAG Ch. 1, Pp. 3-15.

Recommended:


Meet in 120 Snell Library with Christine Oka.

4. Meeting February 1 - Individual Meetings

➡️ PAPER PROPOSAL DUE February 1st

Arrange a time for individual consultation to discuss your research project based on the paper proposal (Thursday Feb. 2nd or Friday Feb. 3rd). The two page proposal should include:

1. Research question(s) and/or theoretical question(s)
2. Theoretical framework you will test and/or build on
3. Ideas how to do go about your research
4. Preliminary bibliography with at least 5 academic books (University Presses preferred) and 10 articles (incl. at least 3 articles from mainstream sociology journals ASR, AJS, Social Forces, Social Problems, Gender and Society etc.)
5. Meeting February 8 - History of Transnational/International Women’s Movements

Compare and contrast the circumstances for the historical mobilization of activists. For example, what issues did women historically organized around internationally? Which “worlds” did these activists come from? What resources did these activists have?

Readings:


Recommended:


6. Meeting February 15 - Impact of (Economic) Globalization on Gender Relations

How does globalization impact existing (gender) inequalities? How is it reconfiguring or producing new gender inequalities? What are the new “global” issues for politics? What does economic restructuring mean for the gender and labor conflicts? How does globalization affect class/race/gender/ and North-South lines of division? In particular, we examine the interconnectedness of social inequality embedded in economic and political structures.

Readings:


Recommended


What are the gendered meanings of migration in the context of globalization? We discuss here concepts of gender division labor, citizenship, migration, care work, and reconfigurations of gender relations and states.

Readings:


Recommended:

8. Meeting March 1 - Trafficking in Women in the New Global Order

Readings:

Recommended:

March 8 - Happy Spring Break

9. Meeting March 15 - Religion and Women’s Rights

We will discuss some aspects of globalization and religion with the example of focusing on Islam in Europe. France and Germany have been on the forefront of banning religious symbols out of classrooms and schools. Compare and contrast their approaches. Analyze, what does the headscarf seem to stand for in these debates?

Readings
- http://www.atsweb.neu.edu/zippel/eu/www/resources/headscarf.htm

Recommended:

10. Meeting March 22 - Transnational Organizing Across Borders.

Readings:
- Weber, Clare, “Women to Women: Dissident Citizen Diplomacy in Nicaragua.” In WAG Ch. 4, pp. 45-63
- Hrycak, Alexandra. “From Mothers’ Rights to Equal Rights: Post-Soviet Grassroots Women’s Associations.” WAG Ch. 5, pp. 64-82

Recommended:
- Jane H. Bayes, Rita Mae Kelly. “Political Spaces, Gender, and NAFTA” In GGD Ch. 9, Pp. 147-170.

11. Meeting March 29 - Gendered Global Actors and Institutions

We investigate political activism of women directed towards global actors, that is supra-national or international organizations that are operating on a global scale. Supra-national cooperation in the “economic sphere” includes European Union (EU), Mercosur, Noida Export Processing zone (NEPZ), and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). International organizations that are operating at the “global” level, include the World Trade Organization, the World Bank, and the United Nations.

Readings:

**Recommended:**

**12. Meeting April 5 - Political Opportunities in a Supranational Organizations - The European Union**

Guest-speakers Maria Stratigaki & Mary Daly.

**Readings:**
• TBA

**Recommended:**

**13. Meeting April 12 - Body Politics: Violence Against Women & Trafficking in Women**

We look here in particular at the diffusion of women’s rights and violence against women through transnational women’s movements.

**Readings:**
• Keck, Margaret and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. Ch. 5: *Transnational Networks on Violence Against Women*, 165-199.
• Roggeband, Conny. 2004. “Immediately I Thought We Should Do the Same Thing.” *European Journal of Women’s Studies* 11 (2) 159-175.

**Recommended:**
• Hanochi, Seiko. “Japan and the Global Sex Industry.” In GGD, Ch. 8, Pp. 137-146.

**14. Meeting April 19 - Future Perspectives & Presentation of Research Papers**

**Readings:**

➡ Exchange Paper for Peer-Review via email by Monday 17th at 6 pm
➡ Comments due on April 19th in class

➡ **FINAL PAPER DUE Monday April 24th. At 4:30 pm**
Main office Sociology Department, 500 Holmes Hall