

**Gender Equality and Women's Agency in Central and Eastern Europe. Social and Economic perspective.**  
**2021/22**

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This class will bring together interdisciplinary list of readings to tackle wide array of issues related to feminist theory (feminist theories of subjectivity, and agency, political economy, and intersectionality), and feminist practices in various parts of the world, with the particular focus on Central and Eastern Europe. We will trace the history of political, economic and social transformations in eastern Europe through gender analytical lenses asking a question if and how theoretical concepts developed in the West can travel East, and what analytical framework is needed to comprehend specific social, cultural and political context at place in the region. Topics discussed in the class will include: social economy of care and reproduction, social and economic costs of gender based violence, gender aspects of eastern European transformations, gender equality and EU enlargement, and recent instances of backlash against “gender equality” and LGBTQ rights in Eastern, as well as new forms of social mobilizations on behalf of gender equality present in the region.

Requirements for this course include both the class participation (10%) and the final written assignment (90%). By participation, I mean, that you will come to class well prepared (you have thoroughly and thoughtfully read the assigned material), you will be ready to participate in the class discussion and you will facilitate such discussions at least once (this will depend on the number of students in the class). During each class, students will be asked to take a leading role in framing questions for class discussions. In addition, couple times you will be also asked to bring information about one of the Eastern European country on particular topic that will be discussed during our class session.

By facilitation I mean that you will prepare in advance questions and points of interest that the entire class may want to discuss and that during the class you will lead the discussion, synthesize and respond to the reactions of others, and offer your own points of view. I will ask that you do not provide long summaries of the readings as all students are expected to do readings in advance for each class.

In terms of the final written assignment, you will have certain degree of flexibility in choosing the topic. You may want to investigate one aspect of the gender politics of the Eastern Europe, you may want to look more specifically at the implications for women of the enlarged European Union, or you may want to address your chosen topic within the context of one specific country. Your paper can be **theoretical in nature** (e.g. explore the new theoretical approaches to issues of social reproduction, care and feminist economy, and/or you can attempt to show how feminist practices have challenged theoretical debates and how, in turn, theory has molded feminist practices, and prepare a **research paper**. The two-page outline of the final paper (2 pages) with selected bibliography (1 page) will be due by January 7<sup>th</sup>. The final paper will be due at **the end of the semester**. **Contact Information:** magdagrabowska@yahoo.com

All texts will be available on seminars' googledrive

## **Class Schedule and Readings**

### **Class 1. Introduction**

**Readings:** Bunch, Charlotte, 1979. “Not by Degrees: Feminist Theory and Education”.

## **Class 2. Gender equality and the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic**

**Readings:** European Institute for Gender Equality, 2020, “Gender equality and the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic” at: <https://eige.europa.eu/publications/gender-equality-and-socio-economic-impact-covid-19-pandemic>, European Institute for Gender Equality, 2020 , The Covid-19 pandemic and intimate partner violence against women, at: <https://eige.europa.eu/publications/covid-19-pandemic-and-intimate-partner-violence-against-women-eu>

**Optional:** Deloitte, 2020, “The Pandemic Has Damaged Women’s Careers And Ambitions. Employers Must Rebuild With Gender Equality In Mind” at: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/deloitte/2021/05/19/the-pandemic-has-damaged-womens-careers-and-ambitions-employers-must-rebuild-with-gender-equality-in-mind/>, and <https://www2.deloitte.com/global/en/pages/about-deloitte/articles/women-at-work-global-outlook.html>,

McKinsey, 2020, “Covid 19 and gender equality: Countering the regressive effects”, at: <https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/future-of-work/covid-19-and-gender-equality-countering-the-regressive-effects>

## **Class 3. Feminist economics, political economy of sex, and politics of care**

**Readings:** The Care Collective, 2020, “Care Manifesto. The Politics of Interdependence”, Verso Pamphlets series.

Marilyn Power, 2004, “Social Provisioning as a Starting Point for Feminist Economics”, in: “Feminist Economics 3 (10): 3-19 at: [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Marilyn-Power-2/publication/344036276\\_Social\\_Provisioning\\_as\\_a\\_Starting\\_Point\\_for\\_Feminist\\_Economics/links/5f4eaf60458515e96d229ca6/Social-Provisioning-as-a-Starting-Point-for-Feminist-Economics.pdf](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Marilyn-Power-2/publication/344036276_Social_Provisioning_as_a_Starting_Point_for_Feminist_Economics/links/5f4eaf60458515e96d229ca6/Social-Provisioning-as-a-Starting-Point-for-Feminist-Economics.pdf),

Gayle Rubin 1975, “The Traffic in Women, “Notes on Political Economy of Sex” In: Rayna R. Reiter (ed.), Toward an Anthropology of Women. Monthly Review Press. pp. 18 (1975), at: <https://philpapers.org/archive/RUBTTI.pdf>

Council of Europe, Overview of Studies of the Costs of Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, 2014, at: <https://rm.coe.int/168059aa22>

## **Class 4. “Gender”, “Agency” and “Intersectionality”: Various Definitions and Applications of main concepts**

**Readings:** Joan Scott, 1986, “Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis, The American Historical Review, Volume 91, Issue 5 (Dec, 1986), 1053-105, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/1864376>

Audre Lorde, 1980, “Age Class and Sex”, Women Redefining Difference, Paper delivered at the Copeland Colloquium, Amerst College, April 1980, [https://www.colorado.edu/odece/sites/default/files/attached-files/rba09-sb4converted\\_8.pdf](https://www.colorado.edu/odece/sites/default/files/attached-files/rba09-sb4converted_8.pdf)

Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw 1991, , Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color, Stanford Law Review, Vol. 43, No. 6 (Jul., 1991), pp. 1241-1299 at: <http://blogs.law.columbia.edu/critique1313/files/2020/02/1229039.pdf>

**Optional:** Ahearn Laura M. "Language and Agency", in: *Annual Review Anthropology* 2001, 30:109-3

### **Class 5. Gender, Postcoloniality, and Global Economy**

**Readings:** Edward Said, 2002, "Orientalism", introduction, Nancy A. Naples, Manisha Desai, 2002, *Women's Activism and Globalization: Linking Local Struggles and Transnational Politics*, Psychology Press, 344 (Introduction).

Barbara Ehrenreich and Arlie Russell Hochschild, 2002, *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy*, Owl Books, 2002.

Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty. 1988. *Can the Subaltern Speak? In: Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*. Ed. C. Nelson & L. Grossberg. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, pp. 271-313.

**Optional:** Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. 1988: 'Under the Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses'. *Feminist Review* 30: 61-88,

### **Class 6. Postcoloniality and Eastern Europe: "second world", women's movement and the politics of representation**

**Readings:** Wolff, Larry. 1994. *Inventing Eastern Europe. The Map of Civilization on the Mind if the Enlightenment*, Stanford: Stanford University Press, introduction,

Michał Buchowski. 2006, "The Specter of Orientalism in Europe: From Exotic Other to Stigmatized Brother, Social Thought & Commentary: Anthropological Quarterly 79 (3) (pp. 463-482).

Magdalena Grabowska, 2012. "Bringing the Second World In: Conservative Revolution(s), Socialist Legacies and Transnational Silences in the Trajectories of Polish Feminism", *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 37 (2), 385-411.

### **Class 7. Marxism, social reproduction theory, and women's emancipation in state socialist Eastern Europe**

**Readings:** Friedrich Engels, 1884 "The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State" (1884), at: [https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/pdf/origin\\_family.pdf](https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/pdf/origin_family.pdf)

Silvia Federici, 2019, Social reproduction theory, History, issues and present challenges" *Radical Philosophy* 2.04 (Spring 2019), at: <https://www.radicalphilosophy.com/article/social-reproduction-theory-2>

Barbara Evans Clements 1994, „Daughters of Revolution. A History of Women in the U.S.S.R.” Chapter, 1 and 2.

Małgorzata Fidelis 2010 „Visions of Equality: The State, the Church and Women's Sections" in: *Women, Communism, and Industrialization in Postwar Poland*, Cambridge.

Ingrid. Sharp, 2004, The Sexual Unification of Germany, in: *Journal of the History of Sexuality - Volume 13, Number 3, July 2004*, pp. 348-365.

**Optional:** Hrycak A., "From Mothers' Rights to Equal Rights. Post-Soviet Grassroots Women's Associations", in: "Women's Activism and Globalization. Linking Local Struggles and Transnational Politics", ch.5, 64-83

**Class 8. Economic crisis, "Solidarity" and women's hidden activist work. Gender emancipation and women in the opposition movement**

**Readings:** Penn, Shana. 1994. "The National Secret." Journal of Women's History 5(3), 55-69.. Movie "Solidarity According to Women" dir. Marta Dzido, Piotr Śliwowski

**Class 9. Economic transformation, European enlargement, and new feminist movements in Eastern Europe post 1989**

**Readings:** Kristen Ghodsee, 2004, "Feminism-by-Design: Emerging Capitalisms, Cultural, Feminism, and Women's Nongovernmental, Organizations in Postsocialist Eastern Europe", at [http://scholar.harvard.edu/files/kristenghodsee/files/signs\\_article.pdf](http://scholar.harvard.edu/files/kristenghodsee/files/signs_article.pdf),

Dorota Szelewa 2008, "Who cares? Changing patterns of childcare in Central and Eastern Europe" 2008, Journal of European Social Policy

Raluca Maria Popa and Andrea Krizsan, 2016. "Gender, Politics, and the State in Central and Eastern Europe." The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Gender and Sexuality, Gender mainstreaming revisited: Lessons from Poland

Marta Rawłuszko, 2019, "Gender mainstreaming revisited: Lessons from Poland", European Journal of Women's Studies, at: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1350506817752012>

**Class 10. From lagging behind to riding the feminist wave. Radical Solidarity, Intersectionality and Care as new modalities of feminist activism in Eastern Europe and globally**

**Readings:** Agnieszka Graff „Lost between the Waves? The Paradoxes of Feminist Chronology and Activism in Contemporary Poland”,

Julia Kubisa, J., and K. Wojnicka, K. (2019). "Editorial -Feminist Movements in Central and Eastern Europe Praktyka Teoretyczna, 30(4),

Elżbieta Korolczuk. 2020 "Counteracting Challenges to Gender Equality in the Era of Anti-gender Campaigns: Competing Gender Knowledges and Affective Solidarity"