Gender and Power in Transnational Perspective

WMST BC3915
Thursdays, 4:10-6pm
Spring 2012

Instructor: Kerwin Kaye
Email: kkaye@barnard.edu
Office: Barnard Hall 208
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-2pm (and by appointment)

Class Description

How have development and globalization impacted (and attempted to impact) gender and sexuality around the world? How do gender and sexuality circulate across national, political, and technological borders in the contemporary era of neoliberal globalization? How has feminism itself become part of these increasingly complex cultural circulations, to women’s benefit as well as detriment? In addition to linking together what Chandra Mohanty has described as the “One Third” and “Two Thirds” worlds, this discussion-based seminar seeks to reconnect the disparately gendered intimate and global spheres, situating the feminized “private” domains of love, sex, and caring within fields of action such as geopolitics and global political economy. How do formations of gender and sexuality shift when intimate relations are transnationalized? Does the globalization of intimacy exacerbate inequalities of gender, race, class, and nation, or might it also and simultaneously create unexpected opportunities to alleviate these? Under what circumstances does feminism itself get intertwined in circuits of gendered power? In the first part of this class, we will carefully examine issues of gender, sexuality, and development. In the latter, we turn increasingly toward issues of emotion and transnational intimate exchange and emotional labor while situating these encounters within the economic context we discussed in the first section.
Course Requirements
There are four primary requirements for the class:
— attend all classes and be prepared to discuss the assigned readings
— a series of four response papers (1 page each) written in relation to the daily readings.
   These papers must be emailed to me by 6pm on the day prior to our class discussion. Everyone must write a response paper on Week 1’s readings (i.e. by 6pm, January 25th), and one additional response papers are due for a week of your choosing prior to Spring Break. The final two response papers are due on weeks of your choosing after the Break. Responses must be written on readings that we have not yet discussed.
— view four of five films outside of class time (Life and Debt, Cowboys in Paradise, Love on Delivery, Paper Dolls, Born Into Brothels)
— a 10-12 page final paper. This is to be a research paper on a topic to be agreed upon by both the student and the instructor. Turn in a one-paragraph summary of their proposed topic no later than March 8th for approval; discussing possible ideas and/or turning in this proposal earlier is encouraged. The final paper is due on Thursday, May 10th at 7pm. No late papers will be accepted.

Paper Guidelines
Please double-space all of your papers, and use one inch margins. Please also use Times New Roman (12 point) as your font.

Grading
Class attendance/participation: 20%
Four response papers: 10% (each)
Final paper: 40%

Required Texts (available at Book Culture on 112th St. between Broadway and Amsterdam)
Oza, Rupal. 2006. The Making of Neoliberal India
Summary of Weekly Readings

Week 1 (January 19th): Introduction to Class
Week 2 (January 26th): Introducing Development (107 pgs)
Week 3 (February 2nd): Women and Rural Encounters with Development (94 pgs)
Week 4 (February 9th): Gendering Microfinance (103 pgs)
Week 5 (February 16th): Women and Factory Work (110 pgs)
Week 6 (February 23rd): Locating Men in Development (107 pgs)
Week 7 (March 1st): Developing Respectable Love and Sex (118 pgs)
Week 8 (March 8th): Development Knowledge (119 pgs)
Proposal for final paper due

SPRING BREAK!
Week 9 (March 22nd): Sex Work (118 pgs)
Week 10 (March 29th): Intimate Labors (110 pgs)
Week 11 (April 5th): Critiques of “Sex Trafficking” (103 pgs)
Week 12 (April 12th): Spectacles of Suffering — Human Rights and Humanitarianism
Week 13 (April 19th): A Global Gay?
Week 14 (April 26th): Gender in Neoliberal India (104 pgs)
FINAL PAPER DUE Thursday, May 10th at 7pm
Week 1 (January 19th): Introduction to Class (no readings)

Week 2 (January 26th): Introducing Development (107 pgs)

Lappé, Frances Moore, Joseph Collins, and Peter Rosset, with Luis Espaza. 1999 [1998]. World Hunger: Twelve Myths, pp. 4-29 (26 pgs)
Glennie, Jonathan. 2008. The Trouble with Aid, pp. 36-53 (18 pgs)

Managing Director of the International Development Fund (IMF), Christine Lagarde (Lagarde replaced Dominique Strauss-Kahn in July 2011)
Week 3 (February 2nd): Women and Rural Encounters with Development (94 pgs)

Optional: Bedford, Kate. 2009. Developing Partnerships, pp. 1-34 (34 pgs)

Week 4 (February 9th): Gendering Microfinance (103 pgs)

Film — Wednesday, February 15th: *Life and Debt*

**Week 5 (February 16th): Women and Factory Work (110 pgs)**


Film — Wednesday, February 22nd: *Cowboys in Paradise*

**Week 6 (February 23rd): Locating Men in Development (107 pgs)**


**Week 7 (March 1st): Developing Respectable Love and Sex (118 pgs)**


Carla Freeman, “Neoliberalism and the Marriage of Reputation and Respectability: Entrepreneurship and the Barbadian Middle Class,” in *Love and Globalization*, pp. 3-37 (27 pgs)
Week 8 (March 8th): Development Knowledge (119 pgs)
Proposal for final paper due


Spring Break!
**Film — Wednesday, March 21st: Love on Delivery**

**Week 9 (March 22nd): Sex Work (118 pgs)**


South Korean sex worker protest, 2007
Film — Wednesday, March 28th: Paper Dolls

Week 10 (March 29th): Intimate Labors (110 pgs)

Manalansan IV, Martin. 2008. “Queering the Chain of Care,” Scholar & Feminist Online, 6(3) (5 pgs)
Colen, Shellee. 1995. “‘Like a Mother to Them’: Stratified Reproduction and West Indian Childcare Workers and Employers in New York,” in Conceiving the New World Order, pp. 78-102 (21 pgs)
Film — Wednesday, April 4th: *Born Into Brothels*

**Week 11 (April 5th): Critiques of “Sex Trafficking” (103 pgs)**


Week 12 (April 12th): Spectacles of Suffering — Human Rights and Humanitarianism

Readings to be announced

Week 13 (April 19th): A Global Gay?

Readings to be announced

Week 14 (April 26th): Gender in Neoliberal India (104 pgs)


Protest against Valentine’s Day in India, 2008

FINAL PAPER DUE: Thursday, May 10th at 7pm