

## Short Course 7: **Doing Feminist Research in International Relations**

- Co-Sponsors: The Feminist Theory and Gender Studies Section of the International Studies Association; The Women and Politics Research Section of the American Political Science Association; and The Women and Public Policy Program at the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government
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- Registration: Faculty - \$20; Grad Students - \$20  
Please make checks payable to Laura Sjoberg.
- Fee Address: Department of Political Science, Virginia Tech  
503 Major Williams Hall (0130), Blacksburg, VA 24061
- Time: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
- Location: On the premises of the APSA Annual Meeting
- Instructors: Lisa Prugl, Florida International University  
Laura Sjoberg, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
J. Ann Tickner, University of Southern California  
Brooke Ackerly, Vanderbilt University  
Deb Liebowitz, Drew University  
Theresa Lund, Harvard University

2008 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a special issue of *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* which suggested that it is crucial to consider gender as we study and evaluate global politics. In the last two decades, feminist work has uncovered gender stereotypes and gender biases in the form and function of the global political arena, and in the methods and concepts of the discipline of International Relations. Still, communication between those IR scholars who “study gender” and those who do not has been stunted, and the potential for ‘mainstreaming’ gender concerns in IR remains largely just that – potential.

The goal of this short course is to take a step towards making the potential relationship between gender-based scholarship and IR a reality. It introduces the epistemological, ontological, and methodological bases for feminist scholarship in IR, and provides examples of the “value-added” of feminist work in the areas of international security, international political economy, foreign policy analysis, health, migration, and human rights. Special attention will be given to understanding the relevance of gender-based research to IR’s “big problems.”

Participants will hear an introductory discussion by workshop faculty on what gender-based approaches to IR are, how feminist research in IR is done, and the important work currently being done. There will then be an audience-participation discussion about the relevance of gender to various research questions and programs in IR. Participants will be asked to share some research questions that they would like to think about in gender-based terms, as well as some research questions that they believe gender is irrelevant to. Faculty members and other participants will discuss the gender dynamics of these topics.

## **Short Course 7 (continued)**

After the introductory discussion and audience participation, the workshop will break into small groups, where groups of three to five participants will have the opportunity to have conversations with workshop faculty members with whom they share substantive interests (e.g., a participant interested in issues of gender and international security will be a part of a group with a faculty member with similar interests). The small groups will discuss their research interests, current research in the field, useful research methods and resources, and strategies for engagement with the discipline of IR. In addition to answering questions and provoking thought, these small groups are designed as networking opportunities.

The workshop will conclude with a discussion in the large group entitled “Gender and IR in the Profession,” where faculty and participants will discuss the opportunities and obstacles in the field of IR for young scholars interested in studying Gender and IR, as well as established scholars interested in incorporating gender into their research programs.

No experience with issues of gender and IR is required; the workshop will have something to offer students and scholars already involved in the gender and IR community as well as persons new to the field. Participants will receive a packet of resources about gender and IR in the academic and policy worlds.