

Gender and Feminism Area Examination

Purpose of Exam

The Gender and Feminism Area Examination has been designed to clearly delineate the content of the field of gender and feminism for the graduate student while simultaneously maximizing, instead of restricting, inquiry into individual interest areas. The intent is to facilitate each doctoral candidate's own development as a gender and feminist scholar by providing feedback and advising as each student progresses to learn, organize and advance gender and feminist work. The area exam will encompass gender and feminist theory, methods and research, and a third substantive sub-area to be selected by the student.

Preparation

It is strongly suggested that students complete SOC 6050 Sociology of Gender ahead of beginning their area exam process. Students are also encouraged to take more than one relevant course and to look outside of the sociology department for suitable opportunities. Demonstrated comparable exposure (research projects, publications, or other studies) in gender and feminism may also be considered, as may coursework at other institutions. The exam committee must be comprised of three faculty members, within or outside of the Department of Sociology, who have interest and engagement in gender and feminism. The chair of the committee must be a Department of Sociology faculty member. The student will work with their exam committee to develop a suitable reading list from which exam questions will be derived. The list of readings below may be considered as a starting point.

Examination Procedure

The steps and process for taking the exam are:

1. Form a three-member committee. The chair of the committee must be a member of the Gender and Feminism Area faculty in sociology (Elena Gapova, Chien-Juh Gu, Ashlyn Kuersten, Ann Miles, Angela Moe, Jesse Smith, Zoann Snyder, Kate Tierney). Other committee members may be selected from either the Gender and Feminism Area faculty or gender and/or feminist faculty from outside sociology at WMU (pending committee chair approval). It is recommended that a student form this committee at least six months in advance of taking the exam, to provide ample time for constructing a reading list, consulting the committee, and preparing for the exam.

2. Develop a reading list, in consultation with the exam committee and utilizing the recommended readings below. Note that not every reading on this list needs to be included, but ought to be considered. The reading list should address gender and feminist theory, feminist methods and research, and the specialty area of the student's choosing (e.g, gender and the body, feminism and violence, gender and work, Black feminism, gender and justice, gender and emotions, gender and sexuality, gender and religion, queer studies, global feminism). It is important that this process be individualized and student-driven, but also done with the consistent consultation of the exam committee, particularly the chair. Typically, a final or near-final reading list is subjected to an exam committee meeting where a discussion may result in an

approved reading list. This meeting should be organized by the student, and occur at least a month in advance of taking the exam. Students should feel free to organize additional committee meetings, earlier and later in the process, as needs arise. (Please note that even after a reading list is approved, it may become appropriate to change it a bit as the exam date nears and certain readings become more or less relevant. Students should consult their committee members for approval of any such changes as they occur.)

3. At the start of the fall or spring semester, notify the committee of one's intent to take the exam. Schedule the written and oral portions. The exam is to be administered in either the fall or spring semester. If not already done or arranged, it is at this time that the student should indicate their plans for submitting a final and approved reading list. The actual dates of the examination (written portion and oral defense) must also be arranged at this time. The written portion of the exam is to be scheduled over a 5 day period (typically Monday-Friday but this is flexible) and is a take-home exam. The oral portion is to be scheduled over a 1 ½ to 2 hour time period within three weeks of the completion of the written portion.

4. Complete the written and oral portions of the exam. The written portion of the examination will encompass three responses, not to exceed 20 pages each (excluding references), in response to questions posed by the committee. It should not be assumed by the student that a choice of questions in each area will be available; this determination will be made by each examination committee on a case-by-case basis. Questions will be emailed to the student at the start of the examination period (typically by 9am on the first day, or as otherwise agreed upon). The written responses are due, typically by 5pm or as otherwise agreed upon, on the fifth day of the examination via email attachment to all committee members. At the oral portion, students should be prepared to discuss, explain, and defend their answers to the written questions.

5. Receive outcome and complete any further steps. Immediately or shortly following the oral portion, the exam committee will meet, without the student's presence, to determine the outcome of the exam. By consensus or majority vote, they may either pass the student on merit, require some level of revision to the written portion which may or may not require another oral portion, or fail the student. Stipulations and time parameters for any revisions will be determined by the committee and shared with the student orally and in writing within one week of this determination. In determinations of passes and failures, the exam committee chair will provide a written statement of this result to both the student and the student's graduate file within the Department of Sociology. A student who fails the exam may retake it once in a subsequent semester so long as the above procedures are again followed.

As an example of timing, a schedule for taking the exam could be:

- September: choose committee
- September-October: develop reading list & obtain committee approval
- October-December: read from reading list/prepare for exam
- Late January: declare intent to take the exam, submit final approved reading list
- Mid-March: take written exam
- Early April: complete oral portion of exam

Recommended Readings

I. The Concept of Gender & Feminist Methodology

- Chafetz, Janet Saltzman. 1997. "Feminist theory and sociology: Underutilized contributions for mainstream theory." *Annual review of sociology* 23(1): 97-120.
- Harding, Sandra. 2009. "Standpoint Theories: Productively Controversial." *Hypatia* 24(4): 192-2009.
- Risman, Barbara J. and Georgianne Davis. 2013. From Sex Roles to Gender Structure. *Current Sociology Review* 61(5-6):733–755 **or**
- Risman, Barbara J. 2004. Gender as a Social Structure: Theory Wrestling with Activism. *Gender & Society* 18:429-50
- Rosenberg, Karen and Judith A. Howard. 2008. "Finding Feminist Sociology: A Review Essay." *Signs* 33 (3): 675-696.
- Scott, Joan. 1986. "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis." *The American Historical Review* 91(5): 1053-1075.
- Smith, Dorothy E. 1987. "A Sociology for Women." *The Everyday World as Problematic: A Feminist Sociology*. Boston: Northeastern University Press.
- Stacey, Judith. 2006. "Feminism and Sociology in 2005: What Are We Missing?" *Social Problems* 53(4): 479-82.
- Thorne, Barrie. 1985. "The Missing Feminist Revolution in Sociology." *Social Problems* 32(4): 301-316.
- Williams, Christine. 2006. "Still Missing? Comments on the Twentieth Anniversary of "The Missing Feminist Revolution in Sociology." *Social Problems* 43(4): 454-458

II. Gender and Identity Performance

- Butler, Judith. 2004. *Undoing Gender*. New York: Routledge.
- Pfeffer, Carla. 2014. "'I Don't Like Passing as a Straight Woman': Queer Negotiations of Identity and Social Group Membership." *American Journal of Sociology* 120(1): 1-44.
- Rose, Jessica, et al. 2012. "Face it: the impact of gender on social media images." *Communications Quarterly* 60 (5): 588–607.
- Schippers, Mimi. 2007. "Recovering the Feminine Other: Masculinity, Femininity, and Gender Hegemony." *Theory and Society* 36(1):85-102.
- Wacquant, Loic. 2006. *Body and Soul. Notebooks of an Apprentice Boxer*. Oxford University Press (excerpts).
- West, Candace and Don H. Zimmerman. 1987. "Doing Gender". *Gender & Society* 1: 125-51.

III. The Origins/Explanations of Gender Inequality

- Connell, R. W. 1987. *Gender & Power: Society, the Person, and Sexual Politics*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press
- Engels, Friedrich. 1884. *The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State*. London: Wellred. (Ch. 2: The Family).
- Huber, Joan N. 1990. "Macro-Micro Links to Gender Stratification: 1989 Presidential Address." *American Sociological Review* 55 (1): 1-10.
- Ridgeway, Cecilia L. 2011. *Framed by Gender: How Gender Inequality Persists in the Modern World*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Rubin, Gayle. 1975. "The Traffic in Women: Notes on the Political Economy of Sex." In R.R. Reiter, *Toward an Anthropology of Women* (pp. 157-210). New York: Monthly Review Press.
- Wermouth, Laurie and Miriam Monges. 2002. "Gender Stratification: A Structural Model for Examining Case Examples of Women in Less-Developed Countries." *Frontiers: Journal of Women's Studies* 23(1): 1-22.

IV. Intersectionality/Race/Class

- Acker, Joan. 2006. "Inequality Regimes: Gender, Class, and Race in Organizations." *Gender & Society* 20(4): 441–464.
- Anthias, Floya. 2013. "Hierarchies of Social Location, Class and Intersectionality: Towards a Translocational Frame." *International Sociology* 28(1): 121-138.
- Cho, Sumi, Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw, and Leslie McCall. 2013. "Toward a Field of Intersectionality Studies: Theory, Applications, and Praxis." *Signs* 38(4): 785-810.
- Collins, Patricia Hill. 1990. *Black Feminist Thought*. New York: Routledge.
- Connell, R.W. and Messerschmidt, James. 2005. "Hegemonic masculinity: rethinking the concept." *Gender and Society* 19(6): 829-859.
- Nash, Jennifer C. 2008. "Re-thinking Intersectionality." *Feminist Review* 89(1): 1-15.
- Messerschmidt, James W. 2019. "The salience of "hegemonic masculinity". *Men and Masculinities*, 22(1): 85-91.
- Ukhova, Daria. 2022. "Doing Gender with Class: Gender Division of Unpaid Work in Russian Middle-Class Dual Earner Heterosexual Households." *Journal of Family Issues* 43(12): 3103-3394.

V. Sexuality and the Body

- Foucault, Michel. 1990. *The History of Sexuality, Volume 1: An Introduction*. New York: Vintage Books.
- Grosz, Emily. 1994. *Volatile Bodies: Towards Corporeal Feminism*. Bloomington: Indiana

- University Press.
- Hennessy, Rosemary. 2000. *Profit and Pleasure: Sexual Identities in Late Capitalism*. New York: Taylor & Francis.
- Kulick, Don. 1998. *Travesti. Sex, Gender, and Culture Among Brazilian Transgender Prostitutes*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.
- Plummer, Ken. 2003. Queers, Bodies and Postmodern Sexualities: A Note on Revisiting the “Sexual” in Symbolic Interactionism. *Qualitative Sociology* 26(4): 515–530.
- Rubin, Gayle. 1984. “Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality.” In Carole Vance (Ed.), *Pleasure & Danger: Exploring Female Sexuality* (pp. 143-155). Boston: Routledge.
- Sanders, Teela, Maggie O’Neill, and Jane Pitcher. 2012. “The Sociology of Sex Work.” In *Prostitution: Sex Work, Policy, and Politics*, 2nd Edition (pp. 1-23). Los Angeles: Sage.

VI. (Social) Reproduction; Gender and the State

- Duffy, Mignon. 2007. “Doing the Dirty Work. Gender, Race, and Reproductive Labor in Historical Perspective.” *Gender and Society* 21(3): 313-336.
- Federici, Sylvia. 2020. “Feminism and the Politics of the Commons in the Era of Primitive Accumulation.” In *Revolution at Point Zero: Housework, Reproduction, and Feminist Struggle*, 2nd edition. Oakland, CA: PM Press.
- Lister, Ruth. 2003. *Citizenship: Feminist Perspectives*, 2nd edition. New York: Palgrave MacMillon.
- Orloff, Ann. 2009. “Gendering the Comparative Analysis of Welfare States: An Unfinished Agenda.” *Sociological Theory* 27(3): 317-343.
- Pateman, Carole. 1989. “The Patriarchal Welfare State.” In *The Disorder of Women: Democracy, Feminism, and Political Theory* (pp. 179-204). Stanford University Press.
- Repo, Jemima. 2016. *The Biopolitics of Gender*. Oxford University Press.
- Weeks, Kathi. 2011. “Working Demands: From Wages for Housework to Basic Income.” In *Feminism, Marxism, Antiwork Politics, and Postwork Imaginaries*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

VII. Gender and Family

- Barnes, Riche. J. 2016. *Raising the Race: Black Career Women Redefine Marriage, Motherhood, and Community*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.
- Budig, M. J. and England, P. 2001. “The wage penalty for motherhood.” *American Sociological Review* 66(2): 204-225.
- Chodorow, Nancy. 1978. *The Reproduction of Mothering*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

- Correll, Shelley J., Stephan Benard, and In Paik. 2007. "Getting a Job: Is There a Motherhood Penalty?" *American Journal of Sociology* 112(5): 1297-1338.
- Dreby, Joanna. 2015. *Everyday Illegal: When Policies Undermine Immigrant Families*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- England, Paula and Marcia J. Carlson (Eds.). 2011. *Social Class and Changing Families in an Unequal America*. Redwood City, CA: Stanford University Press.
- Ferree, Myra Marx. 2010. "Filling the Glass: Gender Perspectives on Families." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 72(3): 420–39
- Hochschild, Arlie and Anne Machung. 1997. *The Second Shift: Working Families and the Revolution at Home*. New York: Penguin Books.
- McMahon, Martha. 1995. *Engendering Motherhood: Identity and Self-Transformation in Women's Lives*. New York: Guilford Press.
- Pedulla, David S., and Sarah Thébaud. 2015. "Can We Finish the Revolution? Gender, Work-Family Ideals, and Institutional Constraint." *American Sociological Review* 80(1): 116-39.
- Risman, Barbara. 1999. *Gender Vertigo: American Families in Transition*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Russo, Nancy Felipe. 1976. "The Motherhood Mandate." *Journal of Social Issues* 32(3):143–53.
- Rutter, Virginia, Kristi Williams and Barbara Risman. 2024. *Families as They Really Are*. New York: Norton Press.

VIII. Gendering Work/Gendered Division of Labour

- Burns, Margie, Tamara Ionkova Hammond, and Rachelann Lopp Copland. 2019. *The Female Precariat: Gender and Contingency in the Professional Work Force*. University of Chicago Press.
- Collins, Caitlyn. 2019. *Making Motherhood Work: How Women Manage Careers and Caregiving*. Princeton University Press
- Duffy, Brooke Erin and Urshuka Pruchniewska. 2017. "Gender and self-enterprise in the social media age: A digital double bind". *Information, Communication & Society* 20(6): 843-859.
- England, Paula. 2005. "Emerging Theories of Care Work". *Annual Review of Sociology* 31: 381-399.
- Fuwa, Makiko. 2004. "Macro-Level Gender Inequality and the Division of Household Labor in 22 Countries." *American Sociological Review* 69(6): 751–67.
- Goldberg, Abbie E., JuliAnna Z. Smith, and Maureen Perry-Jenkins. 2012. "The Division of Labor in Lesbian, Gay, and Heterosexual New Adoptive Parents." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 74(4): 812–28.
- Miller, Amanda J., and Daniel L. Carlson. 2016. "Great Expectations? Working- and Middle-

Class Cohabitants' Expected and Actual Divisions of Housework." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 78(2): 346–63.

Rhacel Parreñas. 2015[2001]. *Servants of Globalization: Women, Migration, and Domestic Work*. Redwood City, CA: Stanford University Press. (Selections; new chapter on masculinity.)

IX. Gendering Activism

Aruzza, Cinzia, Tithi Bhattacharya, and Nancy Fraser. 2019. *Feminism for the 99%: A Manifesto*. New York: Verso. (This is 'cultural evidence', but worth being aware of.)

Butler, Judith. 1998. "Merely Cultural". *New Left Review*, 1/227.

Fraser, Nancy. 2013. "Heterosexism, Misrecognition, and Capitalism: A Response to Judith Butler." In *Fortunes of Feminism. From Stage Managed Capitalism to Neoliberal Crisis* (pp. 175-186). New York: Verso.

Goldman, Emma. 1911. Woman Suffrage.

<https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/goldman/works/1911/woman-suffrage.htm>

Halberstam, Jack. 2012. *Gaga Feminism: Sex, Gender, and the Edge of Normal*. Boston: Beacon Press.

Hartmann, Heidi. 1979. "The Unhappy Marriage of Marx and Feminism: Toward a More Progressive Union." *Class and Capital* 3(2): 1-33.

Luxemburg, Rosa. 1914. Women's Suffrage and Class Struggle.

www.marxists.org/archive/draper/1976/women/4-luxemburg.html

Watkins, Susan. 2018. "Which Feminisms?" *New Left Review*, 109.

X. Gender, (Post)Colonialism, (Post)Socialism

Abu-Lughod, Lila. 2015. *Do Muslim Women Need Saving?* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Anthias, Floya. 2002. "Beyond Feminism and Multiculturalism: Locating Difference and the Politics of Location." *Women's Studies International Forum* 25(3): 275-86.

Gapova, Elena. 2021. "The Russian Revolution and Women's Liberation: Rethinking the Legacy of the Socialist Emancipation Project." In *The Routledge International Handbook on Gender in Central-Eastern Europe and Eurasia* (pp. 115-122). Boston: Routledge.

Ghodsee, Kristen. 2019. *Second World, Second Sex: Socialist Women's Activism and Global Solidarity during the Cold War*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Mohanty, Chandra. 2013. "Transnational Feminist Crossings: On Neoliberalism and Radical Critique". *Signs* 38(4): 967-991.