

E5: GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT

Instructor: Durba Biswas (durba.biswas@atree.org)

Credits: 1 credit (16 contact hours)

Duration of the course: 9th October -27th November 2014

Time and Days: 2:00 – 3:50 PM on Thursdays

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course is designed to provide an understanding of gender-environment linkages. Aim of the course is to facilitate an interdisciplinary understanding of gender and the environment. As a part of this, we will explore the androcentric understanding of the environment, its impacts and possible alternative understanding of nature from a gendered perspective. As the topics and discussion papers for the course do not lend themselves to a conventional classroom setup, a discussion series format will be adopted for the course. Each part will have an overall theme introduced by the instructor followed by a semi-structured discussion with major inputs from the students. Some parts will require more than one session. Students are expected to turn in a written assignment and give a presentation on any aspect/issue related to the topics covered during the course. Further details on this will be provided at the start of the course.

ASSESSMENT: Maximum 100 points

Attendance: 10 points; Class room participation: 30 points; Paper presentation: 20 points; Written paper submission: 40 points

Part 1: Introduction: Gender, environment and development

Essential readings:

Agarwal, Bina (1992): 'The Gender and Environment Debate: Lessons from India', *Feminist Studies*, 18 (1): 119-58.

Rathgeber, E.M. (1990), 'WID, WAD, GAD: Trends in Research and Practice'. *The Journal of Developing Areas*, 24(4): 489-502

Purkayastha B., Subramaniam M., Desai M. and Bose S. (2003), 'The Study of Gender in India: A Partial Review', *Gender and Society*, 17 (4): 503-524.

Verma, Vidhu (2004), 'Engendering Development: Limits of Feminist Theories and Justice' *Economic and Political Weekly*, 39(49): 5246-5252

Part 2: Feminist economics and the environment

Essential readings:

Nelson, J.A. (1995) 'Feminism and Economics', *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 9(2):131-148

O'Hara, S.U. (2010) 'Economics, ecology and quality of life: who evaluates?' *Feminist Economics* 5(2): 83-89

Zein-Elabdin, E. (2003). The difficulty of a feminist economics. *Toward a feminist philosophy of economics*, 21, 321.

Part 3: Ecofeminism and its critique

Essential Readings:

Buckingham, S. (2004). 'Ecofeminism in the Twenty-First Century'. *The Geographical Journal*, 170 (2): 146-154

Shiva, V. (1988) *Staying Alive: Women, Ecology and Development*. London: Zed Books (chapter[s] to be assigned).

Part 4: Feminist political ecology

Sultana, F. "Gendered waters, poisoned wells: Political ecology of the arsenic crisis in Bangladesh" In *Fluid bonds: Views on gender and water* [ed.] K. Lahiri-Dutt, pp. 362-386. Kolkata: Stree Publishers 2006.

Elmhirst, R. (2011) 'Introducing new feminist political ecologies' *Geoforum* 42 :129–132

Part 5: Gender and water and forest

Zwareveen, M. Gender and Water in South Asia: Revisiting Perspectives, Policies and Practice in *Diverting the Flow* [ed.] Zwareveen M., Ahmed, S. and Gautam, S.R. Zubaan. 2012

Kevany, K. and Huisingsh, D. (2013), 'A review of progress in empowerment of women in rural water management decision-making processes' Article in Press, *Journal of Cleaner Production*.

Part 6: Gender, land rights and agriculture

Essential:

Carr, E.R. (2008), 'Men's Crops and Women's Crops: The Importance of Gender to the Understanding of Agricultural and Development Outcomes in Ghana's Central Region', *World Development* 36 (5): 900–915

Leach, M. (1992) 'Gender and the Environment: Traps and Opportunities' *Development in Practice*, 2(1): 12-22

Recommended :

Dutta, N. (2008) 'Joint titling — a win-win policy? Gender and property rights in urban informal settlements in Chandigarh, India' *Feminist Economics* 12(1 – 2): 271 – 298

Part 7: Gender and forest

Agarwal, B. (2001). 'Participatory exclusions, community forestry, and gender: An analysis for South Asia and a conceptual framework', *World Development: the Multi-Disciplinary International Journal Devoted to the Study and Promotion of World Development*, 29 (10): 1623-1648

Sarkar, D and Das, N. (2002), 'Women's Participation in Forestry: Some Theoretical Issues', *Economic and Political Weekly*, 37(43): 4407-4412

Part 8: Gender and natural disasters

Essential:

Mishra, P.K., Nilofer, S. and Mohanty, S. 'Gender and Disasters: coping with drought and floods in Orissa' in [ed.] Krishna S. *Livelihood and gender: Equity in community resource management*. New Delhi: Sage.2000, pp 226- 248.

Hines, R. I. (2007) 'Natural Disasters and Gender Inequalities: The 2004 Tsunami and the Case of India', *Race, Gender & Class*, 14(1/2): 60-68

Recommended

Krishnaraj, M., (1997). *Gender issues in disaster management: The Latur earthquake*. Emmitsburg, MD: National Emergency Training Center.

Part 9: Gender and technology

Bray, F. (2007), 'Gender and technology', *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 36: 37-53

Sur, A. (2008), 'Persistent Patriarchy: Theories of Race and Gender in Science', *Economic and Political Weekly*, 43(43): 73-78

Part 10: Presentation/Assignment

Please note: there may be minor changes in the reading list as we get closer to the semester.