

Feminism, power, and geopolitics

Syllabus, MA Seminar, Spring 2024, Tuesdays 10.15-12h, room B.1.S.38, 5ECTS
University of Neuchâtel

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Contenu

How are families, households, bodies, and subjectivities involved in political processes? What is the role of difference, such as gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, and class, in contemporary struggles over power and space? What can feminist scholarship tell us about nationalism, social exclusion, imperialism, and warfare?

In this seminar we will review key feminist conceptual, methodological, and ethical commitments to understand, question and rework pressing geopolitical issues. At the core of the feminist perspectives are voices, narratives, and knowledges that are erased, or rendered marginal, in understanding political processes and geographies. Starting from the attention to the embodied nature of power and inequalities, we will further address how feminist perspectives are applied to key geopolitical topics, from the making of territories and borders to questions of nationalism and discrimination. Furthermore, as a form of scholarship grounded in social justice, we will engage creatively with envisaging networks and infrastructures of care and solidarity that reformulate and/or contest racist, imperialist, and gendered narratives.

Forme de l'enseignement

The format encourages peer teaching and interactive learning environment with the lecturer acting as a moderator and seminar leader. The students are encouraged to ask critical questions, to transfer what they have learned into their own life context and to enrich it with their own experiences. The seminar will utilize various teaching methods to provide insight into current debates in feminist political geography and geopolitics. The discussions will be based on provided academic literature, as well as on empirical data such as films and videos, empirical examples from lecturer's (own) research and from students' projects.

Langue de l'enseignement

Main language of lectures is English, while seminar discussions can be held in French and English.

Forme d'évaluation + forme d'évaluation des rattrapages

Your FINAL GRADE as PASS or FAIL will be based on participation and active engagement in the seminar discussions (20%), the quality of seminar facilitation (30%), and the quality of a group project on a topic of your choice relevant to the class, along with an annotated bibliography (50%).

Students with a FAIL grade can re-take the exam by writing an essay of about 25 pages based on a seminar topic they choose (*rattrapage*).

Ouvrages de reference

Autor*innenkollektiv Geographie und Geschlecht (eds.) (2021). *Handbuch Feministische Geographien: Arbeitsweisen und Konzepte*. Leverkusen: Barbara Budrich.

Blondin S., Laketa S., Mittmasser C., & Sandoz L. (eds.) (2022). Corps et espaces en temps de crises : perspectives féministes. *GéoRegards*, 15, 5-11:
<https://www.alphil.com/livres/1276-geo-regards-n-15-2022.html>

Oberhauser, A. M., Fluri, J. L., Whitson, R., & Mollett, S. (2018). *Feminist Spaces: Gender and Geography in a Global Context*. New York: Routledge.

Smith, S., Neubert, C., Hawkins, M., & Gökariksel, B. (2021). *Feminist Geography Unbound: Discomfort, Bodies, And Prefigured Futures*. Morgantown: West Virginia University Press.

Staeheli, L. A., Kofman, E., & Peake, L. (Eds.). (2004). *Mapping Women, Making Politics: Feminist Perspectives on Political Geography*. New York: Routledge.

Detailed reading list will be available on Moodle before the start of the semester.

Objectifs d'apprentissage

- *Examine* key key features of feminist approaches to political geography and geopolitics
 - *Develop* creative ways of engaging with the topics
 - *Apply* feminist concepts to their own local environments
 - *Present* ability to engage in respectful and intellectually productive conversation
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Compétences transférables

- *Discuss* key arguments and theoretical concepts of required readings
- *Communicate* about the selected topic in an educationally stimulating way with the other participants
- *Develop* novel ways of engaging with a scientifically relevant topic