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# **SPR 470 - Gender Perspectives in Social Work Practice**

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Spring semester 2017

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# Three main goals of the course

**1) Gain broader knowledge about gender theory and how it influences social policy and social work**

- 'gender sensitive social work' rather than a specific approach
  - context for understanding social problems and social work practice
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# Three main goals of the course

## 2) Employ the theory to social work practice

- Related to postmodernism, critical thinking, critical social work, empowerment, social change
  - Not only about gender /intersectionality
  - Not only about women, but also men
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# Three main goals of the course

## 2) Employ the theory to social work practice

- Not only about clients, but also social workers, social work organizations, education system, society
  - Social work with specific target groups, but also reflecting one's own position
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# Three main goals of the course

**3) Improve writing skills of short academic papers**

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# Structure of the course

- lectures and seminars
  - 2 assignments
  - group work + presentation
  - lectures and seminars are compulsory
  - one absence allowed / 'meaningful task'
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# Requirements and Grading

- recommended x compulsory reading
  - assignments
  - active participation
  - final paper + seminar
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# Lecture on Gender Theory

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**SPR 470 - Gender Perspectives in Social  
Work Practice**

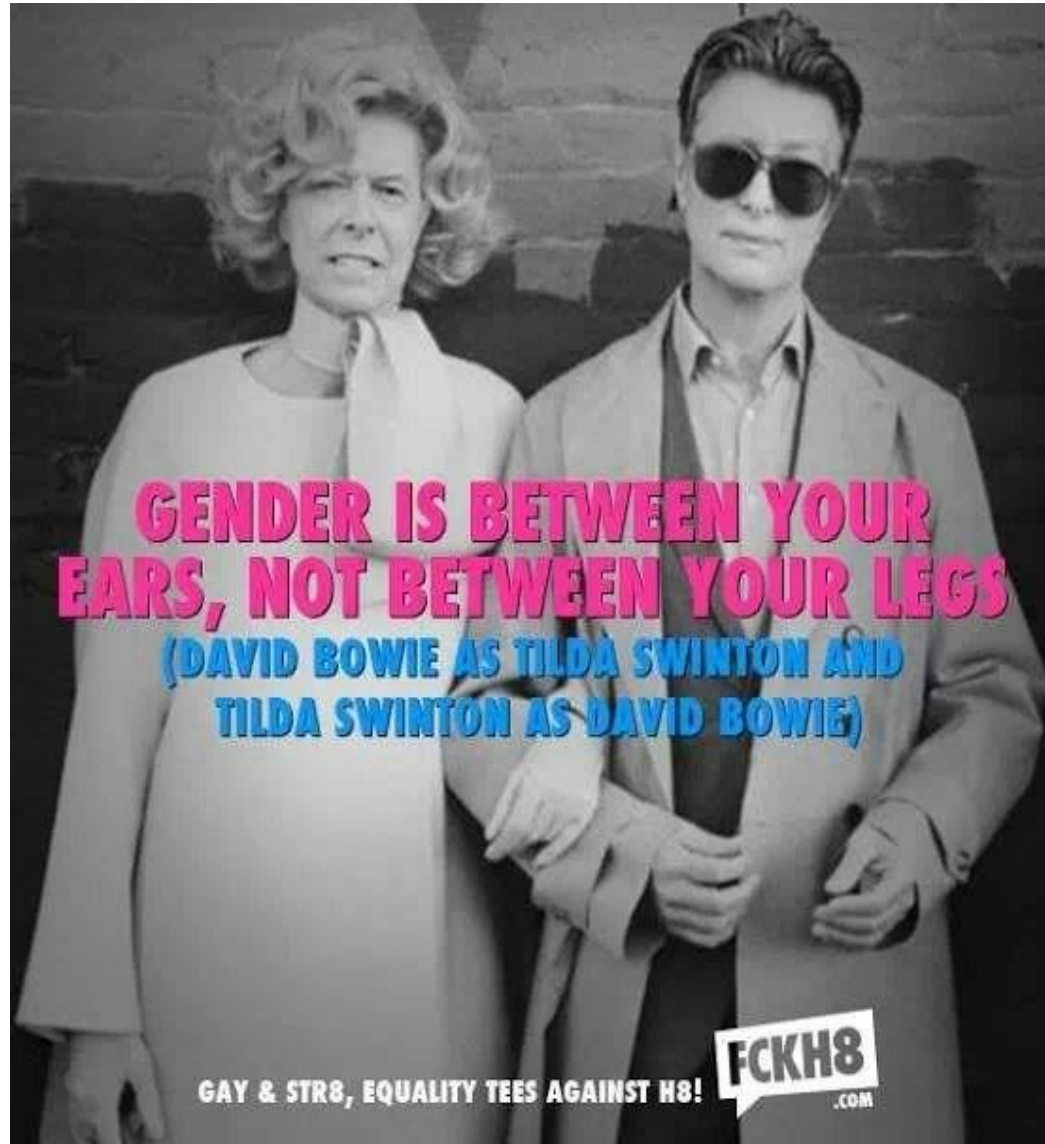
**March 1st, 2017**



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# Outline

- **Feminist Theories**
  - **Intersectionality**
  - **Feminist Influence on Social Policy**
  - **Feminist Influence on Social Work**
  - **1st Assignment and Seminar**
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**GENDER IS BETWEEN YOUR  
EARS, NOT BETWEEN YOUR LEGS**

**(DAVID BOWIE AS TILDA SWINTON AND  
TILDA SWINTON AS DAVID BOWIE)**

**GAY & STR8, EQUALITY TEES AGAINST H8!**

**FCKH8**  
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# Why Gender?

- **Sex - biological category**
  - **Gender – social category**
  - **Differences not only biological but also socially constructed**
  - **Everyone has a gender**
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# Feminist Theories

- Liberal feminism
- Radical feminism
- Socialist feminism
- African American feminism

Differences based on what is seen as a source of oppression and how to prevent it.

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# Liberal Feminism

- **women gaining access to the same opportunities as men** (education, work, political representation etc.)
  - **equal opportunities**
  - **changes e.g. by legislation, lobbying, quotas**
  - **white heterosexual nuclear family as a norm**
  - e.g.: B. Friedan, J.S.Mill
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# Radical Feminism

- late 1960s, early 1970
  - women are oppressed by patriarchal system
  - criticism of heteronormativity
  - contrary to queer theory essentialist
  - e.g.: A. Dworkin, C. MacKinnon
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# Socialist Feminism

- social justice for women only through abolition of both patriarchy and capitalism
  - women dependent on men  
paid labour + doing the ‚second shift‘ at home
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# Socialist Feminism



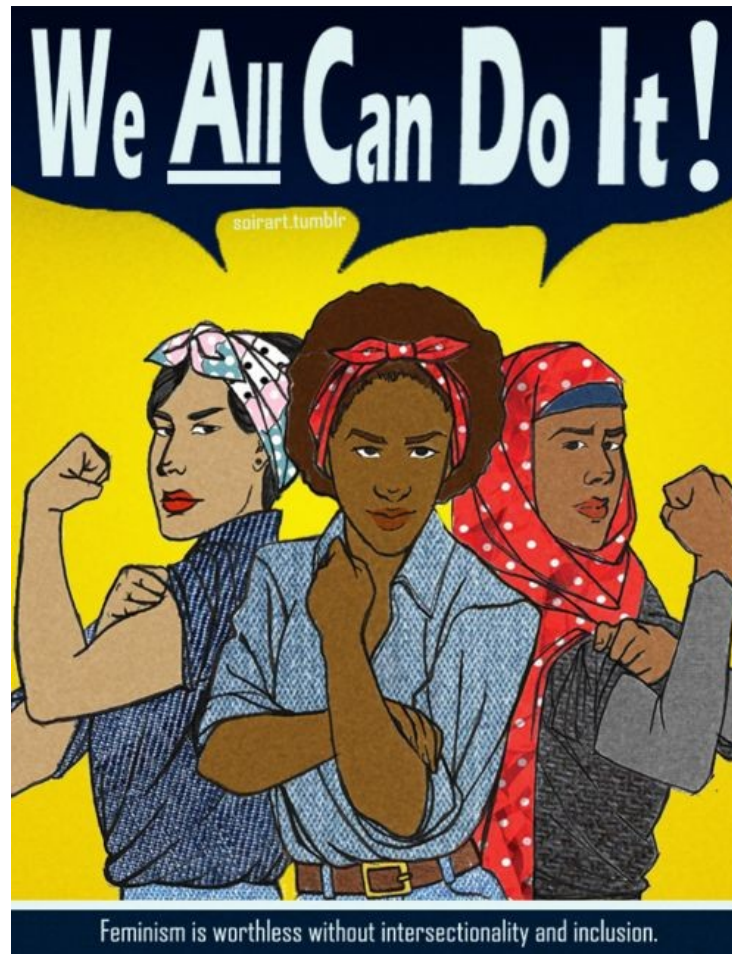


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# African American Feminism

- women of colour experience domination which is not addressed by liberal, radical, nor socialist feminism
  - attention to gender, class and race
  - e.g.: Ch. Mohanty, b. hooks
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# Intersectional Feminism



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# Postmodern Feminism

- language, power, discourse, deconstruction, ...
  - opposition to ,grand narratives‘
  - calls in to question the category of male and female (to question is not to deny!)
  - not all women are oppressed and not all men are oppressors
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# Postmodern Feminism

## Queer theory:

- X the male-female binary
- X traditional sex roles, identities and orientations
- performativity, 'doing gender'

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2017/01/gender-issue-reader-comments-faq/>

<http://www.transparentprague.cz/national-geographic-editorial>

<http://www.transparentprague.cz/national-geographic-editorial>

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MAKING A MAN | THE SCIENCE OF GENDER | GIRLS AT RISK

NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC

SPECIAL ISSUE  
GENDER  
REVOLUTION

'The best thing about being a girl is,  
now I don't have to pretend  
to be a boy.'

JANUARY 2017

SPECIAL ISSUE  
THE SHIFTING LANDSCAPE OF GENDER

NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC  
GENDER  
REVOLUTION



SPECIÁLNÍ ČÍSLO O NAŠÍ IDENTITĚ

LEDEN 2017

NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC  
ČESKO



GENDEROVÁ  
REVOLUCE

Jak nás definuje pohlaví.  
Jak pohlaví definujeme my.

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# Postfeminism

- sex as empowering
  - rejection of passive/victim image of femininity
  - women as powerful agents
  - post-feminist not anti-feminist
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# Men and Feminism

- men's movement, men's and masculinity studies
  - e.g.: parents' rights, domestic violence, prostitution
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# Intersectionality

- gender + class, age, race, ethnicity, dis/ability, sexual orientation, education, ...
  - X sexism, homophobia, heteronormativity, ageism, ableism, racism, ethnocentrism, nationalism, xenophobia, ...
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# Intersectionality

- intersection of oppression as well as privilege
  - ethnicity, class, gender are not minority issues
  - positions are changing in time and space
  - tool for positioning / standpoint
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# Feminist Influence on Social Policy

- social policy has great influence on gender relations in the society
  - who will take care of us
  - what choices we have as mothers and fathers
  - balance between family life, work life, career
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# Esping-Andersen:

‘Three worlds of welfare capitalism’ (1990)

## ■ Welfare Systems:

- Liberal

- Social Democratic

- Conservative/Corporative

## ■ based on level of ‘decomodification’

■ workers ‘commodified’ = they must sell their labour on the market to survive

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# Feminist Critique

- the goal for western feminist has been to ,commodify‘ women
  - neglects the unpaid labour at home
  - level of ,defamilization‘
  - ,famialization‘ = family is responsible for all household tasks
  - male bread winner model
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# Feminist Influence on Social Work

## Gender Lenses:

- clients are not ,gender neutral‘
  - women more often living in poverty
  - men more often criminal offenders
  - most of the social workers are women
  - ...
  - new issues: domestic violence, heteronormativity, prostitution, sexual abuse, etc.
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# Feminist Influence on Social Work

- equality is not sameness
  - need to recognize that women and men are different, but not essentially different
  - reflect the specific needs in services  
(e.g. women only groups, but not only female workers)
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# Feminist Influence on Social Work

## Postmodern Feminism:

- Crisis of Knowledge

(How do we know what we know?)

- Crisis of Identity

(power / lost innocence of helping)

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# 1st Seminar and Assignment

## Compulsory Reading:

**Renzetti, Claire, Daniel Curran. 1989. *Women, Men, and Society: the Sociology of Gender*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.**

- Chapter 1 Studying Gender: An Overview (pp. 1-12).
- Chapter 13 Restructuring Sex/Gender Systems (pp. 326-350).

**Rossiter, Amy 2000. 'The postmodern feminist condition: new conditions for social work' (pp. 24-38) In Fawcett, Barbara (ed.). *Practice and Research in Social Work. Postmodern Feminist Perspectives*, London: Routledge.**

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# 1st Seminar and Assignment

- Write questions about what was not clear for you, what you do not understand, or what would you like to know more about.
  - Write complex questions.
  - 2 to each chapter = 6 in the total.
  - Upload your assignment to the Homework vault no later than on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March.
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