

Rutgers DSW Program Syllabus

Module Title: Feminist Theory and Practice, Part II

Instructor:

Residency: February 2019

Date:

Module II Description:

This module seeks to foster an understanding of the multiple ways that feminist theory opens imaginations to the possibilities of inclusive practices and expands the repertoire of strategies for realizing social change. Challenging popular misconceptions, these readings demonstrate that theory is not abstract, disengaged from, or foreign to the activities of daily life. On the contrary, feminist theory is rooted in and seeks to illuminate the complex experiences of women (men, Trans*, and gender non-conformers) across cultures and ages. We will investigate the mutually constitutive relation of theory and activism in order to challenge accounts that polarize theory/practice. Students will be encouraged to examine the complex interaction of theory/activism in particular modes of feminist praxis.

Module Objectives:

- Cultivate students' ability to analyze power dynamics from the micro-level to the macro-level.
- Sensitize students to the politics of issue framing.
- Empower students to devise creative strategies to promote social change.

Required Readings (Choose any two on the basis of your interests):

Meena Khandelwal, "Arranging Love: Interrogating the Vantage Point in Cross-Border Feminism," *Signs* 34(3): 583-610 [Spring 2009].

Susan Berger, "Production and Reproduction of Gender and Sexuality in Legal Discourses of Asylum in the United States," *Signs* 34(3): 659-686 [Spring 2009].

Anna Kirkland, "What's at Stake in Transgender Discrimination as Sex Discrimination?" *Signs* 32(1): 83-111, [Autumn 2006].

Kristin Bumiller, "Quirky Citizens: Autism, Gender, and Reimagining Disability," *Signs* 33(4): 967-991 [Summer 2008].

Silja Samerski. "Genetic Counseling and the Fiction of Choice" Taught Self-Determination as a New Technique of Social Engineering," *Signs* 34(4):735-762, [Summer, 2009].

Recommended Readings:

Natalie Oswin, "Producing Homonormativity in Neoliberal South Africa: Recognition, Redistribution, and the Equality Project," *Signs* 32(3): 649-670 [Spring 2007]

Lisa C. Ikemoto, "Eggs as Capital: Human Egg Procurement in the Fertility Industry and the Stem Cell Research Enterprise," *Signs* 34(4): 763-782, [Summer 2009].

Sanyu A. Mojola, "Providing Women and Kept Men: Doing Masculinity in the Wake of the African HIV/AIDS Epidemic," *Signs* 39(2): 341-363 [Winter 2014].

Elizabeth Bernstein, " Militarized Humanitarianism Meets Carceral Feminism: The Politics of Sex, Rights, and Freedom in Contemporary Antitrafficking Campaigns," *Signs*: 36(1):45-72, [Autumn 2010].

Erica Michelle Lagalisse, "Marginalizing Magdalena: Intersections of Gender and the Secular in Anarchoindigenist Solidarity Activism," *Signs* 36(3):653-678, [Spring 2011].

Cori Hayden, "Kinship Theory, Property, and the Politics of Inclusion: From Lesbian Families to Bioprospecting in a Few Short Steps," *Signs* 32(2):337-346, [Winter 2007].

Miriam Ticktin, "Sexual Violence as the Language of Border Control: Where French Feminist and Anti-immigrant Rhetoric Meet," *Signs* 33(4): 833-862, [Summer 2008].

Timothy Kaufman-Osborn, "Gender Trouble at Abu Ghraib," *Politics & Gender* 1(4):597-619, [2005].