SPL 512: Gender and Social Policy

Instructor: Başak Akkan

Fall 2019

Tuesdays btw. 14.00-17.00

NFB 204

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Office hours: By appointment

Course description

In the last two decades, feminist critique of the welfare state analysis has made gender a central element of the social policy studies. A rich literature on gender, social policy, and welfare states both in the North and the South dealt with numerous aspects of gender relations including work/family balance, commodification/de-commodification of care, familialism/ de-familization, global care chains and other pressing issues that determine the life chances of women in different welfare contexts. The social policy analysis from a gender perspective has widened the focus of social policy in understanding the contested yet changing institutional framework of the state, the market, and the family.

This course introduces feminist theoretical framework and the empirical explorations of a variety of key topics for thinking about social policy and welfare change. The course aims to provide an understanding of the varying ways in which welfare states have addressed contested gender issues, but also the political forces that have shaped these responses in a global context. The course equips the students with an understanding of the key concepts like citizenship, work and care with a focus on the gender inequalities in different contexts and social policy’s role in overcoming multifaceted/intersectional inequalities that also include categories of class, race, LGBT, migration background, other.
Requirements
This course is designed as a colloquium to think, discuss and write critically about a range of issues related to gender and social policy in a global context. Students are expected to read the assigned readings for each week and come to class prepared. Participation in the class will have an impact on the final grade. The last two course meetings are reserved for student presentations of the draft of their final paper. Other students are required to participate in these classes and provide feedback to the presenter. Course evaluation is based on two response papers-%20 and the final paper-%80 (4000-6000 words, presented in class before being submitted in written form). The final paper could be on a topic of the student’s choice related to the course material and approved by the instructor. The two response papers provided throughout the course could lead up to the completion of the draft of the final paper.
1st Response paper is due October 22
2nd Response paper is due November 19
The final paper is due no later than January 3, 2020

Reading list

Introduction (week 1-September 24)

Gender and Social Policy in a Global Context (week 2-October 1)

Gender Equality and the Welfare State (week 3-October 8)

Theoretical and Methodological Reflections

**Gendering Welfare State Analysis (week 4-October 15)**


**Further Readings**


**Gender and the Welfare Regimes (week 5-October 22)**

*From male breadwinner model to adult-worker model*


**Further reading**

Gender and the Welfare Regimes (week 6&7 October 29, November 5)

Work/family balance and care in different contexts


Gender and Social Policy in Turkey (week 8-November 12)


Further Readings


Gender, Heteronormative Critique and Social Policy (week 9-November 19)


Gender and Aging (week 10-November 26)


Gender and Migration (week 11-December 3)


Student Presentations (week 12 & 13-December 10 & 17)