

**Ambedkar University Delhi**

**Course Outline**

**Monsoon Semester (July -December 2017)**

**School:** School of Human Studies

**Programme with title:** MA Gender Studies

**Semester to which offered:** I semester

**Course Title:** Feminist Movements in South Asia

**Credits** 4

**Course Code (new):** [SHS202831-Feminist Movements in South Asia \( Credit : 4 \)](#)

**Course Code (old):** SHS

**Type of Course:** Core

**Course Coordinator and Team:** Prof. Krishna Menon

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**Pre-requisites:** Any Post Graduate student, 1st semester student if Gender Studies

**Aim:** Our understanding of social, economic, cultural, ecological and political conflicts on the one hand and the possibility of change and transformation on the other hand are impacted by our vantage point. The nation-state more often than not has been a favored vantage point to understand feminist movements. What would feminist movements look like if these boundaries were to be disregarded? Is there a possibility of doing so? These along with many related questions would be discussed in this course.

This course would firmly advocate that a perspective that moves beyond the boundaries of the cartographic certainties imposed by the nation-state would yield a different and probably a more textured understanding of our times. This course would argue that such boundaries are more likely to be accompanied by power, surveillance, control, regulation and violence. How does the idea of the nation-state impact feminist politics, and how does feminist politics destabilize and sidestep the idea of the nation-state, while being mindful of the differences that abound?

South Asia is an interesting ground for the study of feminist movements because of its complexities, similarities and differences. Studying this region from a gendered perspective would yield very fascinating insights. It is a region that has on the one hand produced important women politicians and heads of states, while also being witness to some very brutal and harsh attacks on women based on caste, ethnicity, language and religion. The course seeks to demonstrate patterns of feminist struggles and triumphs both at the local as well as the national and regional levels and in doing so it seeks to study the patterns of feminist politics and mobilization in this region.

## **Brief description of modules/ Main modules:**

### **Module 1**

- **Unpacking the idea of South Asia**

### **Module 2**

- **Nationalism, State and Gender in South Asia**

### **Module 3**

- **Women's Activism and Religion in South Asia**

### **Module 4**

## **Questions of Labour, Economy and Gender in South Asia**

### **Module 5**

- **Southasian Feminisms- Challenges and Possibilities**

### **Module 6**

- **Militarism, Conflict, Peacebuilding and Gender in South Asia**
- **References:**

#### **Module 1**

- Introduction by Paul R. Brass from Routledge Handbook of South Asian Politics, New York. 2010.
- Aminah Mohammad-Arif, Introduction. Imagination and Constructions of South Asia: An Enchanting Abstraction? South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal (SAMAJ) 10 (2014)
- Sudipta Kaviraj. A Strange Love of the Land: Identity, Poetry and Politics in the (Un) Making of South Asia. South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal (SAMAJ) 10 (2014)
- Sanjay Subrahmanyam. Afterword. On Region and Nation. South Asia. South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal (SAMAJ) 10 (2014)
- Blandine Ripert. From South Asia to Southasianism: A Nepalese Activist's Perspective- An Interview with Kanak Mani Dixit. South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal (SAMAJ) 10 (2014)
- Introduction: Re-conceptualizing nation and Region in Modern South Asia. Kamala Viswesaran in Perspectives on Modern South Asia\* (PMSA) Wiley-Blackwell. United Kingdom. 2011

- Manish Desai. Critical Cartography, Theories and Praxis of Transnational Feminisms. The Oxford Handbook of Transnational Feminist Movements. Edited by Rawwida Baksh and Wendy Harcourt. 2015

## Module 2

- Mrinalini Sinha. Gendered nationalism: from women to gender and back again? pp 13-27 in Routledge Handbook of Gender in South Asia. Edited by Leela Fernandes. 2014.
- Ritu Menon and Kamla Bhasin. Abducted Women, the State and Questions of Honor: Three Perspectives on the Recovery Operations in Post-Partition India. Pp 119-133. PMSA
- Naila Kabeer. The Quest for National Identity: women, Islam and the State in Bangladesh. Pp 139-153. PMSA
- Qadri Ismail. Contesting Nation, Contesting Nationalism: The Southern Tamil (Woman) and Separatist Tamil Nationalism in Sri Lanka, from the Subaltern Studies Volume XI. Ed Partha Chatterjee and Pradeep Jegannathan. Permanent Black, New Delhi. 2000.
- Valentine M. Moghadam. Nationalist Agendas and Women's Rights: Conflict in Afghanistan. Pp 154-162. PMSA
- Paula Banerjee. Chapter 5-Negotiating Differences: The Indian State and its Women in the Borderlands, chapter 6- Mobile Diseases and the Border from Borders, Histories and Existences. Sage, New Delhi. 2010.

## Module 3

- Seira Tamang, The Politics of 'Developing Nepali Women'. PMSA
- Sandya Hewamanne, City of Whores, PMSA
- Kanchana N. Ruwanpura, Global Governance initiatives and garment sector workers in Sri Lanka: tracing its gender and development politics. Routledge Handbook of Gender in South Asia. Edited by Leela Fernandes. 2014. Pp 207-219
- Sundari Anitha. Striking Women- The Life Stories of two South Asian Women in the UK. University of Lincoln.
- Shahla Haeri and Brenda Gael Mc Sweeney. Patriarchy, Power and Paradox: Dreaming Gender Equality and Development. From South Asia 2060 edited by Adil Najam and Moeed Yusuf. Anthem Press. 2013.
- Smitha Radhakrishnan. Gendered opportunity and constraint in India's IT industry: the problem of too much 'headweight'. In Routledge Handbook of Gender in South Asia. Edited by Leela Fernandes. 2014. pp 234-246.
- Lamia Karim. NGOs, State and neoliberal development in South Asia: the paradigmatic case of Bangladesh in a global perspective. Routledge Handbook of Gender in South Asia. Edited by Leela Fernandes. 2014. pp 260-274.
- Naila Kabeer. Marriage, Motherhood and Masculinity in the Global Economy. 18<sup>th</sup> J.P. Naik Memorial Lecture. Centre for Women's Development Studies. 2007.
- Rachana Johri and Krishna Menon

<http://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1011&context=cecr>

- Prabha Kotiswaran. Law, sex work and activism in India. Routledge Handbook of Gender in South Asia. Edited by Leela Fernandes. 2014. pp 84-96.
- Thannh-Dam Truong. Human Trafficking, Globalization and Transnational Feminist Responses. Routledge Handbook of Gender in South Asia. Edited by Leela Fernandes. 2014. pp 295-320.
- Lisa Caviglil. Kathmandu's Dance Bars. Himal Southasian. 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2016.
- Sarah Hendricks and Keshet Bachan. Because I am A Girl: The Emergence of Girls in Development. Routledge Handbook of Gender in South Asia. Edited by Leela Fernandes. 2014. pp 896-918.

#### **Module 4**

- Mariz Tadros. From Secular Reductionism to Religious Essentialism: Implications for the Gender Agenda. The Oxford Handbook of Transnational Feminist Movements. Edited by Rawwida Baksh and Wendy Harcourt. 2015
- Shail Mayaram. Being Hindu and Muslim in South Asia. PMSA. Pp 16-22.
- Amrita Chhachhi The State, Religious Fundamentalism and women-Trends in South Asia, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 24, Issue No. 11, 18 Mar, 1989
- Amrita Basu. Resisting the Sacred and the Secular, from Resisting the Sacred and the Secular by Patricia Jeffrey and Amrita Basu Eds, Kali for Women, New Delhi. 2001.
- Farida Shaheed. Women's Experiences of Identity, Religion and Activism in Pakistan from Resisting the Sacred and the Secular by Patricia Jeffrey and Amrita Basu Eds, Kali for Women, New Delhi. 2001
- Saadia Toor. The Political Economy of moral regulation in Pakistan: religion, gender and class in postcolonial context. Routledge Handbook of Gender in South Asia. Edited by Leela Fernandes. 2014. pp 129-142.
- Katy Garnder. Women and Islamic Revivalism in a Bangladesh Community from Resisting the Sacred and the Secular by Patricia Jeffrey and Amrita Basu eds, Kali for Women, New Delhi. 2001..
- Katherine Marshall. Feminist Muslims? The view from Bangladesh <http://www.faithstreet.com/onfaith/2011/01/17/feminist-muslims-the-view-from-bangladesh/7044>
- Samten Ngedon Gatsel Ling. Voices of Freedom in Bhutan: Reclaiming Lost Femininity in Vajrayana Buddhism, sisteracorsstraditions ( Blog)

#### **Module 5**

- Amrita Chhachhi and Sunila Abeyasekera. Forging a New Political Imaginary: Transnational Southasian Feminisms. Routledge Handbook of Gender in South Asia. Edited by Leela Fernandes. 2014. pp 553-577
- Sunila Abeyasekera. Social Movements, Feminist Movements and the State: A Regional Perspective.

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- Shahnaz Rouse. Women's Movement in Pakistan: State, Class, Gender. PMSA
- Rubina Saigol. Feminism and the Women's Movement in Pakistan. Published by FES.
- Habiba Zaman. Taslima Nasrin Controversy and Feminism In Bangladesh: A Geo-Political and Transnational Perspective. Atlantis, Volume 23.2 Spring Summer 1999.
- Shobha Gautam, Amrita Banskota and Rita Manchanda. Where There Are No Men: Women in the Maoist Insurgency in Nepal. MPSA.
- Judith Pettigrew and Sara Shnedierman. Women and the Maobaadi. Himal Southasian. January 2003.
- Nihau Tara Mehta. Why Women Want to Be Happier in Bhutan- One of the World's Happiest Countries. Huffington Post. 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2016.
- WISCOMP- Introductory Note on Bhutan for the workshop 'Engendering Research: Perspectives and Possibilities.
- Aung San Suu Kyi speaks to feminists – video on the occasion of Suu Kyi being awarded Global Women's Rights Awards.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PqI4zDcOJk>

## Module 6

- Linda Etchart. Demilitarizing the Global: Women's Peace Movements and Transnational Networks. The Oxford Handbook of Transnational Feminist Movements. Edited by Rawwida Baksh and Wendy Harcourt. 2015
- . Seema Kazi. South Asia's gendered 'war on peace'. The Oxford Handbook of Transnational Feminist Movements. Edited by Rawwida Baksh and Wendy Harcourt. 2015
- Sharika Thriangama. Female militancy: Reflections from Sri Lanka. Routledge Handbook of Gender in South Asia. Edited by Leela Fernandes. 2014. pp 115-128.
- Rita Manchanda. Gender, Conflict and Displacement. EPW. September 11, 2004.
- Uzma Falak. Kashmir: A Metaphor for Pain. Himal Southasian. 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2016.

- Radhika Gupta. Poetics and Politics of Borderland Dwelling: Baltis in Kargil. SAMAJ. 10 (2014).
- Essar Batool, Ifrah Butt, Samreena Mushtaq, Munaza Rashid, Natasha Rather .Do you Remember Kunan-Poshpora? Zubaan Series on Sexual Violence and Impunity in South Asia, 2016