

Prof. Todd Ramlow
Women's Studies 230.10 (CRN: 72933)
Monday, 510-700pm
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Global Feminisms

Women's Studies 230: Global Feminisms will consider what constitutes "global/ism" and "feminism/s" in relation to neoliberal globalization in a variety of frames and contexts. Today, what we think of, and experience as, "globalization" is increasingly understood, produced by, and filtered through neoliberal economic policies, which are promoted, promulgated, and subtended by communications technologies. What, then, does neoliberal globalization "look" like? And for who? How is it experienced differently, globally, transnationally, cross-culturally? What do these different terms signify? What are the relationships between mass and new media and globalism/globalization? How does neoliberal globalism condition flows of capital, human bodies, biopolitics, and discourses? What are the possibilities of any global feminism/s, and what the barriers? These are a few of the questions that we will grapple with in the first half of the semester, as we cover a variety of feminist writers and theorists on women's lives and movements and the new Empire, on transnational feminist debates over representation (multiply understood), and feminist critiques of neoliberalism, to mention only a few interconnected topics.

During roughly the second half of the semester we will engage specifically with the rise, parameters, expansion, and problems of the globalized trafficking of women and children into debt-bonded sexual slavery. If one of the major goals of neoliberal economic expansionism has been the break-down of trade barriers and protections against the free-flow of capital, one of the side-effects of this break-down has been the ease with which all commodities, including human commodities, can be circulated. Despite the rhetoric of the Bush Administration, Department of Homeland Security, and recent US border paranoia, some commodities can cross borders more easily than other. We will consider this in human costs in relation to the global flows of sex workers. Consider for example the sex-trafficking ring connecting Korea, Washington, DC, New York, Baltimore, New Haven, and Philadelphia that was just busted by federal authorities on 17-August-2006.

Texts:

- Agamben, Giorgio. *Means without End: Notes on Politics*.
- Partha Chatterjee and Pradeep Jeganathan, eds. *Subaltern Studies XI: Community, Gender, and Violence*.
- Zillah Eisenstein. *Against Empire: Feminisms, Racism, and the West*.
- Kamala Kempadoo with Jyoti Sanghera and Bandana Pattanaik, eds. *Trafficking and Prostitution Reconsidered: New Perspectives on Migration, Sex Work, and Human Rights*.
- Paola Monzini. *Sex Traffic: Prostitution, Crime, and Exploitation*.
- Uma Narayan and Sandra Harding, eds. *Decentering the Center: Philosophy for a Multicultural, Postcolonial, and Feminist World*.
- Aihwa Ong. *Neoliberalism as Exception: Mutations in Citizenship and Sovereignty*.
- Christa Wichterich. *The Globalized Woman: Reports from a Future of Inequality*.

Online Resources:

- Coalition Against Trafficking in Women: <http://www.catwinternational.org/>
- Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women: <http://www.gaatw.net/>
- Human Rights Watch, Campaign Against the Trafficking of Women and Girls: <http://hrw.org/about/projects/traffcamp/intro.html>
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, "Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children": <http://www.ohchr.org/english/law/protocoltraff.htm>
- Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings: <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/QueVoulezVous.asp?NT=197&CM=8&DF=5/22/2006&CL=ENG>
- Polaris Project: <http://www.polarisproject.org/polarisproject/>
- US State Department, Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, 2005 Report: <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2005/>

Requirements:

Seminar Research Paper. A final paper of 20 pages on a related topic of the student's choice and development is due on the last day of class. You must submit a formal research and topic proposal for this paper by/on April 6th (70%).

Discussion Facilitation. The class will be divided into groups of 2-3 students twice over the course of the semester. Each group will prepare a short briefing/summarization and provide a class handout on the readings for that day. Each group will then lead discussion for at least one hour of class time. Topics and dates will be assigned during our first class meeting, so please look over the syllabus ahead of time to determine your top four choices (20%).

Class Participation. As this is a seminar style class, everyone's attendance and participation is fundamental to the success of the course and the production of knowledge in and with which we will engage. You are expected to have read all materials carefully and critically before class and to come ready to actively engage with both the course materials and your peers (10%).

9.11

General course introduction, requirements, expectations, etc. Discuss *Hostel* (Dir. Eli Roth, 2005).

9.18

Readings: Zillah Eisenstein, *Against Empire: Feminisms, Racism, and the West*.

9.25

Readings: Aihwa Ong, *Neoliberalism as Exceptions: Mutations in Citizenship and Sovereignty*, "Introduction," "I. Ethics in Contention," and "II. Spaces of Governing."

10.2

Readings: Aihwa Ong, *Neoliberalism as Exceptions: Mutations in Citizenship and Sovereignty*, "III. Circuits of Expertise" and "IV. The Edge of Emergence."

10.9

Readings: Giorgio Agamben, *Means Without End: Notes on Politics*.

10.16

Readings: Uma Narayan and Sandra Harding, *Decentering the Center: Philosophy for a Multicultural, Postcolonial, and Feminist World*, "Introduction" through chapter nine, Patricia Hill Collins, "It's All in the Family: Intersections of Gender, Race, and Nation."

10.23

Readings: Uma Narayan and Sandra Harding, *Decentering the Center: Philosophy for a Multicultural, Postcolonial, and Feminist World*, chapter ten, Drucilla K. Baker, "Dualisms, Discourse, and Development," through chapter seventeen, Ann E. Cudd, "Multiculturalism as a Cognitive Virtue of Scientific Practice."

10.30

Readings: Partha Chatterjee and Pradeep Jeganathan, *Subaltern Studies XI: Community, Gender, and Violence*, chapter one, Aamir R. Mufti, "A Greater Story-Writer than God: Genre, Gender and Minority in Late Colonial India," through chapter five, Tejaswini Niranjana, "Nationalism Refigured: Contemporary South Indian Cinema and the Subject of Feminism."

Screening: *Bandit Queen* (Dir. Shekhar Kapur, 1994).

11.6

Readings: Partha Chatterjee and Pradeep Jeganathan, *Subaltern Studies XI: Community, Gender, and Violence*, chapter six, Satish Deshpande, "Hegemonic Spatial Strategies: The Nation-Space and Hindu Communalism in Twentieth-century India," through chapter nine, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, "Discussion: An Afterword on the New Subaltern."

11.13

Readings: Christa Wichterich, *The Globalized Woman: Reports from a Future of Inequality*.

DUE: Final paper proposal.

11.20

Readings: Paola Monzini, *Sex Traffic: Prostitution, Crime, and Exploitation*.

11.27

Readings: Laura M. Augustin, "A Migrant World of Services" (*Social Politics* 10.3 [2003]), and "Migrants in the Mistress's House: Other Voices in the 'Trafficking' Debate" (*Social Politics* 12.1 [2005]), Gail Kligman and Stephanie Limoncelli, "Trafficking Women After Socialism: To, Through, and From Eastern Europe," and Joyce Outshoorn" (*Social Politics* 12.1 [2005]), "The Political Debates on Prostitution and Trafficking of Women" (*Social Politics* 12.1 [2005]), all available via Project Muse.

Screening: *Bought and Sold* (Dir. Gillian Caldwell, 1997) and *Writing Desire* (Dir. Ursula Biemann, 2001).

12.4

Readings: Kemala Kempadoo, Jyoti Sanghera and Bandana Pattanaik, *Trafficking and Prostitution Reconsidered: New Perspectives on Migration, Sex Work, and Human Rights*, introduction, Kemala Kempadoo, "From Moral Panic to Global Justice: Changing Perspectives on Trafficking," through chapter six, Melissa Ditmore, "Trafficking in Lives: How Ideology Shapes Politics."

12.11

Readings: Kemala Kempadoo, Jyoti Sanghera and Bandana Pattanaik, *Trafficking and Prostitution Reconsidered: New Perspectives on Migration, Sex Work, and Human Rights*, chapter seven, John Frederick, "The Myth of Nepal-to-India Sex Trafficking: Its Creation, Its Maintenance, and Its Influence on Anti-Trafficking Campaigns," through chapter twelve, Natasha Ahmad, "Trafficked Persons or Economic Migrants? Bangladeshis in India."

DUE: Final paper.