Gender Issues in Islamic Countries
2015-2016
References


References


References


• L. Ahmad, *A Quiet Revolution: The Veil’s Resurgence, from the Middle East to America*, Yale University Press, 2011.

• [I. Pappé](#), *The modern Middle East*, Routledge, 2005, chapitre 7

I. Monday 14 September:
- Feminist approach
- Women in The Islamic World

II. Monday 21 September:
- Approaches of Resistance

III. Monday 28 September:
- Women Agency: The case of Iranian Women

IV. Monday 5 October
- A film on Muslim women and discussion
V. 12 October: Preparation of group presentation

VI. 19 October: Preparation of group presentation

VII. 26 October: Preparation of group presentation

VIII. 2 November to 7 December
Presentation of research

14 December: Delivery of written paper
Feminist Approach
The feminist theories

First wave:
• The feminist activism began in the latter half of the 19th century
• Focused on equal contracts rights and property rights for women
• Opposed to the ownership of married women by their husband
• By the end of 19th century concentrated primarily on gaining policial power and inclusion of women in suffrage: gender biaised nature of modern political theory
• 1918-1928 The right to vote

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Second wave
- Began in the 1960s and last through the 1980s
- Focused on criticism of capitalism as biased, discriminatory, and unfair
- Contend against discrimination
- In the United States emerged from civil rights movements and anti-Vietnam war movements
- However, differences emerged among black feminists, lesbian feminists, liberal feminists and socialist feminists
- bell hooks, an African American feminist argued that the movement lacked minority voices and failed to address the issues that divided women
Betty Friedan (1921-2006)

Simone de Beauvoir 1908-1986

bell hooks 1952-

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• According to Friedan, women were compelled to find meaning in their lives chiefly through their husbands and children, inclining them to lose their identity in that of their family

• She has been instrumental in forming the National Organization for Women in 1966, part of what became known as Women’s Liberation

• Beauvoir outlined the way in which women were perceived as other in a patriarchal society, second to men, considered and treated as the first or default sex.
• « One is not born, but rather becomes a woman »: The roles we associate with women are not given to them in birth, by virtue of biology, but rather are socially constructed.
• Today the idea is expressed in the difference between sex and gender.
Third wave

- Problematized the second wave essentialist definitions of feminity that assumed a universal female identity and overemphazized the experience of upper-middle-class white women.

- Places emphasis on the ambiguity inherent in gendered terms and categories and usually includes queer theory and transgendered politics while rejecting gender binaries.

- It addresses itself to antiracism and women-of-color consciousness, womanism, postcolonial theory, critical theory, and new feminist theory.

- Some theorist recognize a postfeminist trend.
The second and third waves brought interest in inequality, poverty, and gender relations and produced a body of critical ideas on development while issues raised by feminists became important in international agencies dealing with development so much so that feminist development theory now forms a recognizable system of concepts, discourses, and practises.
Epistemology: theory of knowledge, how knowledge is produced and how it is judged to be true or not.

Feminist epistemology became central by mid-to late 1980. It questioned the modern belief in scientific rationality.

Genevieve Lloyd (1941-) argued for example that the modern ideal of rationality was characterized by maleness, so that when they spoke of human ideals they were actually talking about idels of manhood.
Sandra Harding (1935-) argued that feminist criticism had moved from positions stressing the improvement of science to ones favoring transformation of the foundations of science and the cultural values that accord value to science. Thus it was argued that previous methodologies of sciences carried the marks of gender, class, race, and culture.

Feminist standpoint theory: men’s dominance has resulted in partial and perverse understandings whereas women’s subjugated position gives them the potential for more complete understanding. A standpoint is a place from which one views and sees the world, that determines both what one focuses on as well as what is obscured. Depending on one's situation, one's standpoint may vary from that of another individual who may be of a similar status.
Furthermore, by extension the issue of development project was raised. The Western feminist project was subjected to critique from women of color, lesbians and third world Women. According to Chandra Mohanty (1955-) feminist writings produce ‘the third world woman’ as a singular monolithic subject in a process that she calls discursive colonization.
The discussions led to a critical reexamination of development theory as a masculinist enterprise. Catherine Scott criticized modernization and dependency theories. Modernization development required the emergence of rational industrial man, receptive to new ideas, optimistic, and universalistic, with a counterpart in the modern efficient state. For Scott this is based on a ideal version of masculine modernity. Dependency theories share the same view on opposition between the rational sphere of capitalist production and the private precapitalist realm of family reproduction.
Placing gender relations at the center of theorization, feminist development theorists argued, reoriented development discourse toward different topics and interests.

Ex: women workers in industrialization
Informal and rural sectors of economy
Gender relations in export-oriented production....
Feminism and development

- Women in Development (WID)
- Women and Development (WAD)
- Gender and Development (GAD)
- Women, Environment and Development (WED)
- Postmodernism and Development (PAD)
Feminism and development

- Women in Development (WID)

Esther Boserup: *The Conditions of Agricultural Growth* and *Women’s role in Economic Development*

Modernization does not emancipate women. On the contrary

She is the founder of Women in development approach

Caroline Moser and the five variants within WID:
- Welfare approach
- Equity approach
- Antipoverty approach
- Efficiency approach
- Empowerment approach
Women and Development (WAD)

- Argues that is is the link with modernization that empowered women.
- Drew more on dependency theory and neo-marxist approach
- Questions patriarchy
- Intensification of patriarchy with capitalism

- Led to Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era: DAWN
Feminism and development

- Gender and Development (GAD)

Sees the State as an important actor promoting women’s emancipation
Chawdry,

Women, Environment and Development (WED)

Draws parallels between men’s control over women and male control over nature, with connections made among masculine science and industrialization and assaults on the ecological health of the planet.
Caroline Merchant, Vandana Shiva, Maria Mies
Feminism and development

- Postmodernism and Development (PAD)
- Asks whether a more accessible and politicized postmodern feminism has relevance for the problems facing women in the developing countries
- Close to postmodernism’s view on differences, providing space for the voices of the marginalized and disrupting the representation of women in the South as an undifferentiated other.
- Critics of the certainty of eurocentric development studies and silencing local knowledges by western expertise
- Focus on consultative dialogue between development practitioners and their ‘clients’.

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