

GENDER IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

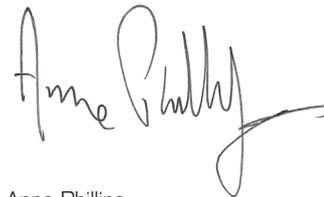
GENDER IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Gender relations are global. They are key to understanding how the world works today. War, globalisation, sexuality, migration, representation, employment, media, history – all of these are gendered. If you are interested in global power relations, a gender analysis is essential.

But what is GENDER? Gender can mean men and women, and the relationship between them. But it is also about masculinity and femininity, divisions of labour, self-presentation, public and private spheres, access to institutions and the organisation of family life. It can be understood as static or in flux, oppressive or a source of pleasure.

From our global perspective, gender always intersects with other categories of analysis such as race, ethnicity, class and sexuality. And because gender relations work in all spheres of life, interdisciplinarity is key to their analysis and transformation.

Take one of the five Gender Studies degrees at the LSE Gender Institute and you will be able to put gender in global perspective.



Anne Phillips
Professor of Political and Gender Theory
Director, LSE Gender Institute

“THE ART OF DIALOGUE DEPENDS ON BEING
AWARE NOT JUST OF WHERE ONE STANDS,
BUT ALSO OF HOW ONE’S LOCATION MIGHT
LOOK FROM A DISTANCE.”

Vron Ware

GENDER AT LSE

The Gender Institute was established in 1993 and serves as a focus for interdisciplinary gender research and teaching across the LSE.

In research and teaching terms, the Institute is unique, bringing together social sciences and humanities approaches in order to address key problems in Gender Studies transnationally. We provide a leading role internationally in combining innovative theory and epistemology with policy concerns. Our research-led approach results in a vibrant research environment and a unique teaching programme that prepares students for various careers within and outside of academia. We train the largest number of postgraduates qualifying in Gender Studies anywhere in Europe.

“FEMINIST POLITICS AIMS TO END DOMINATION, TO FREE US TO BE WHO WE ARE – TO LIVE LIVES WHERE WE LOVE JUSTICE, WHERE WE CAN LIVE IN PEACE. FEMINISM IS FOR EVERYBODY.”

bell hooks

RESEARCH CULTURE

The research work of the Institute is informed by the belief that all social and cultural processes are gendered, and that understanding gender relations is therefore a crucial component of social and cultural research. Research at the Gender Institute promotes and understands gender research in a range of ways, as both object of study and way of studying.

Our research focuses on gender relations, masculinities and femininities, intersections across differences, gender as a symbolic or narrative structure, as well as an epistemological vantage point to address and transform social, cultural or textural understandings and practices. In this respect, the very way in which gender is conceptualised at the research level is interdisciplinary, drawing on a range of contexts and tools from different disciplines, and developing its own. The focus of research ranges across local, national and international contexts, and the relationship between gender and global processes has become an increasingly common concern. Our insistence on an interdisciplinary and transnational approach to research marks us out as distinctive and as attractive to partners within and outside of the academy, many of whom participate actively in our broader research culture.

The Gender Institute constitutes a research culture that includes all its members – permanent and temporary faculty, visiting scholars, research and Masters students. It is the energy created by crossovers among colleagues that makes the Institute such an exciting place to work.

RESEARCH AREAS

The research work of the Gender Institute is critical, transnational, and interdisciplinary. Our research is variously positioned in relation to different fields of study within the social sciences and humanities, but in each case, the focus on gender means testing conventional disciplinary boundaries and developing alternative methodologies. All the work addresses, in some way, the tenacity of gender power relations and gendered inequalities in a period of global transformation.

BODIES AND SEXUALITIES

Research in this field includes analysis of the body as property, and body as commodity, and what, if anything, makes the body special. It also addresses the relationship between gender and sexuality, with an emphasis on local and transnational spaces and flows.

GENDER AND SOCIAL POLICY

Using a gendered perspective, research in this theme documents social, economic and political change and critically analyses individual, family, and policy responses, using both cross-national comparative methodologies and in-depth case studies.

REPRESENTATION, NARRATIVE AND CULTURE

This theme brings together colleagues who work on gendered representations in film, literature and theory. The work addresses ageing and subjectivity, affect, classed dimensions of narrative, and the history of feminist theory.

GLOBALISATION, DEVELOPMENT AND INEQUALITIES

Research in this theme includes social and economic transformation in the global North and South, focusing on gendered relations, rights, citizenship and social justice and resilience and change with respect to work, security, migration, poverty and the social reproduction of daily life.

PhD applications are welcome in any of the above areas.

PHD PROGRAMME

The Gender Institute houses between 15 and 20 research students at any given time, and welcomes up to four new students to its PhD programme each year.

Some 30 students have graduated since 2001, moving into academic positions all over the world, as well as into consulting, business and policy posts. Here we address what is particular to the Gender Institute PhD Programme, rather than what is available to all research students at the school.

Doctoral students' primary focus from the beginning of the entry into the programme is on their research. The Gender Institute welcomes students working on an impressive range of areas and questions within and across disciplinary perspectives. Thesis topics recent students have focused on include:

'Give Me Myself Again': Sexual Violence Narratives in Popular Music

Professional and Managerial Black African Women: Johannesburg and London's Emerging and Transnational Elites

The Epistemic Status of Women's, Gender, Feminist Studies

Representing Success in Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Programs: A Feminist Ethnography of International Aid and Agencies

The Gender Institute is a vibrant, exciting place to be a research student, and we encourage students to become involved in broader Institute activities such as public lectures, seminars, reading groups and funded projects. Entering students are allocated a main and an advisory supervisor who will work closely with them throughout their 3–4 year full time (or equivalent part-time) registration period. All students benefit from a dedicated work area for research students, fortnightly PhD workshops at which their cohort's ongoing work is discussed, and a first-year training programme in Gender Studies. Upgrade from MPhil to PhD occurs early in the second year of registration.

Gender Institute faculty are keen to work with new doctoral students proposing theses in the research areas above, and we also draw on the expertise of faculty from across the school. Academic condition of entry would usually be a minimum of a high merit (2.1 or 65+) at Masters level, particularly in the dissertation, and applicants should have an academic background appropriate to the proposed topic. But please see www2.lse.ac.uk/genderInstitute/study/phdProgramme/applyingForAdmission.aspx for general information and for details of potential funding (or email H.Johnstone@lse.ac.uk). Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply early in the academic year preceding their intended registration to be considered for LSE scholarships.

SEXISM IS... “THE ENEMY. OF EVERYONE.
MEN STAND TO LOSE BY IT, DIFFERENTLY BUT
AS SERIOUSLY AS WOMEN. AND IT IS TIME TO
TRANSFORM. TO INVENT THE OTHER HISTORY.”

Hélène Cixous



THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

‘On my first day at the Gender Institute I heard one of my peers affectionately refer to it as a ‘bubble’ and I have heard and used this epithet many times since. ‘A thin sphere of liquid enclosing air or another gas’, ‘a place or position that is protected from danger or unpleasant reality’, ‘a state of feeling that is unstable and unlikely to last’? Yes and no. The Institute is a nurturing abode; but it is visionary, not illusory. It offers its research students substantive training preparing them for their lives after the PhD yet chooses to initiate them in a welcoming and supportive way.

Thanks to the broad expertise of the Gender Institute’s staff and its numerous affiliates from across the School we have access to an invaluable resource of knowledge. We also have the opportunity to gain experience in other tasks that form part of the academic everyday such as publishing, teaching and event organising. The research process is hard at times but it happens in an inspiring place bursting with ideas and with politics whose talented listeners are committed to giving each and everyone a voice. The Institute appears as a shelter. Its walls, however, are permeable. Attachment to it stretches over disciplines, theories, continents and generations.

This is not least reflected in its diverse cohort of students. This group absorbs the largest part of the anxiety a PhD might entail and shares many of its pleasures. Whether working from within the Gender Institute or from elsewhere, we convene there in a fortnightly seminar in which we present and discuss our work. We congregate over lunch once a month. We meet at many of the renowned receptions the Institute hosts after its public lectures. Or we just chance upon each other in our common room in which research students, staff and visitors mingle whenever they pass by. It is not uncommon to find these people revisiting the Institute after they have moved on – still bubbling with enthusiasm’.

Jenny Bredull, PhD Representative 2010

MSC MASTERS PROGRAMMES

We run a large Masters programme, with five separate degrees, and a PhD programme. Each programme is characterised by its interdisciplinary and transnational approach to Gender Studies, and both students and staff work exceptionally hard to maintain this two-pronged direction. We believe this allows us to develop a creative and distinctive approach to the field.

The combined Masters degree welcome between 80 and 85 students annually. Incoming students can elect to study full-time over a year, or part-time over two years.

The study of gender can take you in several directions. You may wish to focus on the significance of gender for visual or political representation, on the importance of gender for a global economy, on the difference gender makes to research design, or on the relations between gender and related concepts such as sexuality or age. In addition, you may want to approach these questions from historical, contemporary, literary, economic, sociological or other combined perspectives.

With these differences in mind, the Gender Institute has developed five degree options that will enable you to pursue these and other interests. Students – whatever their other interests – take the core course, ‘Gender Theories in the Modern World’, that provides training in key concepts and approaches within the field. In this respect, we like to think of the range of degree programmes we offer as five trajectories within the single field of Gender Studies.

MSC GENDER

The original Gender Institute degree, this programme continues to provide the most flexibility in terms of option choices and overall focus within Gender Studies. MSc Gender offers students the opportunity to develop expertise in the fullest possible range of gender theories, and stresses the significance of gender for knowledge and research design. We train MSc Gender students in how to treat gender as a object of study, as an analytic approach or perspective, and as a way of thinking across disciplinary boundaries. A key focus of the degree concerns the ethical as well as intellectual issues that arise from practicing Gender Studies. Students take the core course in gender theories, a compulsory unit in knowledge and research practice, a dissertation module, and otherwise take options from the range of choices available.

MSC GENDER (RESEARCH)

While in many ways similar to the MSc Gender above, this degree programme further emphasises research design, epistemology, methodology and research methods. Both degrees introduce students to the significance of gender in producing as well as consuming knowledge, and consider the difference a gendered perspective makes to research at all stages in the process, but MSc Gender (Research) also provides a grounding in the ‘how to’ of gender (and related) research. Students take the same core and compulsory units as MSc Gender above, and also take classes on research design, qualitative and quantitative methods in the Methodology Institute. This course has 1 + 3 recognition from the ESRC, which means it is particularly appropriate for HEU students hoping to go on to further research.

MSC GENDER, DEVELOPMENT & GLOBALISATION

Students will acquire a thorough understanding of economic and social processes that shape the contemporary global world and their gendered outcomes; a knowledge of how gender is theorised, understood and incorporated into development analysis, practice and policy.

In addition to the core course in gender theories, dissertation and optional course/s, students follow a specific course in globalisation, gender and development tailored especially for the degree. The course is organised as a number of themed blocks including:

Part 1: definitions and concepts; contemporary theories of gender, development and globalisation; postcolonial and anti-racist critiques and gender, and poverty;

Part 2: work, migration and global divisions; regulating bodies; governmentality and security; and changes, challenges and policies.

The course draws on a wide range of perspectives and considers diverse analytical tools for the analysis of gender, development and globalisation. Emphasis is placed on the analysis and theorisation of socio-economic and spatial aspects of change, particularly changes in working patterns, living arrangements, experiences and subjectivities. Empirical illustrations are provided through a series of case studies and readings of ethnographies linking global and local issues and the lives of people across the globe.

MSC GENDER, POLICY & INEQUALITIES

This MSc provides advanced study in the application of gender theory to social policy, planning and practice with an interdisciplinary approach. It aims to give students a grounded understanding of the concepts and theories relevant to a gender analysis of social policy in a global and comparative context. The teaching will focus on stimulating independent thought on gender and gendered inequalities. All students follow the two core courses, Gender Theories in the Modern World: An Interdisciplinary Approach, and one half unit, Gender and Social Policy: Theory and Practice. Students then take a further half unit with either a European or development focus. In addition, students take a further combination of courses to the value of one full unit and a 10,000 word dissertation on an approved topic.

MSC GENDER, MEDIA & CULTURE

This programme employs a gender perspective to critically examine such questions as how representations in the media may reinforce or subvert social roles and ideologies; how gendered forms of address and identification have been theorised across different visual and print cultures; the role of a variety of media forms in critiquing or contributing to wider social processes such as globalisation, conflict and migration. Students are encouraged to interrogate a variety of theoretical and methodological approaches to the gendered analysis of contemporary media and culture. In addition to the core units in gender theory, media and communication and gender and media representation students can choose from a range of options in the relevant departments. All students on this programme are housed within the Gender Institute whilst the programme is taught jointly by the Gender Institute and the Media and Communications Department.

CURRENT MEMBERS OF STAFF

Anne Phillips

Professor of Political and Gender Theory
Director of the Gender Institute

James Deeley

MSc Programmes Manager & Events Coordinator

Mary Evans

LSE Centennial Professor

Clare Hemmings

Reader in Feminist Theory

Marsha Henry

Lecturer in Gender, Development & Globalisation

Hazel Johnstone

Department Manager

Sumi Madhok

Lecturer in Transnational Gender Studies

Astrida Neimanis

MSc Gender and Gender (Research) Convener

Diane Perrons

Professor of Economic Geography & Gender Studies

Ania Plomien

Lecturer in Gender & Social Science

Wendy Sigle-Rushton

Reader in Gender & Family Studies

Sadie Wearing

Lecturer in Gender Theory, Culture & Media

Kalpana Wilson

LSE Fellow in Transnational Gender Studies

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr Claire Alexander Sociology

Dr Suki Ali Sociology

Professor Sarah Ashwin Management

Professor Lilie Chouliaraki Media and Communications

Professor Catherine Campbell Social Psychology

Professor Sylvia Chant

Geography and Environment

Dr Sharad Chari

Geography and Environment

Professor Christine Chinkin

Centre for the Study of Human Rights; Law

Dr Ernestina Coast

Social Policy, LSE Health

Professor Sarah Franklin Sociology/BIOS

Professor Jude Howell International Development

Professor Janet Hunter Economic History

Professor Kimberly Hutchings

International Relations

Dr Nicola Martin

LSE Disability and Well-being Service

Professor Linda Mulcahy Law

Dr Coretta Phillips Social Policy

Dr Hakan Seckinelgin

Social Policy and LSE Global Governance

Dr Janet Stockdale Social Psychology



ASIYA ISLAM

MSc Gender, Media & Culture (2009–10)

When I came to London to study MSc Gender, Media and Culture, I had pretty high expectations. And, I am glad to say, the GI went above and beyond those expectations. I can say with conviction that the decision to attend the GI was absolutely right. It's hard to say what I enjoyed most, but I think the best part of being at GI was the vibrant academic atmosphere. My dissertation topic was on the performative nature of stereotypes of Third World women in UK media and I currently work on the LSE Equality & Diversity Team, with plans to embark on a PhD in a couple of years!



DANIEL DANSO

MSc Gender & Media (2004–5)

I graduated from the GI with a Master's Degree in Gender and the Media, and since then, I have had an exciting and varied career. I have worked for an Equality and Diversity consultancy; advised on a film dealing with women's issues in higher-level management; wrote and facilitated several diversity forums, and designed promotional material for an equalities organisation. Currently, I am working at Stonewall in the Workplace Department as a client manager for the Diversity Champions Programme ensuring that organisations have inclusive and positive environments for LGBT employees and customers. My list of clients include Microsoft UK, Time Warner, Google, ITV and Arts Council England. My time at the GI gave me the tools to deliver in many different fields.



JEANNE FIRTH

MSc Gender, Development & Globalisation (2009–10)

I came to the GI with a Bachelor of Specialised Studies in Peace and Conflict Studies. What I enjoyed most about being at the GI was getting to know the incredible students, staff and faculty. The casual discussions and debates with other students outside of class were just as important as the learning going on inside the classroom. My dissertation focused on the 'obesity epidemic' by examining Michelle Obama's 'Let's Move' childhood obesity prevention campaign. I'm now eager to explore food systems in global context through activism and further academic work.



JACOB BRESLOW

MSc Gender Research (2010–11)

After graduating from the University of California Santa Cruz's Feminist Studies and Community Studies programs, I applied to the LSE in hopes of continuing my engagement with feminist and queer theory. The LSE drew me in after I had the opportunity to see Judith Butler speak here; I quickly became aware of the amazing minds and talent that the university, and the Gender Institute specifically, brought in and had as faculty. This MSc program challenged me in extraordinarily productive ways, connecting me to people and epistemologies that have and will proactively shape my thinking and my future career in academia.



MONICA WIRZ

MSc Gender (2005–6 & 2007–8)

Monica Wirz works as a management consultant in London, and had originally chosen the MSc in Gender as a way to make sense of the disconnection between her own personal experiences and allegedly 'gender-neutral' work structures. Since then, Monica has incorporated gender in her business, both as an analytical tool in the consultancy process, and in projects such as women returning to work, for the formerly Women's Unit – Cabinet Office, and the strategic plan for Watford Women's Centre. Most of all, Monica believes that her experience at the Gender Institute has given her an unique outlook on life, which has proven to be pivotal in helping her deal with the consequences of an accident, and as a result, in becoming involved in activism and hospital research groups at NHS Trusts.



AMY MOLLETT

MSc Gender & Social Policy (2009–10)

I came to the GI with a degree in English Language and Gender Studies, and some experience of volunteering in the women's sector, which set me up for studying the interactions of gender and social policy. My dissertation focused on the limited voices of sex workers in policy making and policy consultation exercises. One of the best things about the GI is meeting other students; people from all parts of the world, who I'll be in touch with for a long time, I'm sure. After graduating I started working as a research assistant at the LSE Public Policy Group, an independent consultancy and research organisation.

RECENT EVENTS AT THE GENDER INSTITUTE

LECTURES

Ranjana Khanna, Duke University

Asylum and Belonging

Sara Ahmed, Goldsmiths

Diversity Work as a Phenomenological Practice

Jacqueline Rose

Queen Mary, University of London

Freedom is always freedom for the one who thinks differently: Rosa Luxemburg for our times

Michelle Bachelet, UN Women

Empowering Women to Meet New Challenges, from National Development to Conflict Prevention and Post-Conflict Recovery

Minoo Moallem, UC Berkeley

Gender, Race and Religion in the Spectacle of Citizenship

Ratna Kapur, CFLR – New Delhi

Hecklers to Power? The Waning Tools of Liberal Rights and Challenges to Feminism in South Asia

SEMINARS

Coretta Phillips, LSE

Reading Difference Differently: Identity, Epistemology and Prison Ethnography

Nkoli Aniekwu, University of Benin

Domesticating Cairo And Beijing: Prospects And Opportunities For Legal Obligations To Reproductive Rights Protection In Nigeria

Nick Mai, London Metropolitan University

NORMAL in Discussion

Paul Higate, University of Bristol

Vodka from the 'Butt Crack': Homoeroticism, Militarised Masculinities and the Private Militarised Security Company

Edeltraud Hanappi-Egger, WU Vienna

The Triple M of Organisations: Man, Management, and Myths

Anne-Marie Fortier, Lancaster University

Citizenship (un)made: the naturalisation process as technology

New Directions in Gender Research

Marina Franchi, Alexandra Hyde and Joanne Kalogeras (GI Research Student Panel)

OTHER

Gender and Poverty in the 21st Century Panel

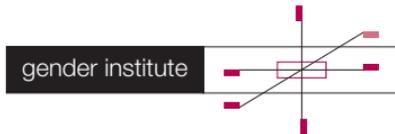
Diane Elson, Nancy Folbre, Maxine Molyneux, Sylvia Chant

40 Years On: where are LGBT rights?

Gay Liberation Front's 40th Anniversary Conference

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