



**LSE**

# LSE GENDER STUDIES: 30 YEARS

*and beyond*

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**10**

**May  
2024**

**9.00AM-  
7.30PM**

**Sheikh Zayed Theatre,  
Chen Kin Ku Building, LSE**

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Please join the Department of Gender Studies in celebrating 30 years of interdisciplinary, critical, transnational and intersectional gender research and teaching at the London School of Economics and Political Science.



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Given its global stature and recognition, it is hard to believe that it was only 30 years ago that the Gender Institute, now known as the Department of Gender Studies, was born. In 1993-94, the interdisciplinary institute was set up at LSE to respond to the urgent need to research, teach and apply knowledge of the structures, formations and changes in gender relations around the globe; after all, gender is a key social structuring block of cultural, economic and political life. The early 1990s were led by a growing realisation among LSE's leading scholars that the world's only university devoted exclusively to the study of the social sciences could not afford to ignore gender relations. Thus, the Gender Institute came into being as a result of the strong intellectual commitments of many renowned feminist, gender and interdisciplinary scholars across the School.

Over the years, the institute grew from its initial staff of two people to become the largest gender teaching and research department in Europe, and by many indicators, the 2nd largest gender studies unit in the world. By all accounts it has been a very busy 30 years! In three decades, our students have gone into the world working toward a fairer and more just planet. LSE Gender's alumni are not only academic leaders in university settings but also institutional heads shaping economic, political, and media activities around the world, with many more translating and applying the interdisciplinary, intersectional, transnational and anti-racist knowledge to transform professional and interpersonal engagements across all levels of civil society.

Departmental teaching at LSE Gender is, in the best LSE tradition, research led. The interdisciplinary intellectual life at the department brings together social sciences and humanities, serving as a unique nodal point for gender research at the School, and underpinning its global recognition.

**Professor Sumi Madhok, Head of Department**



## Schedule:

**9.00 - 9.30 AM Registration with tea, coffee and biscuits**

**9.30 - 10.00 AM Welcome and introduction**

Ania Plomien (LSE) and Larry Kramer (President of LSE)

**10.00 - 11.10 AM Archives and contemporary gender politics**

**Speakers:** Anjali Arondekar (University of California, Santa Cruz),  
Clare Hemmings (LSE)

**Chair:** Sadie Wearing (LSE)

**11.10 - 11.30 AM Break with tea, coffee and biscuits**

**11.30 AM - 1.00 PM Care and reproductive justice**

**Speakers:** Shirin Rai (School of Oriental and African Studies), Tracey  
Reynolds (University of Greenwich), Wendy Sigle (LSE)

**Chair:** Ania Plomien (LSE)

**1.00 - 2.10 PM Catered lunch break (vegan)**

8th floor lobby and roof terrace

**2.10 - 3.40 PM Humanitarianism, peace and security**

**Speakers:** Aisha Ibrahim (University of Sierra Leone), Toni Haastrup  
(University of Manchester), Marsha Henry (Queen's University  
Belfast/LSE)

**Chair:** Aiko Holvikivi (LSE)

**3.40 - 4.00 PM Break with tea, coffee and biscuits**

**4.00- 5.30 PM Identity, sexuality and rights**

**Speakers:** SM Rodriguez (LSE), Sylvia Tamale (Makerere University),  
Sharmila Parmanand (LSE)

**Chair:** Emrah Karakus (LSE)

**5.30 - 6.00 PM Closing Remarks**

Sumi Madhok (LSE)

**6.00 - 8.00 PM Celebratory reception**

8th floor lobby and roof terrace



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# Archives and contemporary gender politics



**Anjali Arondekar** is Professor of Feminist Studies, and Founding Director, Center for South Asian Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz. Her research engages the comparative poetics and politics of sexuality, caste, and historiography, with a focus on Indian Ocean Studies and South Asia. She is the author of *For the Record: On Sexuality and the Colonial Archive in India* (Duke University Press, 2009; Orient Blackswan, India, 2010), winner of the 2010 Alan Bray Memorial Book Award for best book in lesbian, gay, or queer studies in literature and cultural studies. Her second book, *Abundance: Sexuality's History* (Duke University Press, 2023; Orient Blackswan, 2023), grows out of her interest in the archival figurations of sexuality, caste and historiography in British and Portuguese colonial India. She is currently working on a third project on archives of indenture, caste and sexuality in Mauritius.



**Clare Hemmings** is Professor of Feminist Theory in the LSE Department of Gender Studies. She works across feminist and queer studies exploring the political and epistemological impact of the stories we tell about these fields. Her books include *Bisexual Spaces* (2002), *Why Stories Matter* (2011) and *Considering Emma Goldman* (2018). Hemmings' current work is on affect and temporality in 'anti-gender' discourse and on family stories.



**Chair: Sadie Wearing** is Associate Professor in Gender Theory, Culture and Film and Deputy Head of Department (Teaching) in the LSE Department of Gender Studies. Her work primarily examines the ways in which cinema, literature and popular culture reflects and contests wider cultural dynamics and includes questions of gender, sexuality, public and private memory, national identity, aging and ableism. She is the co-author with Niall Richardson of *Gender in the Media* (2014) and co-editor of *The Sage Handbook of Feminist Theory* (2014). Her forthcoming book, *Jill Craigie: Film and Feminism in Post-war Britain*, is co-authored with Yvonne Tasker.

# Care and reproductive justice



**Shirin M Rai** FBA is Distinguished Research Professor of Politics and International Relations at the School for Oriental and African Studies and a Fellow of the British Academy. Shirin is an interdisciplinary scholar and has written extensively on issues of gender, governance and development and gender and political institutions. She is currently researching the impact of COVID-19 on older people and their carers in Coventry and Leicester and is working on two books - *Doing Politics Sideways* (Routledge) and *Depletion: the human cost of care* which will be published by Oxford University Press in 2024.



**Tracey Reynolds** is Professor of Social Sciences and Associate Dean for Research and Knowledge Exchange, and Director of the Institute for Inclusive Communities and Environments, University of Greenwich. Tracey's research areas focus on Black and racialised migrant families and communities. She has conducted extensive empirical research in the UK across a range of social issues including black and minority ethnic families living in disadvantaged communities, and comparative studies of families in the Caribbean and North America. Tracey's achievement was recognised in a national exhibition *Phenomenal Women: Portraits of UK Black Female Professors and Talk* at South Bank Centre, Oct-Nov 2020. This exhibition showcased 45 Black female Professors in the UK (out of a total of 21,000 Professors). She is conferred Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in 2021 and she is Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.



**Wendy Sigle** is Professor of Gender and Family Studies at the LSE Department of Gender Studies and convenor of the MSc in Gender, Policy, and Inequalities. Professor Sigle's recent research brings a feminist critical perspective to the way micro-level quantitative methods are applied in economics, demography and sociology. This research demonstrates how quantitative evidence is, often problematically, interpreted and used to inform policy. Professor Sigle has for many years served as an associate editor of *Population Studies* and *Feminist Economics* and has also contributed to guest editing special issues for both of these journals.



**Chair: Ania Plomien** is Associate Professor of Gender and Social Science and Deputy Head of Department (Research) in the Department of Gender Studies, and Deputy Director of the Research Programme on Gender Justice and the Wellbeing Economy at the LSE. Her feminist political economy research centres on the problem of neoliberalisation of the state and the crisis of social reproduction in Europe, in particular via market-reach into care, food and housing provisioning and the associated gendered harms. She is the co-author of *Gender, Migration and Domestic Work: Masculinities, Male Labour and Fathering in the UK and USA* (2013) and co-editor of *The Sage Handbook of Feminist Theory* (2014).

# Humanitarianism, peace and security



**Aisha Fofana Ibrahim** is a feminist scholar and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion advocate based at Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone (USL) and serving as Dean for the faculty of Arts. She is an Associate Professor at the Institute for Gender Research and Documentation (INGRADO), USL. As an academic and practitioner, Dr. Fofana Ibrahim straddles the divide between policy and practice, both teaching about gender and marginality to graduate and undergraduate students as well as promoting women's empowerment and disability issues in practice. Her current academic research focus is on gender and artisanal mining, women's access to justice and women and disability but has also worked and published on women's political participation, women in war and peacebuilding.



**Toni Hastrup** is a Professor in the School of Social Sciences at the University of Manchester. A feminist researcher and teacher, she is particularly interested in the ways in which gendered and racial hierarchies reassert themselves in ostensibly emancipatory interventions in global politics. She is especially interested in regional security practices in Africa and Europe, and the politics of knowledge production. In addition to her scholarly interests, Toni is also interested in the state of the discipline & profession



**Marsha Henry** is a Professor at the Mitchell Institute, Queen's University, Belfast and Visiting Professor at the LSE Department of Gender Studies. Marsha's research is concerned with the gendered and racialised politics of violence; militarisation; global south development; international aid and intervention; and conflict, peace and security. She is the author of several books, the latest of which is: *The End of Peacekeeping: Gender, Race and the Martial Politics of Intervention* (University of Pennsylvania Press). She is currently Associate Editor for Security Dialogue and has helped to develop a range of courses on gender, peace and security at the GEST Programme, University of Iceland; UNITAR, Switzerland; and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeper Training Centre, Ghana.



**Chair: Aiko Holvikivi** is Assistant Professor of Gender, Peace and Security at the LSE Department of Gender Studies. Her research interests relate to transnational movements of knowledges and of people, and how these are produced by and productive of gendered and racialised (in)security. Her book, *Fixing Gender: The Paradoxical Politics of Training Peacekeepers*, examines epistemologies of gender training and will be published by Oxford University Press in July 2024.

# Identity, sexuality and rights



**SM Rodriguez** is Assistant Professor of Gender, Rights and Human Rights in the LSE Department of Gender Studies. Dr Rodriguez's research spans concerns of criminalised, queer, and/or disabled people of African descent and relies on engaged methodologies to answer questions of transformative change. They are the author of *The Economies of Queer Inclusion: Transnational Organizing for LGBTI Rights in Uganda* (2019), in addition to numerous publications for *Agenda*, *GLQ*, *Comparative Sociology*, *Oxford University Press*, and more.



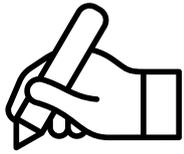
**Sylvia Tamale** is a leading African feminist and scholar. She recently retired from Makerere University's School of Law where she served for 36 years and was the first female Dean of Law in the country. She has been a visiting Professor in several academic institutions globally and serves on several international human rights boards. She has numerous publications to her name including the award-winning book, *Decolonization and Afro-Feminism* (Daraja Press, 2020). She holds a Bachelor of Laws from Makerere, a Masters in Law from Harvard University and a Ph.D. in Sociology and Feminist Studies from the University of Minnesota. In 2021 she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Law by the University of Pretoria, South Africa.



**Sharmila Parmanand** is Assistant Professor in Gender, Development and Globalisation in the LSE Department of Gender Studies. She is also an Associate Academic at the LSE Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre and co-convenor of the Development Studies Association Women and Development Study Group. Her research examines the colonial histories and gendered logics that underpin development and humanitarian interventions in the global south. In her forthcoming book titled, *Saving Our Sisters: The Politics of Anti-Trafficking and Sex Work in the Philippines*, Dr Parmanand uses the Philippines as a case study to show how anti-trafficking invokes the language of development and human rights to entrench border control practices and the gendered policing of precarious workers.



**Chair: Emrah Karakus** is an LSE fellow in Gender and Human rights and his interdisciplinary research lies at the intersection of cultural anthropology, critical security studies, and gender and sexuality studies, with a focus on the modern Middle East. He is currently working on his book project, *Queer Debt: Affective Politics of Security and Intimacy in Kurdish Turkey*, which draws on 18 months of Wenner-Gren Foundation-funded fieldwork, exploring how the Kurdish notions of debt (bedel), right, and repayment are taken up, adapted, and deployed by queer and trans Kurds as they stake claims to a livelihood.



**What do you think the future of Gender Studies holds? Where would you like to see it go?**

Share your thoughts and tag us @LSEGenderTweet (X) or @LSEGender (Instagram)



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# Notes



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