



INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
AND HUMANITIES  
SKOPJE

— KVINNA  
— KVINNA



GENDER EQUALITY EDUCATION FOR PRACTITIONERS,  
FROM THEORY TO POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

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ABOUT THE PROGRAM

*GEEP (Gender Equality Education for Practitioners, From Theory to Policy Implementation)* programme will strengthen the participants' theoretical and practical tools for responding to the challenge of gender inequality within their areas of work, in order to enable them to meet complex societal challenges in an increasingly anti-feminist context. They will get the opportunity to operationalise the learnings during the programme, supported by the mentoring component. The programme is built on expert knowledge of current challenges in the Western Balkans region related to gender equality, and participants will be equipped with knowledge to implement change work to counter these challenges. There is also an exchange component built into the programme through the regional approach, as well as the close collaboration between Kvinna till Kvinna as a Swedish actor, and ISSHS in North Macedonia. The programme will contribute to mutual learning between Sweden, an EU member state, where the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation is the implementing partner and the EU neighbourhood region of Western Balkans. Young professional participants will benefit from creating new networks amongst themselves, as well as with experts and practitioners in gender equality in Sweden, North Macedonia and the Western Balkan region.

The programme is inviting young professionals from the civil society, local authorities, and private sector to attend gender equality and feminist training as part of the change they want to create in their organisational environment.

Module 1:  
INFORMAL EDUCATION IN GENDER  
AND FEMINIST STUDIES:  
GRASPING THE FUNDAMENTALS.  
(PART 1)

*07th of June till 24th of June 2024*  
*Hybrid format (In person and via ZOOM)*

## TEACHER:

Prof. Katarina Kolozova, ISSHS

## OUTLINE OF THE MODULAR COURSE ON

- History of feminism and history of ideas of gender studies.
- Where we are now: The Third Wave, and its Horizon.
- Intersectionality in and of itself, as well as a crosscutting approach applied in all modules.
- Challenges to the current consensus: xenofeminism, feminist materialism and Marxism

## THE OBJECTIVE OF THE COURSE:

The mainstream understanding of policy creation and policy analysis when it comes to gender and its inclusion is aligned with the post-90' paradigm of what is usually termed constructivism ("gender is a construct"), intersectionality, and third wave feminism (the latter, oddly enough has been equated with "gender theory" which, according to the less knowledgeable, in fact does not include feminism at all). This is the premise which shapes the objective of the course. As for its overall objective, this course seeks to examine the concepts many young professionals use and understand spontaneously, without sufficient understanding based in academic frameworks, and offer understanding of the history of ideas behind the current academic and professional mainstream debates on the issue.

Through the lens of said contemporary understanding and established use of terminology we will look at the history of ideas through the "rear view" of present day. In other words, we will always comparatively discuss what a notion (for example, gender equality) means nowadays and what it could mean during the first and second wave of feminism. Or what does one actually mean when stating "gender is a construct": we will look at the origin of this idea, and the accompanying concepts of anti-essentialism, performativity, etc. These are all notions linked or directly stemming from the epistemo-

logical framework of poststructuralism. However, we argue that feminism and related gender considerations have been “constructivist” throughout the history of their very existence, since Wollstonecraft to this day.

The very episteme of the third wave was founded, we will argue, by Judith Butler in 1990 albeit Butler is not the only one – still Gender Trouble lays the foundations for constructivism, (gender) performativity, for “intersectionality” (even if Crenshaw coined the term in its narrow sense, the epistemological foundation is poststructuralism and its epitome is Gender Trouble – hence the quotes), postcolonial and cultural critique inextricably intertwined with gender.

## TOPICS / TIMETABLE / ZOOM LINKS:

07 June (12.00 till 14.00 CET)

Session 1: Introduction into the precursors of the first wave feminism

10 June (12.00 till 14.00 CET)

Session 2: Introduction into the second wave feminism

13 June (12.00 till 14.00 CET)

Session 3: Gender as construct and the dominant ideas around this premise

17 June (12.00 till 14.00 CET)

Session 4: Third Wave feminism and the birth of gender theory

24 June (12.00 till 14.00 CET)

Session 5: Intersectionality and its legal theory aspect of transposition of third wave gender theory into policies of complex intersectional inclusivity

*Guest lecturer: Patricia Reed (one of the founders of Xenofeminism, founding member of Laboria Cuboniks Collective: [https://monoskop.org/Laboria\\_Cuboniks](https://monoskop.org/Laboria_Cuboniks)) (dates to be confirmed)*



## REQUIREMENTS:

Active and regular presence in class, preparation in class by consulting reading and visual support materials.

## FORMAT:

60 minutes lecture, a 15-minute break, interactive 15-20 minutes interactive closing remarks of the lecture, 20-30 minutes of Q&A (and/or short student presentations).

The sessions are conducted in a hybrid format (in person and via the Zoom platform). For participants attending in person, the lectures are held at the Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities – Skopje (str. 20 Oktomvri, nr. 8/2 floor, 1000 Skopje / map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/gajeXyFR5NoW5uoH6>).

## READING MATERIALS:

Butler, Judith. 1990. *Gender Trouble*. London/New York: Routledge.

Butler, Judith. 2024. *Who's Afraid of Gender?* New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux Publishing.

Kolozova, Katerina. 2022. "Poststructuralism." In Asta and K. Hall, *Oxford Handbook of Feminist Philosophy*. Oxford UK: Oxford University Press.

Laboria Cuboniks, *Xenofeminist Manifesto* (2015), available at <https://laboriacuboniks.net/>

**KATERINA (KATARINA) KOLOZOVA**, Ph.D. is the director of the Institute in Social Sciences and Humanities-Skopje and a professor of philosophy, epistemology and gender studies at ISSHS and also at the University American College, Skopje and a visiting professor at Arizona State University-Center for Philosophical Technologies. She is also visiting professor at several universities in Southeastern Europe, most notably at the Department of Political Studies of FMK-Belgrade. In 2009, Kolozova was a visiting scholar at the Department of Rhetoric (Program of Critical Theory) at the University of California-Berkeley, under peer supervision of prof. Judith Butler. Katerina Kolozova was a Columbia University NY-SIPA Visiting Scholar at its Paris Global Centre in 2019 working on issues of authoritarianism and feminism in Europe. Author of the books: *Cut of the Real: Subjectivity in Poststructuralist Philosophy* (Columbia University Press, 2014), *Toward a Radical Metaphysics of Socialism: Marx and Laruelle* (Brooklyn New York: Punctum Books, 2015), *After the 'Speculative Turn': Realism, Philosophy, and Feminism* (co-author, Brooklyn New York: Punctum Books 2016) and *Capitalism's Holocaust of Animals: Non-Philosophical Critique of the Automata of Capital and Patriarchy* (London UK: Bloomsbury Academic, 2019). Her articles and chapter published in the last few years are: Chapter 9 "Poststructuralism" in the *Oxford Handbook for Feminist Philosophy* (Oxford UK: Oxford University Press, 2021) and Kolozova, Katerina (2023). "The Ebb of the Old Liberal Order and the Horizon of New Possibilities for Freedom," In Adrian Parr & Santiago Zabala (eds.), *Outspoken: A Manifesto for the Twenty-First Century* (Toronto CA: McGill-Queen's University Press), pp. 39-46.

*INDIVIDUAL TUTORIALS*

*21-22 August 2024*

*23-25 September 2024*

*ZOOM Sessions*

## MENTORS:

Prof. Ana Blazeva, ISSHS

Dijana Stojanovic Djordjevic, Ph.D., The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation

## FORMAT:

Group Tutorials with students working on presentations and papers related to the knowledge acquired in the 1st half of this Module.

## TOPICS

1. Antigender movements in Europe and WB
2. Gender sensitive policy creation

First mentoring session group 1

Gender sensitive policy creation

*21.08.2024 / 10-11.30 CET*

First mentoring session group 2

Antigender movements in Europe and WB

*22.08.2024 / 10-11.30 CET*

Second mentoring session group 1

Gender sensitive policy creation

*23.09.2024 / 10-11.30 CET*

Second mentoring session group 2

Antigender movements in Europe and WB

*25.09.2024 / 10 -11.30 CET*

**ANA BLAZHEVA**, Ph.D., Researcher/ Assistant Professor at the Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities – Skopje She holds a BA in psychology, an MA in sociology and gender studies and PhD in cultural studies. She teaches qualitative research methodology and elective courses: gender policy and emotions and politics. Her research experience is mostly in qualitative research in the field of policy studies, gender, marginalized communities, media, social inclusion, education, youth etc. She has published research reports, policy research analysis, academic papers as well as manuals. Her interest is in interdisciplinary approach of emotions and politics and socio-political aspects of mental health.

She is also certified Gestalt psychotherapist working in private practice as part of Psihoterapika – Association for Psychology and Psychotherapy and trainer for Gestalt Psychotherapy in Gestalt institute – Sinergija, Skopje.

**DIJANA STOJANOVIC DJORDJEVIC**, (PhD in political science) and has extensive experience and expertise in women's rights, gender equality and project cycle management. She has more than seventeen years of experience working on projects with domestic and international donors as consultant, researcher, and facilitator. As a Programme Officer in Kvinna till Kvinna, Dijana is engaged in several national programmes funded by Sweden/Sida (the Swedish International Development Agency) and EU, working on developing the capacities of local WCSOs and WHRDs and strengthening the feminist movement. She has established good communication and cooperation with numerous representatives of national and international actors, stakeholders, universities and scientific institutions. Dijana has published 15 publications and participated in 10 domestic and international scientific conferences with her papers.

Module 1:  
INFORMAL EDUCATION IN GENDER  
AND FEMINIST STUDIES:  
GRASPING THE FUNDAMENTALS.  
(PART 2)

*10th of October-25th of November*  
*Hybrid format (In person and via ZOOM)*

Teachers:

Prof. Ana Blazeva, ISSHS

Prof. Katerina Kolozova, ISSHS

Prof. Viktorija Borovska, ISSHS

Prof. Zilka Spahić Šiljak, University Gender Resource center

## TOPICS

### Session 6

Motherhood and its realities: feminist perspectives

### Session 7

The ideologies of anti-gender movement and their contextualisation in the Western Balkans

### Session 8

A Feminist Perspective on the Mental Health Crisis

### Session 9

Islamic feminism -activism and trends

### Session 10

Post-third wave gender and feminist theories: xenofeminism, feminist materialism and speculative realism related new strands of gender theory.

### Sessions 11 and 12

Student presentations of papers, PPT, projects of a practical nature (e.g how to formulate an argument in favour of gender inclusive policies in the context of hostile institutions), interactive sessions of Q&A.

## MOTHERHOOD AND ITS REALITIES: FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES

This course explores the social constructions and implications of motherhood and its impact on women's identity. The primary perspective of this course is feministic. It provides greater visibility into the specificities, complexities, and changes of maternal roles, as well as how social aspects and context influence and change them. The demystification of existing ideologies regarding motherhood is particularly addressed in the sections dealing with non-normative forms of motherhood, the myths of the "good mother" and "bad mother," "mother's guilt," social aspects of the umbrella term "post-natal depression," the feminist critique of reproductive technologies, pronatalism and women's reproductive rights, demystifying the notion of maternal instinct, and social constructions of childless women.

## THE IDEOLOGIES OF ANTI-GENDER MOVEMENT AND THEIR CONTEXTUALISATION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

The lecture examines the ideologies driving the anti-gender movement and how these ideologies manifest in the context of the Western Balkans. It explores the context - origins and motivations behind the movement, which opposes gender equality and LGBTQ+ rights, often invoking traditional values and religious beliefs. The lecture provides a feminist perspective on how patriarchy changes in the current situation and context, through discursive analysis of the narratives, messages, and practices of the groups and individuals representing it. It also examines the discursive strategies these groups employ in public spaces and the media. Additionally, the lecture offers a psycho-affective perspective on the phenomenon of anti-gender attitudes and movements within the specific context of the Western Balkans.



## A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE ON THE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

The lecture will address why feminism is a crucial perspective in understanding and addressing the mental health crisis we are currently experiencing. It will discuss feminist policies and strategies aimed at challenging the dominant political strategies of governance in the context of various crises—especially climate, health, social, and economic crises. A particular focus on the mental health crisis will explain how the intersection of social and political dynamics affects people’s daily lives and experiences, influencing psychological functioning and relationships. This will be explored through the intersection of contemporary feminist theory and new insights from neuroscience, particularly in understanding the relational dimension of traumatic experiences. Systemic trauma is treated as one of the central sources of stress, anxiety, and traumatization, though numerous other individual and environmental factors also contribute to an unfavorable context for overall health and well-being (Cvetkovich 2003). The approach to relational and systemic trauma relies on significant feminist interventions in psychology, cultural studies, and the studies of affect.

## ISLAMIC FEMINISM -ACTIVISM AND TRENDS

Islamic feminism today is articulated in various forms of activism, engaged art, literature and legal reforms. The questions I seek to address in this lecture relate to the conceptualization of feminism among Muslim women, its foundation in the key sources of the Islamic faith, and the need to empower women and liberate them from the constraints of patriarchy, oppression, and exploitation. Muslim women are focused on the new interpretive approaches to sacred texts to highlight women’s rights and agency. They also emphasize intersectionality, recognizing the interconnected nature of gender, race, class, sexuality, and other forms of identity and oppression. Intersectional approaches to activism seek to address the diverse experiences and needs of women from marginalized communities. Finally, Muslim women advocate for legal reforms to improve women’s rights within the framework of Islamic law (Sharia). This includes efforts to reform family laws, inheritance rights, and marriage practices to ensure greater gender equality and protection against discrimination and violence.

**VIKTORIJA BOROVSKA** is Program director and Associate professor – Researcher at Institute for Social Sciences and Humanities- Skopje. She holds a Ph.D. in Sociology. She has worked on many projects in the area of social sciences and humanities. Selection of the recent research projects and positions: Researcher “Independent Context Watch”; Coordinator and researcher from the Macedonian partner of the regional project: “Religion in Western Balkan societies” Project Researcher: Analysis of Gender Issues in Program Concepts and Content of the Mass Media and Analysis of the Presentation and Presentation of Women and Men in Program Concepts and Content; Researcher and coordinator of the public opinion research of the project: Research on Gender Equality in the Municipality of Polog Region as part of Equality and Gender Mainstreaming Across Borders; Researcher: “Official Language Usage in Municipalities in the Republic of Macedonia”; Researcher: “Skopje 2014 Project and its Effects on the Perception of Macedonian Identity Among the Citizens of Skopje”; Project researcher: “Ethnic and Gender Inclusion in the LGBTI Movement in Macedonia”; Trainer of trainings organized by the Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities – Skopje: “Gender equality as a social value and policy making for its introduction in the practice of institutions and society”, Researcher of the project Gender, Migration, Intercultural Relations- Ge.M.I.C; founded under FP 7- Cooperation - .Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities.

She also has the methodological experience in designing quantitative/qualitative methodology of research projects, as well as practical experience in collecting qualitative and quantitative data, processing of data and its analysis.

**ZILKA SPAHIĆ ŠILJAK** is associate professor in gender studies, Muslim feminist and activist. Her scope of work includes addressing cutting edge issues involving human rights, politics, religion, gender-based violence, education and peace-building with more twenty years of experience in academic teaching and activism. She was post-doctoral fellow at Harvard University and a researcher at Stanford University and taught at various US and European universities. She currently serves as academic director of the gender resource Center at the University of Sarajevo and as director of TPO Foundation. She also teaches at several universities as guest lecturer and she launched the first online school Feminism and Religion (FER) for the Balkans region as a platform for challenging gender stereotypes that are often justified both by religion and culture.

She is authored and co-authored several books.

1. Gender Equality Barometer of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo: United Nations Development Programme, 2024).
2. Rod i globalizacija (Gender and Globalization), University Gender Resource center and TPO Foundation, Sarajevo, 2023.
3. Mainstreaming Gender Quality at Universities in the Balkans, Scholars Press, 2023.
4. The Balkans Labyrinth: Culture, Gender and Leadership, Scholars Press, 2021.
5. Sociology of Gender: Feminist Critic, Sarajevo: TPO Foundation, 2019.
6. Living Values: Global Ethos in Local Context of BiH, Sarajevo: TPO Foundation, 2018.
7. Shining Humanity. Life Stories of Women in BiH, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2014.
8. Contesting Female, Feminist and Muslim Identities. Post-socialist contexts in Bosnia i Herzegovina and Kosovo, CIPS of the University of Sarajevo 2012);
9. Women, Religion and Politics, IMIC, TPO, CIPS of the University of Sarajevo, 2010.

She co-designed a documentary film: Bosnian Muslim Women's Rituals - Bulas Singing, Reciting and Teaching in Sarajevo, <https://modernity.ku.dk/documentary>

MODULE 2:  
LEARNING HOW TO TRANSFER ACADEMIC OR  
THEORETICAL CONCEPTS INTO POLICY IDEAS  
AND PLANS OF ACTION.

*15th February - 01st of May*  
*Hybrid format (In person and via ZOOM)*

This module is focused on capacity building in transforming the academic knowledge and values of gender equality into policies, increasing the capacity of participants of recognising how the anti- gender movement abuses gender theory to pervert it into its opposite, which is the main challenge in the implementation of the Istanbul Convention and the adoption of the new gender equality legislation. We intend to raise the capacity of the participants to adjust the conventional skills developed in the West of anti-harassment policy and gender responsiveness in policy planning and budgeting to the cultural context of North Macedonia and Western Balkans.

Based on the Position papers developed during the summer tutorials, participants will be grouped into max 5 groups to develop policy essay grounded in academic knowledge they will acquire and theory of change (in terms of policy they will receive tutorials on) focusing on the sub-topics derived from their position papers. In short, the main take-aways from the tutorial phase will comprise the topic of these essays. All participants will take part in one 5 day workshop as well as group (online) mentoring. They will be expected to present their essays and other outputs they may come up with in the process of Module 2.

Workshop of transforming academic knowledge into actionable practice by way of formulating a policy vision

Individual tutorials

Second Workshop

Individual tutorials

MODULE 3:  
SUMMER SCHOOL IN SWEDEN: EXPANDING THE  
ONSITE REGIONAL COMPONENT:  
A SUMMER SCHOOL IN SWEDEN IN THE THEME  
OF FEMINIST EDUCATION, WHEN THEORY AND  
PRACTICE COME TOGETHER

*Location: Stockholm, Sweden*

*Dates: 3-7 June 2025*

This module is aimed to prepare participants to advocate and raise awareness successfully in a climate of a growing anti-gender movement, and gender mainstreaming abused to silence feminist voices and the very idea of the pertinence of feminism today.

4 June:

Project and Change Management, Gender Equality and Feminism in Sweden and your countries, Get your message through - media training

5 June:

WPS and anti-gender movements - Visits from the Gender Equality Agency of Sweden, study visits to relevant Swedish CSOs and authorities

6 June:

Visits to Swedish CSOs, authorities and companies that have innovative gender equality mainstreaming practice - to be confirmed (depending on selected participants)

Extra Curriculum

JULIA KRISTEVA, MIGLENA NIKOLCHINA

WITH KATARINA KOLOZOVA AS INVITED

LECTURER

THE FEMININE IN AN AGE OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL

TRANSFORMATION

*Dates: 8th to 15th of September 2024*

*Online*



In the accelerated anthropological transformation at the beginning of this third millennium, women are at once an emerging force, on the same level with its upheavals in values and identities, AND an irreducible otherness—object of desire, fear, and envy, of oppression and exploitation, of abuse and exclusion. Julia Kristeva’s masterclass will focus on the transformative potential of what she conceptualizes as the feminine: not femininity, not femaleness or womanhood but a specific aspect of the human psyche which might be the proper engine of our capacity to change.

Lecture 1. Feminine Oedipus or, about female sexuality. (Kristeva)

Lecture 2. The Female Genius (Arend, Klein, Colette) (Kristeva)

In the second part of the course Miglena Nikolchina will approach works of science fiction (the TV series Battlestar “Galactica,” Blade Runner and BladeRunner 2049, Alien from the first one to Prometheus and Alien: Covenant) in order to foreground the role that maternity and (pro)creation play in attempts to define the human vis-à-vis the machine. Kristeva’s concept of the feminine will be examined in the framework of what Freud termed “psychic revolution of matter”: the revolution which is arguably at the center of Kristeva’s thought from her earliest writing to her latest.

Lecture 1. Being Born or Being Made? Kristeva’s Concept of the Maternal Chora and the Semiotic. (Nikolchina)

Lecture 2. Making Soul by Making Flesh: Kristeva’s Concepts of Signifiante and Transubstantiation. (Nikolchina)

The third part offered by Katarina Kolozova focuses on Marx’s notion of “fetish” as commodity or, if the term fetish is problematic in any way, then, quite simply on the problem of commodity as reification of abstraction. There is an unnegotiable categorical distinction between the abstract and the material or physical. The distinction is, let us reiterate,

ate, categorical not ontological. There is a distinction between the two and they should not be conflated or rendered mutually interchangeable. We will look at the dialectics of femininity as commodified and fetishised value (Irigaray), its comparability with Marx's formulae of M-C-M and how philosophy operates as a signifying automation or pleasure principle (Lacan, Laruelle, and the foreclosure of the real). We will also try to tie this discussion with Kristeva's thesis of the Feminine Oedipus.

Lecture 3. Comparability of the Machines of Patriarchy, Capital and Philosophy: The Fate of the Remnants of Flesh and femininity (Kolozova)



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