

Seminar Course

**WOMEN IN GLOBAL HISTORY: AN INTRODUCTION (C. 1800–1950)**

D-GESS, Professorship for the History of the Modern World

Spring Semester 2024



Medical women in India in 1930s (from Margaret Ida Balfour Papers, Wellcome Collection)

**Time:** Wednesday, h 12:15–13:45**Location:** HG E 21**Instructor:** Dr Elena Valdameri**Learning materials:** For each session, readings (♥ = mandatory) are available on Moodle at the following link [Women in Global History](#)**Course requirements:**

- A) Attendance of the sessions (min 80%) and active participation;

- B) Regular reading of the mandatory texts and submission of a list of 4 highlights for each of them (max 150 words per text; min 80% of the sessions);
- C) Group/individual presentation on a session topic, based on the readings listed below and followed by a class discussion;
- D) Final paper providing a critical review of a session (this must be different from the one chosen for the presentation) or commentary of the graphic history by Trevor Getz and Liz Clarke, *Abina and the Important Men* (Oxford University Press, New York 2012). Both papers and commentary must be between 1200 and 1500 words for Bachelor students and between 2000 and 3000 words for Master students. The deadline for submission is **30 June 2024** (samples can be found on Moodle).

**Final grade**

A + B = 30 %

C = 35 %

D = 35 %

**Class discussions:**

Classroom culture will be democratic and collaborative. In order to ensure this, all discussions will be conducted respectfully. We will criticise ideas and not people having certain ideas that are not in line with ours. We will employ gender-, racial-, ethnic- and class-sensitive language. We will listen until a person has finished speaking. Nobody should speak more than twice in a row. Everybody should make an effort to speak at least once. All questions will be welcome as there is not such a thing as a stupid question. We all bring to the class different kinds of knowledge from different fields of studies which are all equally appreciated and valued.

**Summary**

The course explores women's contributions to global history and contemporary society between c. 1800 and 1950. Explaining why women's history exists and why it complicates our understanding of the past, the course critically engages with debates about the role played by women across time, space and cultures. Using family structure, gender ideology, racial and social hierarchy as analytical lenses, it considers key developments in the history of the modern world – and in the particular in the colonial world – that are still largely analysed through a masculine lens such as industrialisation, nationalism and colonialism. Other thematic foci are the emergence of feminist movements and the role of women in the birth control movement and eugenics; women's activism in social reform and colonial 'civilising missions' with a focus on their role as medical doctors and scientific experts; women's achievements in the scientific and academic fields and how these contributed to challenge the ideology of gender. Using primary sources and secondary material and considering the intersections existing between gender, race, class and ethnicity, students will reflect on how gender and sexuality have been socially and culturally constructed by global historical developments into different and historically shifting systems of power relations, and have, in turn, shaped structures, institutions and events.

## Outline of the course

### PART I - Introduction

#### Session 1 (21 February 24)

##### **Welcome: ice-breaker discussion, overarching goals, requirements**

♥ Pamela McVay, *Women: A World History*, Berkshire Publishing, 2023, pp. 17–26.

#### Session 2 (28 February 2024)

##### **Theory and concepts in women's and gender history**

♥ Margaret Strobel and Marjorie Bingham, “The Theory and Practice of Women's History and Gender History in Global Perspective”, in Bonnie G. Smith (ed.), *Women's History in Global Perspective*, Vol. 1, Illinois University Press, Urbana and Chicago 2004, pp. 9–47.

Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks, *Gender in History: Global Perspectives*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Wiley-Blackwell, Malden: MA and Oxford 2011, pp. 1–24.

Judith P. Zinsser, ‘Women's History, World History, and the Construction of New Narratives’, *Journal of Women's History* 12, no. 3 (2000): 196–206.

Sarah S. Hughes and Brady Hughes (eds.), “Introduction: Gendering World history, Globalizing Women's History”, in *Women in World History*, Vol. 2, Reading from 1500 to the Present, Sources and Studies in World History, Routledge, Abingdon and New York 2015 (1997), pp. 1–10.

Judith P. Zinsser, ‘And Now for Something Completely Different: Gendering the World History Survey’, *Perspectives on History*, AHA, 1 May 1996, [Gendering World History](#).

### PART II – Women in historical processes of modernity

#### Session 3 (6 March 2024)

##### **Labour, slavery and industrialisation**

♥ Bonnie G. Smith, *Women in World History. 1450 to the Present*, Bloomsbury Academic, London 2020, pp. 159–183.

D. Alissa Trotz and Linda Peake, ‘Work, Family, and Organising: An Overview of the Emergence of the Economic, Social and Political Roles of Women in British Guiana’, *Social and Economic Studies*, Vol. 49, no. 4 (2000), pp. 189–222.

Theodore Jun Yoo, *The Politics of Gender in Colonial Korea: Education, Labor, and Health, 1910–1945*, University of California Press, Berkeley 2008, pp. 95–126.

Carol E. Morgan, *Women Workers and Gender Identities, 1835–1913, The Cotton and the Metal Industries in England*, Routledge, Abingdon 2001, pp. 1–18.

Eileen Boris and Kirsten Swinth, ‘Household Matters: Engendering the Social History of Capitalism’, *International Review of Social History*, Vol. 68, no. 3 (December 2023), pp. 483–506.

#### Session 4 (13 March 2024)

##### **Between Imperialisms and Nationalisms**

♥ Mrinalini Sinha, “Gender and Nation”, in Bonnie G. Smith (ed.), *Women’s History in Global Perspective*, Vol. 1, Illinois University Press, Urbana and Chicago 2004, pp. 229–274.

Partha Chatterjee, “Colonialism, Nationalism, and Colonialized Women: The Contest in India.” *American Ethnologist*, vol. 16, no. 4, 1989, pp. 622–633.

Joanna De Groot, “Coexisting and Conflicting Identities: Women and Nationalisms in Twentieth-Century Iran” in Ruth Roach Pierson and Nupur Chaudhuri (eds.) *Nation, Empire, Colony: Historicizing Gender and Race*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington 1998, pp. 139–165.

Barbara Spadaro, “The Italian Empire ‘At Home’. Fascist girls, imperial propaganda and the racialized memory of Italy, 1937–2007”, in Clare Midgley, Alison Twells and Julie Carlier (eds.), *Women in Transnational History Connecting the local and the global*, Routledge, Abingdon and New York, 2016, pp. 117–143.

Asuncion Lavrin, “Latin American Women’s History: The National Period”, in Bonnie G. Smith (ed.), *Women’s History in Global Perspective*, Vol. 3, Illinois University Press, Urbana and Chicago 2005, pp. 180–221.

#### **Session 5** (20 March 2024)

#### **Family, Sex and Population Policy**

♥ Mary Jo Maynes and Ann Waltner, *The Family: A World History*, Oxford University Press, Oxford 2012, pp. 95–115.

♥ Mytheli Sreenivas, “Sexuality and Modern Imperialism”, in Robert M. Buffington, Eithne Luibhéid, and Donna J. Guy (eds.), *A Global History of Sexuality: The Modern Era*, John Wiley & Sons, 2014, pp. 57–88.

Sanjam Ahluwalia and Daksha Parmar, “From Gandhi to Gandhi: Contraceptive Technologies and Sexual Politics in Postcolonial India, 1947–1977”, in Rickie Solinger, and Mie Nakachi (eds.), *Reproductive States: Global Perspectives on the Invention and Implementation of Population Policy*, Oxford University Press, New York 2016, pp. 124–155.

Asha Nadkarni, *Eugenic Feminism: Reproductive Nationalism in the United States and India*, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis 2014, pp. 1–32.

David G. Horn, *Social Bodies: Science, Reproduction, and Italian Modernity*, Princeton University Press, Princeton 1994, pp. 46–65.

#### **Session 6** (27 March 2024)

#### **Citizenship, rights and political activism**

♥ Merry Wiesner-Hanks, *Gender in History: Global Perspectives*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Wiley-Blackwell, Malden: MA and Oxford 2011, pp. 155–169.

♥ Fatma Ramdani, ‘Afro-American Women Activists as True Negotiators in the International Arena (1893-1945)’, *European journal of American studies* 10, no. 1 (26 March 2015), pp. 1–21.

Susan Zimmermann, “The International Labour Organization, Transnational Women’s Networks, and the Question of Unpaid Work in the Interwar World”, in in Clare Midgley, Alison Twells and Julie Carlier (eds.), *Women in Transnational History Connecting the local and the global*, Routledge, Abingdon and New York, 2016, pp. 33–53.

Mona L. Siegel, *Peace on Our Terms. The Global Battle for Women's Rights After the First World War*, Columbia University Press, New York 2020, pp. 12–50.

Mrinalini Sinha, “Suffragism and internationalism: The enfranchisement of British and Indian women under an imperial state”, in Fletcher, I.C., Levine, P., & Mayhall, L.E.N. (eds.) *Women's Suffrage in the British Empire: Citizenship, Nation and Race*, Routledge 2000, pp. 224–239.

**Session 7** (10 April 2024)

### **Humanitarianism, philanthropy and charity**

♥ Dolores Martín-Moruno, “A female genealogy of humanitarian action: compassion as a practice in the work of Josephine Butler, Florence Nightingale and Sarah Monod”, *Medicine, Conflict and Survival*, Vol. 36, n. 1 (2020), 19-40.

♥ Maria Framke, “The Politics of Gender and Community: Non-Governmental Relief in Late Colonial and Early Postcolonial India”, in E. Möller et al. (eds.), *Gendering Global Humanitarianism in the Twentieth Century*, Palgrave Macmillan, Cham 2020, pp. 143–166.

Elisabeth Piller, “Beyond Hoover. Rewriting the History of the Commission for Relief in Belgium (CRB) through Female Involvement”, *The International History Review*, Vol. 45, n. 1 (2023), 202-224.

Eliza Riedi, “Assisting Mrs Tommy Atkins: Gender, Class, Philanthropy, and the Domestic Impact of the South African War, 1899–1902”, *The Historical Journal*, Vol. 60, n. 3 (2017), 745–769.

Uditi Sen, ‘Social Work, Refugees and National Belonging: Evaluating the “Lady Social Workers” of West Bengal’, *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* 44, no. 2 (4 March 2021): 344–61.

**Session 8** (17 April 2024)

### **Race and modern science**

♥ Rebecca Hodes, “The ‘Hottentot Apron’: Genital Aberration in the History of Sexual Science,” in Veronika Fuechtner et al. (eds.), *A Global History of Sexual Science, 1880–1960*, University of California Press, 2018, pp. 118–38.

♥ Londa Schiebinger, “Why Mammals Are Called Mammals: Gender Politics in Eighteenth-Century Natural History,” *The American Historical Review*, vol. 98, no. 2, 1993, pp. 382–411.

Mary Poovey, “‘Scenes of an Indelicate Character’: The Medical ‘Treatment’ of Victorian Women.” *Representations*, no. 14 (1986): 137–68.

Divya Rama Gopalakrishnan, ‘Anthropometry and Lock Hospitals in Nineteenth-Century Madras’, *Society*, 11 December 2023, [link](#).

Laura Briggs, “The Race of Hysteria: “Overcivilization” and the “Savage” Woman in Late Nineteenth-Century Obstetrics and Gynecology’, *American Quarterly* 52, no. 2 (2000): 246–73.

**Session 9** (24 April 2024)

### **Physical culture and sport**

♥ Elena Valdameri, ‘Training Female Bodies for New India: Women’s Physical Education between Global Trends and Local Politics in Colonial South Asia, c. 1900–1939’, *The International Journal of the History of Sport*, Vol. 39, no. 11 (2022), pp. 1240–64.

♥ Patricia Vertinsky ‘Gender Matters in Sport History’, in Robert Edelman and Wayne Wilson (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Sports History*, Oxford University Press, New York 2017, pp. 113–130.

Mike Callan, Conor Heffernan and Amanda Spenn, ‘Women’s Jūjutsu and Judo in the Early Twentieth-Century: The Cases of Phoebe Roberts, Edith Garrud, and Sarah Mayer’, *The International Journal of the History of Sport*, Vol. 35, n. 6 (2018), pp. 530–53.

Florys Castan-Vicente and Anaïs Bohuon, ‘Emancipation through Sport? Feminism and Medical Control of the Body in Interwar France’, *Sport in History*, Vol. 40, no. 2 (2 April 2020): 235–56.

Gigliola Gori, ‘A Glittering Icon of Fascist Femininity: Trebisonda “Ondina” Valla’, *The International Journal of the History of Sport*, Vol. 18, no. 1 (2001), pp. 173–95.

Gertrud Pfister, ‘The Medical Discourse on Female Physical Culture in Germany in the 19th and Early 20th Centuries’, *Journal of Sport History*, Vol. 17, no. 2 (1990), pp. 183–98.

### **Part III – Case studies in women and knowledge production**

#### **Session 10** (8 May 2024)

##### **Women medical doctors in contact zones**

♥ Ruramisai Charumbira, ‘Becoming Imperial: A Swiss Woman’s Shifting Identity in British Southern Africa’ in Patricia Purtschert and Harald Fischer-Tiné (eds.), *Colonial Switzerland. Rethinking Colonialism from the Margins*, Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke 2015, pp. 157–178.

Katharina Stornig, ‘Cultural Conceptions of Purity and Pollution: Childbirth and Midwifery in a New Guinean Catholic Mission, 1896–c. 1930,’ in Judith Becker, ed., *European Missions in Contact Zones: Transformation through Interaction in a (Post-)Colonial World*, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, Göttingen 2015, pp. 107–123.

Samiksha Sehrawat, *Colonial Medical Care in North India: Gender, State, and Society, c. 1830-1920*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi 2013, pp. 100-154.

Khaled Fahmy, ‘Women, Medicine, and Power in Nineteenth-Century Egypt’, in Lila Abu-Lughod, *Remaking Women. Feminism and Modernity in the Middle East*, Princeton University Press, Princeton 1998, pp. 35–72.

#### **Session 11** (15 May 2024)

##### **Women writing history**

♥ Bonnie G. Smith, *The Gender of History. Men, Women and Historical Practice*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge: MA, 1998, pp. 37–69.

Deborah Wynne, ‘Hysteria Repeating Itself: Elizabeth Gaskell’s Lois the Witch’, *Women’s Writing* 12, no. 1 (1 March 2005), pp. 85–97.

Antoinette Burton, *Dwelling in the Archive. Women Writing House, Home and History in Late Colonial India*, Oxford University Press, New York 2003, pp. 101-135.



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Gianna Pomata, 'Amateurs by Choice: Women and the Pursuit of Independent Scholarship in 20th Century Historical Writing', *Centaurus*, Vol. 55, no. 2 (2013), pp. 196–219.

**Session 12** (22 May 2024)

**Reading Week: No class!**

**Part IV – Wrap-up**

**Session 13** (29 May 2024)

**Final discussion on the course**