

**PS379 Comparative Politics of Gender and Family**  
Fall 2019

**Seminar Leader:** Dr. B. Aysuda Kölemen  
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**Class Hours:** 10:-45-12:15 Monday, Wednesday  
**Office Hours:** W 2:00-4:00 pm

### Course Description

There is ample evidence to suggest that our decisions about marriage and divorce, the number of children we have, the choice between continuing paid work and staying at home as full time parent or caregiver, our career path and ambitions, the amount of time we spend at work, on house chores and on parenting, and even the type of parent we become are profoundly influenced by laws, regulations and policies that shape the labor market and taxation laws, education and health care systems as well as levels of economic inequality. The manner in which the relationship among markets, governments and individuals are structured affects not only our work life or income but also our ideals of romance and happiness, opinions on sexual orientation, how much value we attribute to work and education, how much effort we put into looking physically attractive, and our opinions on what and who makes a good parent.

In this course, we survey the world to compare and contrast how states with advanced industrial welfare states intervene in our family relationships and romantic lives, and shape gender roles. We examine the subtle nudges as well as the strict laws that aim to push us into making decisions that the government prefers. We also inquire the limits, blind spots and failures of gender and family related policies, their unintentional consequences and the social backlash they may set off. The course mainly focuses on advanced industrial countries.

### Readings

Course reader (will be available online).

### Academic Integrity

I expect you to maintain a high regard for academic integrity and engage in good academic practices. Cheating, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Human knowledge is enriched when we borrow other people's ideas, findings and writing and expand on them, develop them and disseminate them. However, you should always give credit where it is due. When you make use of the work of someone, either directly cite the source, or rephrase and reference the original work. Plagiarism is theft of intellectual labor. If you are not certain whether something constitutes plagiarism, please consult me before you turn in the assignment.

The instances in which you fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section III Academic Misconduct.

### Attendance

Attendance at ALL classes is expected. You will lose 10% of your participation grade for each of your absences after the first two absences (that is absences from two sessions of 90 minutes).

Please consult the Student Handbook for regulations governing periods of illness or leaves of absence.

### Participation

Participation constitutes 20% of your grade. Your participation grade will be based on small assignments and the quality of your participation. That means you need to read the assigned readings in advance of the class and be ready to discuss them in class. You are expected to engage with your classmates in a respectful manner. Criticism is welcome, however offensive or demeaning language regarding any individuals or disadvantaged groups will not be tolerated. Please do not interrupt your classmates, and yield the floor after a reasonable amount of time during a discussion.

### Writing Assignments

There will be a midterm and final writing assignment in this course. You will be provided detailed guidelines on these assignments.

### Policy on Late Submission of Papers

Essays that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). If an essay is more than 24 hours late, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline and cannot receive a grade of higher than C. Thereafter, you will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

### **Grade Breakdown**

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Participation (in-class and online) | : 20% |
| Midterm Essay                       | : 25% |
| Final Essay                         | : 35% |
| In-class assignments*               | : 20% |

\*each class will start with a short writing assignment in which you will discuss the assigned readings from your perspective.

### **Course Schedule**

| Week                              | Mon., 10:45-12:15                    | Wed., 10:45-12:15                          | Assignment                         |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| <b>Gender and Welfare Regimes</b> |                                      |  |                                    |
| Sep 2-4                           | Block and Somers                     | Esping-Andersen                            |                                    |
| Sep 9-11                          | Gordon                               | Orloff                                     |                                    |
| Sep 16-18                         | Leitner                              | Daly                                       |                                    |
| Sep 23-25                         | Kremer                               | Doepke, Sorrenti & Zilibotti,              |                                    |
| Sep 30-2                          | Randles                              | Brandth                                    |                                    |
| Oct 7-9                           | Ray                                  | Mahon                                      |                                    |
| Oct 14-16                         | Korpi, Ferrarini & Englund.          | Thevenon, O. & Gauthier                    |                                    |
| Oct 21-23                         | Hook                                 | Usdansky                                   | Midterm Writing Assignment         |
| Nov 4-6                           | Bambra                               | Marmot                                     |                                    |
| Nov 11-13                         | Marr                                 | Keck                                       |                                    |
| Nov 18-20                         | Mandel                               | Brady                                      |                                    |
| Nov 25-27                         | McLanahan, S. & Percheski,           | Schütz, G., Ursprung, H. W., & Wößmann, L. |                                    |
| Dec 2-4                           | Kofman, Phizacklea Raghuram & Sales, | Andreß, et al.                             |                                    |
| Dec 9-11                          | Barnett                              | Lind                                       | Final Writing Assignment (Dec. 11) |
| Dec 16-20                         | COMPLETION                           | WEEK                                       |                                    |

I reserve the right to make changes to the reading assignments and dates. It is your responsibility to follow these changes.

*The Welfare State: History and Regimes*

Block, Fred and Margaret Somers. 2005. "From Policy to Perversity: Ideas, Markets, and Institutions over 200 Years of Welfare Debate. *American Sociological Review* 70(2): 260-287.

Esping-Andersen, Gøsta. 1990. *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*, Cambridge, Polity Press. Introduction.

### ***Gender and the Welfare State: A Framework***

Gordon, L. (1992). Social insurance and public assistance: The influence of gender in welfare thought in the United States, 1890-1935. *The American Historical Review*, 97(1), 19-54.

Orloff, A. S. (1993). Gender and the social rights of citizenship: The comparative analysis of gender relations and welfare states. *American sociological review*, 303-328.

### ***Family and Social Care***

Leitner, S. (2003). Varieties of familialism: The caring function of the family in comparative perspective. *European societies*, 5(4), 353-375.

Daly, M., & Lewis, J. (2000). The concept of social care and the analysis of contemporary welfare states. *The British journal of sociology*, 51(2), 281-298.

Kremer, M. (1997). Gender and the caring dimension of welfare states: toward inclusive citizenship. *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society*, 4(3), 328-361.

### ***Parenting Practices and Social Policy***

Doepke, M., Sorrenti, G., & Zilibotti, F. (2019). The economics of parenting. *Annual Review of Economics*, 11.

Randles, J. (2018). "Manning Up" to be a Good Father: Hybrid Fatherhood, Masculinity, and US Responsible Fatherhood Policy. *Gender & Society*, 32(4), 516-539.

### ***Parental Leave***

Brandth, B. & E. Kvande (2018) Masculinity and Fathering Alone during Parental Leave, *Men and Masculinities* 21(1): 72-90.

Ray, R., Gornick, J. C., & Schmitt, J. (2010). Who cares? Assessing generosity and gender equality in parental leave policy designs in 21 countries. *Journal of European Social Policy*, 20(3), 196-216.

### ***Child Care***

Mahon, R. (2002) "Child Care: Toward What kind of "Social Europe"? *Social Politics*, 9: 343-379.

Korpi, W., Ferrarini, T., & Englund, S. (2013). Women's opportunities under different family policy constellations: Gender, class, and inequality tradeoffs in western countries re-examined. *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society*, 20(1), 1-40.

### ***Fertility and Family Policies***

Thevenon, O. & Gauthier, A. H. (2011) Family policies in developed countries: a 'fertility-booster' with side effects. *Community, Work & Family* 14(2): 197-216 (20 p).

### ***Sharing Chores at Home***

Hook, J. L. [Gender Inequality in the Welfare State: Sex Segregation in Housework, 1965-2003](#) American Journal of Sociology 2010 115:5, 1480-1523.

Usdansky, M. L. (2011) The Gender-Equality Paradox: Class and Incongruity Between Work-Family Attitudes and Behaviors. *Journal of Family Theory & Review* 3 pp.163–178.

### ***Healthcare Inequalities and Gender***

Bambra, C., Pope, D., Swami, V., Stanistreet, D., Roskam, A., Kunst, A. and Scott-Samuel, A. 2009. Gender, health inequalities and welfare state regimes: a cross-national study of 13 European countries. *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health*. 63 (1), pp. 38-44. doi:10.1136/jech.2007.070292

Marmot, M. (2018). Social Determinants, Capabilities and Health Inequalities: A Response to Bhugra, Greco, Fennell and Venkatapuram.

### ***Taxation as a Social Policy Tool***

Marr, C., Huang, C. C., Sherman, A., & Debot, B. (2015). EITC and Child Tax Credit promote work, reduce poverty, and support children's development, research finds. Washington, DC: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

### ***The Labor Market***

Keck, W. & Saraceno, C. (2013) The impact of different social-policy frameworks on social inequalities among women in the EU: the labour market participation of mothers. *Social Politics* 20(3): 297-328 (32 p.).

Mandel, H. (Working Paper) Winners and losers: The consequences of welfare state policies for gender wage inequality LIS Working Paper Series, No. 550 Provided in Cooperation with: Luxembourg Income Study (LIS) <https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/95563/1/63826975X.pdf>

### ***Poverty and Inequality***

Brady, D., & Burroway, R. (2012). Targeting, universalism, and single-mother poverty: A multilevel analysis across 18 affluent democracies. *Demography*, 49(2), 719-746.

McLanahan, S. & Percheski, C. (2008) Family structure and the reproduction of inequalities. *Annual Review of Sociology* 34: 257-276.

Schütz, G., Ursprung, H. W., & Wößmann, L. (2008). Education policy and equality of opportunity. *Kyklos*, 61(2), 279-308.

### ***Immigration***

Kofman, E., Phizacklea, A., Raghuram, P., & Sales, R. (2005). *Gender and international migration in Europe: Employment, welfare and politics*. Routledge., Chp. 6 (Women and Gendered Migration in Europe).

### ***Divorce***

Andreß, H. J., Borgloh, B., Bröckel, M., Giesselmann, M., & Hummelsheim, D. (2006). The economic consequences of partnership dissolution—A comparative analysis of panel studies from Belgium, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, and Sweden. *European Sociological Review*, 22(5), 533-560.

González, L., & Viitanen, T. K. (2009). The effect of divorce laws on divorce rates in Europe. *European Economic Review*, 53(2), 127-138.

### **Queerness**

Barnett, M. J. (2018). Queering the Welfare State: Paradigmatic Heteronormativity after Obergefell. Introduction.

Lind, A. (2004). Legislating the family: Heterosexual bias in social welfare policy frameworks. *J. Soc. & Soc. Welfare*, 31, 21.