



GENDER

THROUGH CROSS-CULTURAL LENSES

The five-week program begins in June.
Classes are held twice a week, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Enrollment fee is 1,000 KM per participant.

Upon completion of the Program, the participants will receive a Certificate with 3 ECTS issued by the University of Sarajevo.

To apply for the Program, simply fill out the [online application form](#) and send your CV in English language to cis@cis.unsa.ba.

"We've begun to raise daughters more like sons... but few have the courage to raise our sons more like our daughters."

Gloria Steinem

"The wounded child inside many males is a boy who, when he first spoke his truths, was silenced by paternal sadism, by a patriarchal world that did not want him to claim his true feelings. The wounded child inside many females is a girl who was taught from early childhood that she must become something other than herself, deny her true feelings, in order to attract and please others."

bell hooks, All About Love: New Visions

"Culture does not make people. People make culture. If it is true that the full humanity of women is not our culture, then we can and must make it our culture."

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie



Zilka Spahić Šiljak holds a PhD in gender studies and her scope of work includes addressing cutting edge issues involving human rights, politics, religion, education and peace-building.

She is an associate professor at Cultural Studies, University of Zenica and research associate at Stanford University and guest lecturer at the Center for interdisciplinary studies, University of Sarajevo. (CIS).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

How human beings are raised, socialized, and educated determines how they live their lives to a large extent.

Gender matters!

It is the fundamental distinction of the social life in all cultures but its construction varies across the globe. What is assumed to be “natural” for women and men or what is believed to be inborn male and female qualities are in fact cultural constructs that change through time.

The course offers a cross-cultural exploration into the commonality and diversity of gender roles and identities that can help us understand power dynamics of the globalized world, as well as how gender norms and institutionalized patriarchy underpin social and political inequalities.

The intersection of gender, class and race particularly reveals how interlocking systems of power influence marginalized groups of people.

Using gender as analytical category can help us understand how gender inequalities are created and what the mechanisms to maintain and justify them by social, political and cultural norms are.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Week 1: Gender, biology and evolution

Exploring the conceptual and sociological differences of sex and gender, as well as historical development of gender equality.

Week 2: Public and private worlds

Analyzing the social contract theory and its impact on complex and layered structure of women's lives across cultures; women as social actors and agents within one culture and in their relationship to men.

Week 3: Cultural construction of gender and personhood

Learning how we assign meanings and value to the category of women and men in the world of symbols and how we produce and reproduce stereotyped gender roles and expectations.

Week 4: Culture, sexuality and body

Understanding that sexuality as a social and economic product across time and cultures is fluid and shifting and analyzing how sexual forms and practices, although locally diverse, are increasingly shaped by global products such as mass media.

Week 5: Gender, spirituality and rituals

Comprehending how the religious experience of women is different from that of men; whether and how women become ritual specialists; what religious functions they perform and what implications these ritual activities have for women's prestige, status, and empowerment.