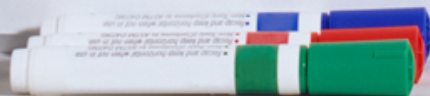


Gender Equality and Law

Prof. Marianna Muravyeva
muravyevam@gmail.com

<http://www.hse.ru/org/persons/112930026>



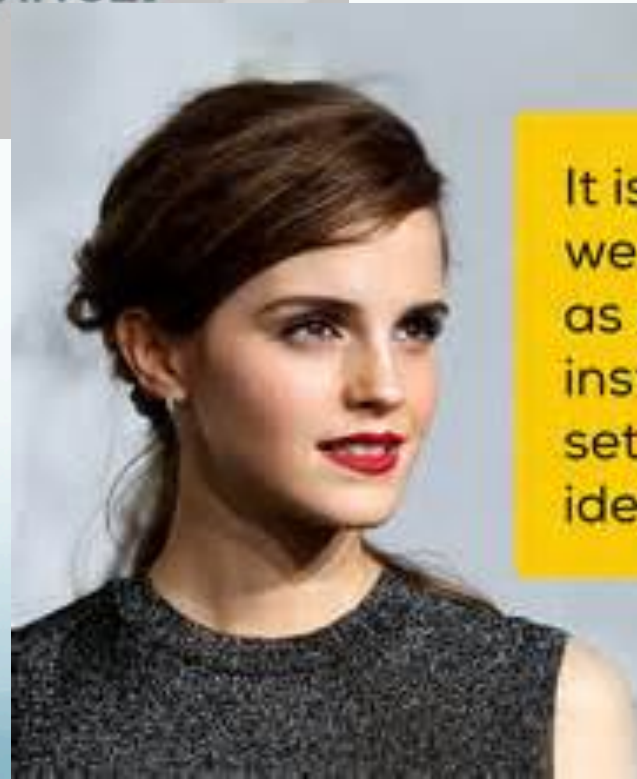
“GENDER EQUALITY IS MORE THAN A GOAL IN ITSELF. IT IS A PRECONDITION FOR MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF REDUCING POVERTY, PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND BUILDING GOOD GOVERNANCE.”

-KOFI ANNAN

What is
gender
equality?



**EQUAL
DOES NOT MEAN
IDENTICAL**



It is time that we all see gender as a spectrum instead of two sets of opposing ideals....



What would you learn?

- How to define legal and gender problems;
- How to apply various concepts, models and theories to gender problems and conduct gender expertise;
- How to critically think about policy issues.

OR SIMPLY

Learn how law help to achieve justice

Theory:

- Explains how two or more concepts (or facts) are related, such as gender roles and law.

Practice:

How to apply law to make life just, fairer and better

You are going to learn about feminist jurisprudence:

Towards a Feminist Jurisprudence

Exploring the debate for and against a distinctly feminist theory of law

Feminist Legal Theory is more than a feminist criticism of the law; it suggests that there is something about the very structure of modern law that is hierarchically gendered.

Reflecting a deep sense of ambivalence about the law, it deconstructs the law's claims to truth, neutrality and objectivity, and hence, its constitution as a field of discrete, unassailable knowledge. Not only is justice *not* blind, but blindness/objectivity is a gendered social construction.



A **Feminist Jurisprudence** involves critical reconstruction of the ideas of equality, justice and rights. It poses theoretical questions about the law: How does the law construct a female subject through language? Why are women excluded from certain areas of the law, and what happens when they are included? Should feminism aspire to replace or reconstruct the framework of modern legal thought?

Arguments For:

- Considers questions about the definition of law and the legal sphere
- Critiques notions of autonomy, objectivity and neutrality of the law
- Shifts debate away from monolithic understanding of law, towards a more concrete, pluralistic conception
- Identifies gaps and contradictions between theory & actuality of standards and ideals

Arguments Against:

- Falls into the trap of operating under predetermined, masculine, positivistic concepts and traditions
- Remains too easily at an abstract level, contributing little to understanding of subtle, multiple and concrete ways legal practices construct and maintain women's oppression
- Fails to recognize and work against the politics of the law

If the law is implicated in the construction & re(production) of gender relations, how far can it be used to change them? Can the masters' tools dismantle the masters' house?

This debate is critical for evaluating feminist legal reform activism. Should victims, activists and scholars strategically engage the law? If so, how?

The law can only ever be one part of the solution to addressing root causes of oppression and subordination of women. Feminist activism & legal theory must commit to diverse, sustained engagement across many fields, addressing root causes as well as the mitigation of harms.

Brittany M. Smith
MSc Gender Candidate
London School of Economics
b.smith13@lse.ac.uk

You will have a closer look at:

- ✓ -- Gender and Human rights;
- ✓ -- Gender discrimination;
- ✓ -- Reproductive rights;
- ✓ -- Gender equality and sexual identity;
- ✓ -- Equal pay;
- ✓ -- Gender-based violence;
- ✓ -- Sexual harassment;
- ✓ LGBTQI and gender equality **AND**
- ✓ **HOW to provide legal protection and support for all these**

Gender equality

Global gender-gap index*, 2014, selected countries



Source: World Economic Forum

*1=perfect equality



Remember:

Gender discrimination is real and only you can make a difference

WELCOME!