

LECTURE / DISCUSSION / DEBATE
POSTMODERNISM / FEMINIST THEORY

Terms and concepts to know:

Androcentric	Constructivism
Deconstruction	Epistemology
Gender	Gender roles
Hermeneutics	Positivism
Postmodernism	Post modern feminism
Social constructivism	Subtext

Discussion and study questions:

1. Discuss some of the criticisms of feminist theories. How do these criticisms compare to criticisms of the other theories of IR?
2. Toward the end of Thorburn's very informative article on the inclusion of feminist theories in the field of IR, she suggests that "[t]he most important question to be answered is: has foreign policy or international economic policy changed at all because of the theoretical and empirical work done by those using feminist approaches to these subjects? Do you believe it has or hasn't changed? Is the world of international relations still stuck in "realist" theories?
3. What does Wendt mean by the phrase "social structures"? Why is it central to understanding his theory?
4. According to Tickner, why does a feminist perspective on international relations continue to remain outside the mainstream of traditional approaches to IR theory? How would a feminist analysis of global terrorism differ from that of a realist?
5. Which "system" is Enloe referring to in her book *The Big Push*? Is it realistic to think that such a system can be overcome after being such a big part of human history? Why or why not?
6. What do you make of the RT video *Her War: Women vs. ISIS*? Does this film in any way undermine the feminist IR thesis? Or does it strengthen it?
7. Why does *Truthout's* Ahn suggest that women be a part of the peace deal in the Koreas? Would following her advice expedite peace on the Korean peninsula? Why or why not?

Readings:

Text. *Conflict and Cooperation*, Chapter 5.

Video:

J. Ann Tickner on how gender impacts politics & international relations.