



# (Post-)marxist feminist perspectives on politics, movements and emancipation

(Post-)marxistiska feministiska perspektiv på politik, mobilisering och emancipation

**Credit points:** 7,5

**Responsible department:** Umeå Centre for Gender Studies

**Main field of study:** Gender Studies

**Level:** PhD Studies

**Subject area:** Gender Studies

**Grading scale:** Pass (G); Fail (U)

## Course approval

The course syllabus has been confirmed by the Director of Umeå Centre for Gender Studies on May 19, 2020 and is valid from autumn semester of 2020.

## Aim and Contents

The course provides an introduction to Marxist theory, post-Marxist perspectives and looks at examples of contemporary feminist research on the relations between economics, politics and subjectivity.

The course addresses basic aspects of Marxist theory and post-Marxism, as well as theoretical perspectives on political mobilization, especially with regard to the formation and change of political movements. The first part of the course provides an introduction to Marxist theory. The second theme focuses on the breaking point and the tension between Marxism and post-Marxism. It also addresses contemporary discussions about populism and the usefulness of this concept for feminist movements. The third theme is about political mobilization through local communities and alternative economies. Issues of production, reproduction and emancipation from a feminist perspective are also continuously discussed.

## Expected learning outcomes

Upon the completion of the course the PhD student should:

### *Knowledge and understanding*

- Account for central perspectives in Marxist theory.
- Knowledge of the emergence of post-Marxism as well as the changes and continuities that exist regarding central issues, methodology and theoretical perspectives in feminist post-Marxism and theories of post-capitalism.

### *Skills and abilities*

- Be able to independently, both in writing and orally, relate to and discuss the relationship between economy, politics, subjectivity and mobilization.
- Be able to both in writing and orally present a written text on a specific theory-related dilemma in relation to the PhD-student's own dissertation.



### *Judgement and approach*

- Ability to critically reflect on Marxism and post-Marxism in relation to a feminist/gender studies academic field.
- Ability to analytically reflect on conflicts and convergences between Marxism, post-Marxism, feminism and various strategies for political mobilization.

### Forms of instruction and examination modes

The learning outcomes are examined through active participation in compulsory seminars where literature is presented and discussed, as well as by an individually written examination text with theoretical grounding in the field based on the doctoral student's dissertation project.

The course is given through lectures and seminars. The course is given in English.

### Course literature

Arruzza, Cinzia, Bhattacharya, Tithi & Fraser, Nancy (2019). *Feminism for the 99 percent: a manifesto*. London: Verso

Alternativt: Arruzza, Cinzia, Bhattacharya, Tithi & Fraser, Nancy (2019). *Feminism för de 99 procenten*. Hägersten: Tankekraft Förlag. (98 s.)

Cameron, J., & Gibson-Graham, J. K. (2003). Feminising the economy: metaphors, strategies, politics. *Gender, Place and Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography*, 10(2), 145-157.

Cameron, J and Gibson, K. (2005), "Participatory action research in a poststructuralist vein" *Geoforum* 36:315-331

De Angelis, Massimo & Stavrides, Stavros (2010). "On the commons: a public interview with Massimo de Angelis and Stavros Stavrides", *An Architektur*, #17, June 2010.

Federici Silvia (2011) 'Feminism and the politics of the commons', *The Commoner*, 24 January. [sduk.us/silvia\_george\_david/federici\_feminism\_politics\_commons.pdf]

Federici Silvia & Caffentziz, George (2014) "Commons against and beyond capitalism." *Community Developing Journal*, 49

Gamble, Andrew (1987). "Class politics and radical democracy", *New Left Review*, 1(164). (review of Ellen Meiksins Wood. *The retreat from class: a new 'true' socialism*, 1986)

Geras, Norman (1987). "Post-Marxism?". *New Left Review*, 1(163), May-June 1987, p. 40-82.

Gibson-Graham, J. K. (1996) *The end of capitalism (as we knew it): a feminist critique of political economy*. Cambridge, Mass.: Blackwell Publishers (selected parts)

Gibson-Graham, J-K., (2008), "Diverse Economies: Performative Practices for 'Other Worlds'" *Progress in Human Geography* 32, 5: 613-632.

Gibson-Graham, J. K. (2006). *A Postcapitalist Politics*, Minneapolis and London, University of Minnesota Press (selected parts)



Gibson-Graham, J. K. (2014). "Rethinking the economy with thick description and weak theory" *Current Anthropology*, 55 S9, Crisis, Value, and Hope: Rethinking the Economy

Gibson-Graham, J.K., Cameron, Jenny & Healy, Stephen (2016). "Commoning as a postcapitalist politics." In *Releasing the Commons: Rethinking the Futures of the Commons*, edited by Ash Amin and Philip Howell, Chapter 12, Routledge.

Howarth, David (2015). "Introduction: Discourse, Hegemony and Populism: Ernesto Laclau's Political Theory", In *Ernesto Laclau: Post-Marxism, Populism and Critique* (Howarth, red.), London & New York: Routledge, p. 1-20.

Laclau, Ernesto (1990). *New Reflections on the Revolution of Our Time*. London & New York: Verso. (Part I, p. 3-85 + Part II, p. 89-132)

Laclau, Ernesto (2005). *On Populist Reason*. London: Verso. (selected parts)

Laclau, Ernesto (2015/2006) "Populism: what's in a name?" & "Why constructing a people is the main task of radical politics". In *Ernesto Laclau: Post-Marxism, populism and critique*, (red. David Howarth), London & New York: Routledge, p. 152-195

Laclau, Ernesto & Mouffe, Chantal (2001). *Hegemony and socialist strategy: towards a radical democratic politics*. 2. ed. London: Verso (selected parts)

Alt: Laclau, Ernesto och Mouffe, Chantal, *Hegemonin och den socialistiska strategin*, Glänta: Göteborg, 1985/2001 (selected parts)

Laclau, Ernesto & Mouffe, Chantal (1987). "Post-Marxism Without Apologies", *New Left Review*, 1(166), 1987. (included in *New Reflections on the Revolution of Our Time*)

Miller, E. (2013). "Community economy: ontology, ethics, and politics for radically democratic economic organizing", *Rethinking Marxism*, 25, 4: 518-533.

Mouffe, Chantal (2018). *For a Left Populism*. London: Verso (selected parts)

Alt: Mouffe, Chantal (2019). *Till vänsterpopulismens försvar*. Hägersten: Tankekraft förlag (selected parts)

Singer, Peter (2000), *Marx: A very short introduction*, Oxford, 108 s.

Alt: Månson, Per. (1997) *Karl Marx: En introduktion*, Göteborg, 128 s.

Van de Sande, Mathijs (2017). The Prefigurative Power of the Common(s). In Ruivenkamp, G. & Hilton, A. (red.) (2017). *Perspectives on Commoning: Autonomist Perspectives and Practices*. London: Zed Books.

Žižek, Slavoj (1990). Beyond Discourse-Analysis. In Laclau, Ernesto (1990) *New Reflections on the Revolution on Our Time*. London & New York: Verso.

Additional literature of about 100 pages may be added prior to the examination assignment and seminars.