10-2017

Putting Gender on the Agenda: A Feminist Approach to Study Abroad

Mary Ellen Lennon Ph.D.
Marian University - Indianapolis, melennon@marian.edu

Holly Gastineau-Grimes Ph.D.
Marian University - Indianapolis, HGastineauGrimes@marian.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://mushare.marian.edu/fp_hss

Part of the Curriculum and Social Inquiry Commons, Latin American Studies Commons, and the Women's Studies Commons

Recommended Citation
Lennon, Mary Ellen Ph.D. and Gastineau-Grimes, Holly Ph.D., "Putting Gender on the Agenda: A Feminist Approach to Study Abroad" (2017). Department of History and Social Sciences. 12.
https://mushare.marian.edu/fp_hss/12

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Publications and Research at MUShare. It has been accepted for inclusion in Department of History and Social Sciences by an authorized administrator of MUShare. For more information, please contact emandity@marian.edu.
Putting Gender on the Agenda: A Feminist Approach to Study Abroad

Dr. Mary Ellen Lennon,
Dr. Holly Gastineau-Grimes,
Marian University
Feminism & Pedagogy

• Feminism: “encompasses ideas about the importance of women and women’s experiences, histories of social movements seeking gender equality, a philosophy of humanism that works as a lens for understanding the entire human condition (not just that of women), and a critical analytical method that interrogates the relationships among gender, sex/uality, race, class, the environment, and power, often using misogyny as an organizing principle to explain inequalities and injustices in these realm” – Crabtree, Sapp, and Licona, 2009, pg. 1

• Pedagogy – Focus on curriculum, instruction, and evaluation
Feminist Pedagogy & Study Abroad

• Approach that strives to not to “tacitly accept” or “reproduce an oppressively gendered, classed, racialized, and androcentric social order” – Crabtree, Sapp, and Licona, 2009, pg. 1

• One woman’s experience does not help us construct a template for understanding the world - Steans, 1998, pgs. 23-27

• Feminist pedagogy not yet embraced in study abroad programs: International travel can and should challenge students to see and understand themselves as ‘the other’
Feminist Study Abroad

• Emphasizes the value of relationships and care in order to understand society and moral choices (Carol Gilligan)

• **Partners** – The premise stems from a feminist perspective

• **Our Project** – Relationship & Research Focused: 1) Intimate research discussions with educators, legislators, university professors, non-governmental organizations, women survivors of domestic violence and lawyers in BRAZIL; and 2) Continued conversations - friendships and research partnerships forged
Global Learning... Association of American Colleges and Universities

“Critical Analysis of and an engagement with complex, interdependent global systems.”

Students Should:

1. Become Informed, open-minded, and responsible – attentive to diversity
2. Seek to understand how their actions affect the local and global
3. Address the world’s most pressing and enduring issues collaboratively
Our Proposal...Women’s Rights and Women’s Empowerment in the Western Hemisphere

**Partners of America, 1964**

- ‘People to People’ Kennedy Alliance for Legislative Fellows in the Western Hemisphere
- Indianapolis Chapter – High School Youth Ambassadors / US Department of State-Funded Exchange Program

**Dr. Ana Paula Motta Costa**

- Skype: “we want to study the lives of women”
- Her work: focuses on child labor in Brazil, and its implications especially on girls/young women
Rights and Women’s Empowerment in the Western Hemisphere

• Spring Workshops

• International Travel to Porto Alegre, Brazil

• Summer Writing Rounds

• The Feminist Archive
• **January** – International Legal Framework and the United Nations

• **February**: All Things Brazil

• **March**: Independent Research

• **April**: Cultural Preparation
Dilma Rousseff

“I speak to you with a feminine voice. It’s the voice of democracy, of equality....

We face an economic crisis that, if it is not contained, can transform into a grave political and social rupture, an unprecedented rupture with the potential to provoke serious imbalances between people and nations. Either we get together, all of us, and defeat this crisis, or we all will be defeated”
“Women’s Rights are Human Rights....

What we are learning around the world is that if women are healthy and educated, their families will flourish. If women are free from violence, their families will flourish”
## Gender Development Index

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>United States</th>
<th>Brazil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Life Expectancy</strong></td>
<td><strong>Life Expectancy</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Women: 81.4</td>
<td>• Women: 78.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Men: 76.7</td>
<td>• Men: 70.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Years in School</strong></td>
<td><strong>Years in School</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Women: 15.7</td>
<td>• Women: 15.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Men: 13</td>
<td>• Men: 14.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Women: $43,054</td>
<td>• Women: $11,393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Men: $63,158</td>
<td>• Men: $19,084</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Intersectionality and Substantive Equality

• “The concept of the simultaneity of oppression is still the crux of a Black feminist understanding of political reality and, I believe, one of the most significant ideological contributions of Black feminist thought.” —Black feminist and scholar Barbara Smith, 1983

• Gender inequality, Racial inequality and Poverty are too often conceptualized as separate problems!

• Formal equality — the rules, criteria, process, etc. do not explicitly discriminate

• Substantive equality — the effect of the rules, criteria, process, etc. is non-discriminatory
Partners
Feijoada 2017

Join us to celebrate the Brazilian culture and enjoy the typical Feijoada while meeting the Rio Grande do Sul Youth Ambassadors 2017.

Brazilian Culture
Vibrant Music
Delicious Food

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2017
FROM 1PM TO 3:30
@ IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
2820 N MERIDIAN ST
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46208
Tickets: bit.ly/1NPttnsFeijoada2017

#HEP2017
International Travel
DAY 2 – PORTO ALEGRE
• Half Day Public School Programs

• Expectations of girls in the classroom and gender expectations of dating heightened

• Solutions – community enrichment centers
• Galera Curticao Project

• Participating schools have students in the eighth grade select a gender-based problem to tackle

• Over the course of the first semester students learn about the issue, get comfortable talking about the problem, and develop a community awareness initiative such as a music video or film
DAY 4 – SANTA CRUZ

• Growing Up Right Project crafted legislation to link the completion of secondary education for students to paid work/internships with the Tobacco Syndicate

• Boys and girls expected by parents to quit school and work on the family farm

• Classes emphasize sustainable rural administration
• City Council shared similar stories that women work against in the United States - The women emphasized that they were in the midst of securing equal rights for women, shifting ‘gendered’ perceptions of women, and addressing domestic violence

• University legal clinic provides help to transgender individuals with legally changing names

DAY 5 – CITY COUNCIL & UNIVERSITY DAY
• Started in the early 1990s to provide legal training for women to become paralegals

• Includes a workshop series on seeing the value of themselves, followed by discussions on the meaning of gender and feminism, and then a series of sessions on rights relating to abortion, sexual orientation and gay marriage, sexual rights, especially of black women, racism, and violence, especially police violence
Courts striving to shift cultural perception of masculinity and love

Men arrested on domestic violence charges required to take part in reconciliation & healing workshops

DAY 7 – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & THE COURTS
The value of a global conversation....and the Feminist Archive

“I HOPE THE FATHERS AND MOTHERS OF LITTLE GIRLS WILL LOOK AT THEM AND SAY ‘YES, WOMEN CAN.’”

DILMA ROUSSEFF, President of Brazil

“And to all the little girls who are watching this, never doubt that you are valuable and powerful and deserving of every chance and opportunity in the world to pursue and achieve your own dreams.”

HILLARY CLINTON
Obrigada!