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17th AJEI Workshop

“GENDER: POLITICS, LABOUR, LAW, DEVELOPMENT”

9 - 12 March 2015

Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India

The “Association Jeunes Etudes Indiennes” (AJEI) is a students’ organization whose members are young researchers coming from various disciplines of the human and social sciences (from master degree to postdoctoral level) and whose area of research is South Asia. Every year, a research seminar in France and a workshop in India bring junior and senior researchers together in order to discuss the topics and papers presented.

The theme of the 17th annual workshop of the AJEI is “**Gender: politics, labour, law, development.**”

Call for Papers

The dynamics of individual statuses and the attribution of gendered social roles have already been studied in details by researchers from virtually all disciplines within human and social sciences. The concept of gender must now be thought of as a social construction of sexual difference. Its manifestation occurs both at the level of processes of differentiation and at the level of the production of a hierarchical order. It can only be understood in articulation with other forms of domination related to caste, class and religion. In the case of India, it has been established that, in spite of a participation of both men and women, indistinctly of their positionality, to public and private affairs, to the transmission of culture, to health, to education and to income, important differences in status, in access to resources and in power emerge while varying according to sex, position within the lineage and the family, age, caste, social class and religion. More recently, differences in gender were reinterpreted through the lens of several controversies which opposed secularism to religion, progressivism to conservatism, globalization to tradition and nationalism(s) to feminism(s).

This workshop aims to be a platform for **young researchers, specialized as well as non-specialized in gender issues**, to present how gender issues can shed a complementary light on

their object of research and/or to illustrate what contribution their own work can bring to current gender topics.

We will favor detailed accounts of social reality, able to render its diversity and its complexity. In that frame, the notion of “intersectionality” has, for almost ten years now, highlighted the process of co-construction characterizing the power relationship at the basis of inequalities and the way various social characteristics intermingle in that process. Instead of fragmenting the analysis of society, approaching gender in terms of intersectionality enables the study of the construction of heterogeneous identities, shaped by multiple social relationships.

We encourage students to propose communications which insist on the intervention and interaction of various social characteristics within the construction of gendered identities, which specify the specificity or the universality of certain situations or which open a comparative perspective.

Students interested in this call for papers can relate their contribution to one or several following axes. Yet, the situations described in these axes are only proposed as examples. They are not meant to be restrictive.

Four axes to approach gender:

Gender and politics:

In this first axis, our aim is to question the Indian political context in its relationship with gender and in the place it attributes to individuals in formal and informal spaces of democracy. In such a perspective, we will question the relationship between gender and power and its exertion, the implications of quota-based policies and historical political parties or movements from the civil society. Finally, we will raise the question of the use of specific feminine characters like Mayawati, Pratibha Patil, Indira or Sonia Gandhi, which, nonetheless, cannot entirely conceal a very strong unbalance in the representation of women in the political spaces of India.

Gender and labour:

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), India’s labour force participation rate for women decreased from 37% in 2004-2005 to 29% only in 2009-2010. According to the ILO, women are in intense competition with men for employment, whereas jobs become rare owing to a context of economic crisis. We will put these indicators in question by studying the heterogeneous characteristics of the realities that they are supposed to describe. We will examine the role of criteria such as caste, age, religion, class, region of origin, place of residence and place of work, etc. Finally, we will delve into the social and religious

representations of the feminine and of the masculine within different institutions (household and exterior institutions) and more specifically to their implications in the field of labour.

Gender and law:

We will focus on the existence of mechanisms which could reproduce, in the law, a certain form of masculine domination. Such mechanisms, which could be located in texts of law as well as in the decisions and attitudes of the members of legal institutions, will appear in their regional variations, following the types of cases considered and in coherence with the social status of the individuals involved. These phenomena can be approached through a study of the places where law is practiced, an examination of various situations of conflict or through a statistical or demographic analysis at a larger scale.

Gender and development:

Access to infrastructures related to what Indian policies gather under the label of “development” is also known for being characterized by certain gender-inequalities. It is, for example, the case of access to health care, to education, to a healthy environment, etc. While articulating to urban/rural contrasts and to differences in the social status, gender remains an essential factor to seize the various dimensions (historic, geographic, sociolinguistic, socio-anthropological, etc.) of people’s access to development.

Submission process:

You can submit your proposals in French or in English to ateliers@ajei.org, **before 19th January 2015** (500 words max.). Every presentation will be 20 minutes long and will be discussed by a specialist.

While submitting your proposal, please mention your name, first name(s), discipline, level of studies, institution of affiliation and subject of research.

After decision by the scientific board of the AJEI, we will request the participants to submit their full text (10 000 words) **in English before 22nd February 2015**, so that it be read by the discussant of the corresponding session.

Organization :

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