

The SPEAK-UP Jean Monnet Module – a.a. 2021-2022
*Spreading women's Empowerment and Active citizenship values to enhance Union Policies combating gender
discrimination and violence in a globalised world*

Globalization and Gender Implications (6 hours)



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

8th June 2022

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Introducing myself...

Mariella NOCENZI, PhD. in “Sociology of culture and political processes”

Assistant editor dell’*International Review of Sociology*

Scientific Coordinator of *Sostenibilia – International Observatory of social theory on the new technologies and the sustainability.*

Founders and member of the Scientific Committee of the **Gender Interuniversity Observatory for Equal Opportunities (GIO)**

Courses: “**Principles of social sciences**”, “**Social policies for the cooperation**”, “**Social impact Assessment**”, “**Social innovation, sustainability and gender inclusion**”

Latest publications

Migratory and Intercultural Processes form a **Gender Perspective**: the Changing Roles of Migrant Women, *International Review of Sociology*, 1/2017;

“New Perspectives for a New Social Theory of **Sustainability**”, Springer, 2020



Lectures structure

Definition of globalisation and its implications from a gender perspective

Identification of forms of gender discrimination and violence in globalisation processes

Analysis of strategies and processes to combat gender discrimination and violence towards a new model of social development

Lectures schedule (1)

8th June 2022

8.30-9.45 a.m.: Presentation of objectives and themes of the lectures

Definition of globalisation and its characterising aspects
through the lens of gender

9.45-10.00 a.m.: Questions and Comments

10.00-10.15 a.m.: Break

10.15-11.15 a.m.: Determination of the deviant processes of globalisation
with respect to the gender factor

11.15-11.30 a.m.: Questions and Comments

Lectures schedule (2)

10 th June 2022

8,30-9,45 a.m.: Insight and case studies on gender discrimination and violence in a global dimension

9.45-10.00 a.m.: Questions and Comments

10.00-10.15 a.m.: Break

10,15-11,15 a.m.: Strategies and processes to counter gender discrimination and violence towards a sustainable development model

11.15-11.30 a.m.: Questions and Comments



**How to define
globalisation and its
positive and negative
effects from a gender
perspective?**

A representation of globalization

Zygmunt Bauman
(1925-2017)

- **power** = ability to have things done and
- **politics** = ability to decide what things have to be done

[\(2\) Zygmunt Bauman: 'No one is in control. That is the major source of contemporary fear' - YouTube](#)



Globalization: Definitions (plural)

- "The process by which **nation states** are conditioned and connected transversely by **transnational actors**, by their chances of power, orientations, identities, networks" (Beck, 1999, p. 24); "world society" (unified by increasingly similar conditions and lifestyles)
- "The product of **the intensification of world social relations** that bind the different localities, in such a way that the events of a place are shaped by events that occur at a great distance and vice versa" (Giddens, 1994)
- "Understanding the world [and] [...] intensified awareness of the **unity of the world** (Robertson, 1999)



Globalization: the cultural dimension

Even if multiple definitions of globalisation exist, all seem to converge in the same direction. Globalisation expresses the **growing economic, political, social, cultural and technological integration between different areas of the world**, the continuously growing importance of **transnational markets and institutions**, the increased density and frequency of **international social interactions** relative to local or national ones (Walby 2002)



Analysing globalization_First couple: TIME

Synchronously

- **interdependence** of the world's economies, governments, cultures and populations which influence nation states –they themselves transversally conditioned and connected by transnational actors, by their sphere of influence and by their decisions
- the global economy contains the **capacity to undo the intersection of sovereignty and territory** as it re-locates some of the components of State sovereignty onto supranational authorities

Diachronically

- an open process, largely based on the rapid development of science and technologies, started in the past and that will continue into the future

Analysing globalization_First couple: TIME

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- **XV-XVI centuries:** the origins of globalization
- **end of XVIII- beginning of XX centuries:** the industrial revolution launched international commerce, mobility and migratory flows
- **the 1980s:** rapid expansion of information and communication technologies (ICTs)

Analysing globalization_Second couple: SPACE

Global

The object of knowledge seems to simplify, but on the contrary it becomes **more complex** because in that unity and unification there are diversities that persist beyond a **certain degree of compression**. A dialectic is determined, at least in a general sense, between the **universal** and the **particular**

Local

It is **not related** to the old model and the **nation state**, nor to the one that prevails in marketing and its strategies of advertising on a global basis products for **differentiated local markets**

Glocal

It places the **individual**, the **human person**, the **local material** and **immaterial heritage of the person** and the group he or she belongs to at the centre. It does not ignore the **dialectic** that results from the encounter-clash of the various groups within the system-subsystem logic, but never loses sight of the **micro** in its relationship with the **macro**

Analysing globalization_Third couple: RELATIONS

Positive

- ✓ opportunity for **economic growth** of poor, marginal countries
- ✓ increased **competition** that reduces the cost of goods and services for the consumer
- ✓ improvement of **communication flows**
- ✓ growing **cultural exchanges** and **scientific cooperation**

Negative

- ✓ interdependent **inequalities**
- ✓ positive effects are **not equally distributed** between different populations and regions
- ✓ interaction between globalization and technological evolution has increased the demand for **skilled workforce**, reducing the number of jobs for less qualified workers
- ✓ marginalization of countries and regions even cause **radicalization**
- ✓ impact of globalization on self and identity. In the contemporary world, **identity construction** has become increasingly complicated

Looking at globalisation processes through the lens of gender: the keywords sex and gender

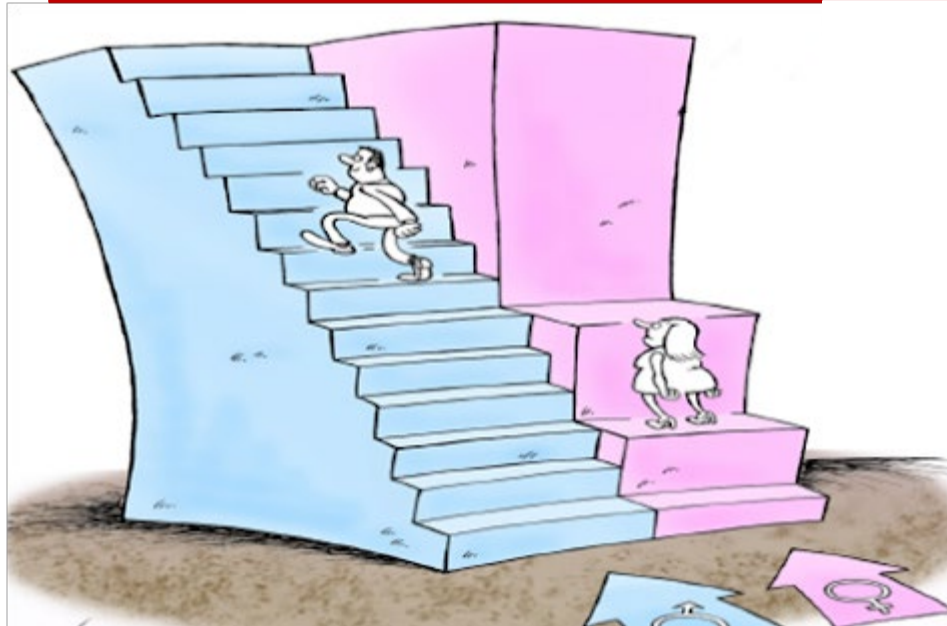
Sex (from the Latin *sexum*, meaning divided or separate) as a primary **biological** character of an anatomical type and a secondary biological character of a physiological type, which affects brain and cognitive functions, character and modes of behaviour and whose exact extent is still unknown



Gender - from the English word gender, which recalls the existence of **two categories** within a linguistic code and has sexual connotations - which refers to the **outcome of the social construction** of sexual differences divided into two mutually exclusive categories that establish **different relationship models**, expectations, constraints and opportunities, hence identities and social roles

Looking at globalisation processes through the lens of gender: the keywords differences and inequalities

Social differences are constitutive of all kinds of societies and classify individuals according to **social categories and causes** - *ascribed*, i.e. received at birth, and *acquired*, i.e. constructed along the life course - to the extent that society is composed of individuals and groups that differ from one another and can be defined as a *system of differences* (Gallino)



Inequality can be defined as **differential access to or possession of specific resources and opportunities** (economic, political, cultural, symbolic) often related to *ascribed* (women earn less - gender pay gap - or *acquired* (those with higher education have higher income) **social differences**



Task n. 1 – 5 minutes

Describe your identity in order:

- biological sex (anatomical and physiological)
- gender (with reference to the society you were born and raised in)
- possible difference of yours that has turned into inequality with differential access to or possession of specific resources and opportunities compared to that of others because of one of your identifying factors (not only gender, of course, but also age, nationality etc.)

How can we read globalisation through the lens of gender?



In the global dimension the **power actors** are more and more **movements and groups** and less the individuals, damaging women when the collective issues are not in favor of their rights.

To achieve a share agreement on the weaker gender identities (women and LGBT+) issues, starting from their persistent risk of social exclusion, **is not enough the growing independence** that the post-Modern economy facilitates in some degrees to them

Globalization implications for the gender relations

Twofold and intertwined, not merely positive and negative

Gender is still considered a crucial factor for enforcing those **power structures** that try to adapt themselves to the current cultural changes, in the **Global North** as in the **Global South**: in the **economic** and **political** structures (female leadership lack, gender pay gap, work-life balance, exploitation, unemployment), in the **cultural** and **social representations** (violence against women; restore of the traditional family structures, gender equality as a development sustainable goal)

Gender seems to misplace its meaning among the **young's** - due to their socialization in a more apparently balanced society - and for those **power structures that neutralize each attempt** to a cultural recognition of the social diversity

These are the emerging issues for social scientists, possibly exploring more and more adequate methodological tools



Task n. 2 – 10 minutes

Describe a social fact, a character, an artistic work, a historical event, a cultural sign that describes what relationship there is between globalisation and gender identities



Does globalization have an overall positive or negative impact on the lives of women?

The optimistic school (but
with some reserves)

The integration of **national
economies with global economy**
will improve the situation of all
citizens, including **women**





The critical school

Globalization will further increase **existing inequalities** and will lead to **new ones**