

Gender Dimensions of Social and Economic Policies

Overview

Gender disparities are prevalent in several social, political and economic spheres. Phenomena such as violence towards women and discrimination against women in labor markets are widely discussed in popular and academic press. In contrast, the gendered nature of macroeconomic policies, poverty-reduction strategies and tax policies remain less visible and understood. Our premise is that these policies and strategies have strong gender implications and are shaped gender relations and norms. Understanding these implications and relations requires a grasp of how gender is conceptualized as a category in social and economic analysis. The first part of the course is focused on elaborating this conceptual foundation drawing on feminist theory, with a specific focus on the nexus between gender and development. We then proceed to examine how the standard conceptualization of macroeconomic relations suffers from gender-blindness and explain why this failure has to be overcome to develop better theories and policies. This will be followed by scrutinizing the inadequacies that result from the neglect of time poverty in poverty-reduction strategies. Responsibilities of household production (e.g. caring for children) are typically borne disproportionately by women. Hence, the necessity to engage in income-generating activities puts them, especially the less well-off among them, at a greater risk of the impoverishing effects of time deficits. The final part of the course focuses on the gender biases that exist in modern systems of direct and indirect taxation. We identify the biases that exist by design and those that are the unintended results of a combination of peculiar features of the tax code and economic conditions of women. Our discussions of economic policies and outcomes will be accompanied by the presentation of empirical evidence drawn from a variety of countries, including India.

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| Dates for the Course | August 8, 2016 to August 13, 2016 |
| Host Institute | IIT Madras |
| No. of Credits | 1 |
| Maximum No. of Participants | 30 |
| You Should Attend If... | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ You are an economist or a social scientist with strong interest in gender issues. ▪ You are a postgraduate or Ph.D. student in economics or related fields. ▪ You are working in an NGO with a focus on issues of gender and economic justice |
| Course Registration Fees | <p>The participation fees for taking the course is as follows: Student Participants: Rs.1000 Faculty Participants: Rs.2000 Government Research Organization Participants: Rs.2000 NGO/Private Sector Participants: Rs.3000</p> <p>The above fee is towards participation in the course.</p> <p>Mode of payment: Demand draft in favor of “Registrar, IIT Madras” payable at Chennai The demand draft is to be sent to the Course Coordinator at the address given below.</p> |
| Accommodation | <p>The participants may be provided with hostel accommodation, depending on the availability, on payment basis. Request for hostel accommodation may be submitted through the link: http://hosteldine.iitm.ac.in/iitmhostel</p> |

Course Faculty



Ajit Zacharias is a senior scholar and director of the Distribution of Income and Wealth program at the Levy Economics Institute of Bard College. He teaches two core courses—Advanced Microeconomics and Public Economics—in the Institute’s Master of Science in Economic Theory and Policy degree program. Zacharias serves as a consultant to the United Nations Development Program on Gender and Women’s Economic Empowerment. His research interests are economic measurement, political economy and gender disparities. He serves on the editorial boards of *Journal of Economic Inequality* (Elsevier) and *Investigación Económica* (Elsevier). He is also on the advisory board of *Dialectical Anthropology* (Springer). Zacharias has served as a referee for several international journals including *Cambridge Journal of Economics*, *Economica*, and *Feminist Economics*. He holds a Ph.D. from The New School for Social Research.



Binitha Thampi is Assistant Professor of Development Studies at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras, Chennai. She teaches two courses - Feminist Theory and Gender and Development - in the Integrated Masters Program at IITM. Her areas of research interest include Gender and Development, Feminist Critique of Demography, State Welfarism and Citizenship, and Poverty Social Exclusion and Marginalization. She holds a Ph.D. in Development Studies from Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore.

Course Coordinator

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URL: <https://hss.iitm.ac.in/index.php/faculty/institute-faculty?id=14>