

GENDER AND WOMEN ISSUES IN THE RISE OF ASIA

Session 1: Gender in Asia

Gender has become one of most applied notions of identity politics, especially when it is used to refer the social and organizational relationships between the sexes. Not only does gender convey an implication of hierarchal structures of sexual differences, analysis of gender also opens areas of investigation that portray the differentiation between sexual practices from sexual roles assigned to women, men or other gender categories in any given society, and the notions of sexual practices and sexual roles are basic elements in identity formation for those practices and roles. In doing so, if gender is applied to a critical analysis, it promises a pivotal tool for historical study that recounts the ways in which female, male, or other sexual categories' relations are constructed in their socialization. Gender proposes its fundamental approach to explain and examine the identity's formation and reformation of the gendered subjects. Operating as a cultural and social mode of constitution and means of signification of both social and power relations, gender is politicized, making it an essential ground for particular historical and critical, local and individual subject formation. Although gender is principally meant to signify sexual difference, implicitly it implies a social, economical, political, cultural and historical one. Gender is indeed both an empirical fact and a constitutive mechanism working both on individual and social levels. Gender features consequently serve as one of many manifestations of a subliminal gender system operative throughout the cultural and social domain a subject belongs to. This session will attempt to discuss how gender is perceived and manifested in many walks of life in Asia. Contributing papers that use gender as one of the many category analyses are welcome.

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Session 2: Women Combatants in Asia

The session Women Combatants in Asia will focus on female guerrilla fighters during and after conflict. We welcome proposals on the participation of women today in the Naxalite–Maoist insurgency, and, among others, ex female combatants of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Sri Lanka, the Maoist People's Liberation Army (PLA) in Nepal, the Communist Party (PKI) in Indonesia, and the New People's Army in the Philippines. Other left-wing guerrilla movements from Asia will be considered.

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