
Penser les problématiques de genre en Inde et au Népal / Thinking about gender issues in India and in Nepal

Abstract (in French and/or English)

In few years, the concept of gender, has acquired a global legitimacy and has been adopted both by feminist movements, scholars and international institutions. This concept has been seen as an useful analytical tool to look at the social structures and the way, it naturalized identities and determined relations between women and men.

In India and Nepal, if the notion of gender (as a social construction) has been used by the feminist movement to challenge the biological category of sex and inequalities since the 1970, after the 1990's we can see a shift in the way this concept as an analytical category is used. On the one hand, gender has given a space to speak about sexualities and more precisely about LGBTQI issues, and look at how identities should be seen as social construction at the intersection of multiple identities and relation of power (caste, class, ethnicity, sexuality). But on the other hand, most of the time, gender is used by institutions and organisations to speak about women development which is often in relation to men but doesn't question the naturalization/ normalisation of social construction. The multiple dimensions that cover the notion of gender lead us to consider how this notion has been developed and is used in India and Nepal ; what are its specificities ; and what are the impact of gender construction (men and women relation) on the daily life of people.

Our panel will show how this diversity is express on the ground, through five lectures, in geography, anthropology and political sciences. By different disciplinary approaches and levels of analysis we will show how issues of sexualities, women's rights, feminism, gender performativity, power relations and identities, which are all cover by the notion of gender, structure the daily life of women and men.

Keywords: gender, feminism, ecofeminism, LGBTQ, women, anthropology, sociology, geography, India, Nepal