



**Department of Political Science**  
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**Political Science**  
**Doctoral Concentration in Feminist Comparative and International Politics**

Feminist approaches are now central to the contemporary fields of Comparative and International Politics. Attention to gender relations and dynamics in relation to race, nation, class, and sexuality is now understood as crucial to development, peace, sustainability, democracy, and human rights. Pursuing the unique Feminist Comparative and International Politics concentration now offered as an option in the Ph.D. program in Political Science at the University of Cincinnati (UC) positions graduates to contribute to intellectual developments in feminist security, global political economy, global governance, human rights and international law, development, and democratization studies and policymaking on gender in these areas. Such a concentration, which will appear on student transcripts, will also enable graduates to teach in this cutting edge area of political science while also contributing to interdisciplinary programs in gender, human rights, peace and conflict resolution, and sustainable development studies.

Students can elect to complete this 12-credit concentration within their 90-credit PhD program through taking any three of the courses below regularly offered in the major areas of study of comparative and international politics. These can be taken as part of the 10-course requirement in two major areas of study, particularly by students who elect to specialize in both or either comparative and international politics. Students can also take these as all or part of their three electives in any major area of study in Political Science. Students may also apply such courses as electives to the graduate certificate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies offered by that department for an additional credential.

Any three of the following courses can be completed in any order for the Political Science Doctoral Concentration in Feminist Comparative and International Politics, although it is recommended that students take Feminist International Politics, and initially if possible. Students may also take more of these courses beyond the concentration requirements as part of their major fields of study and/or elective requirements. Those completing the concentration can expect some focus on it in their comprehensive examinations, and students will find it useful to inform their dissertation research.

- 6090 Feminist International Politics
- 6065 Gender and Sustainable Development
- 6068 Nation, Race, Identity
- 6081 Inequalities and Resistances in the Global Political Economy
- 7068 Identity Politics in Comparative Perspective

7069 Democracy and Development  
7084 Contemporary International Law  
7091 Critical Perspectives on War, Peace, and Security  
7058 Interpretive Methods in the Social Sciences

*Faculty Instructors for the Concentration*

The Department of Political Science has significant faculty strengths in these areas of feminist comparative and international politics inquiry. The following faculty, all of whom have interdisciplinary affiliations with other programs and departments, including Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and many of whom work on projects together and with doctoral students in this area of specialty, serve as instructors of concentration courses:

**Anne Sisson Runyan**, who directs the Feminist Comparative and International Politics doctoral concentration in the Department of Political Science, is among the progenitors of the field of feminist international relations and has served as an associate editor of the *International Feminist Journal of Politics*. She has published extensively in the areas of feminist global political economy and security studies as well as on transnational feminism and is currently developing a book on gendered nuclear colonialism. She has co-authored publications and papers with doctoral students Anwar Mhajne and Crystal Whetstone and faculty members Rina Williams and Rebecca Sanders. Additionally she is co-leading a gender analysis of the City of Cincinnati as part of the national Cities for CEDAW (UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) initiative in which UC Political Science colleagues Rebecca Sanders, Laura Jenkins, and Rina Williams as well as doctoral students are also involved.

**Laura Dudley Jenkins'** research includes books on affirmative action in (in legislatures and universities) and in higher education worldwide, which showed that, globally, women are the most frequent focus of these policies today. She has published on female converts to Buddhism and on religious family law systems in India, and is collecting, with UC Political Science colleague Rina Williams, oral histories of women political scientists. Jenkins recently coauthored a chapter on "Recognizing the Role of Women in Development" with UC Political Science PhD Jenn Dye. She is currently writing about regulation of religion in India with UC Political Science PhD student Tina Teater.

**Rina Williams** teaches and researches in the areas of gender and identity politics; religion, law and nationalism; politics of developing countries; and South Asian and Indian politics. She is especially interested in the role of the state and democracy in the social/political construction of gendered identities. Her early research examined women and religious laws, nationalism and multiculturalism in India; and her current research focuses on women's participation in religious nationalist political parties in Indian democracy. With UC Political Science colleague Laura Jenkins, she is gathering oral histories of women in political science, and working on an article on women's political participation in global South countries. Most recently, she has begun researching gendered constructions of nationalism in popular Hindi film in an era of neoliberal globalization.

**Rebecca Sanders** studies international human rights, international law, and international security. She is interested in the ways international legal norms both advance and limit women's emancipation around the world. She is currently contributing to interdisciplinary research on how local governments can better comply with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), a topic on which she has written a paper with UC Political Science colleague Anne Sisson Runyan. Sanders is also developing a new project on conservative and religious backlash against the international women's rights agenda at the United Nations.

*Current PhD students in the Concentration*

**Anwar Mhajne**, ABD, dissertation on the Muslim Sisterhood in Egypt, recipient of Peacewomen, UC Taft Dissertation, and UC Graduate School Dean's fellowships, Graduate Student representative on the Women's Caucus of the International Studies Association, co-author with Crystal Whetstone of an article on women in the Egypt's Arab Spring uprising and a chapter in a volume on troubling motherhood in international politics as well as co-author with Anne Sisson Runyan, Anwar Mhajne, and Rina Williams of a chapter on comparative feminisms.

**Crystal Whetstone**, ABD, dissertation on maternalist peace movements in Argentina and Sri Lanka, recipient of UC Taft Dissertation and UC Graduate School Dean's fellowships, co-author with Anwar Mhajne of an article on women in the Egypt's Arab Spring uprising and a chapter in a volume on troubling motherhood in international politics as well as co-author with Anne Sisson Runyan, Anwar Mhajne, and Rina Williams of a chapter on comparative feminisms.

**Sayam Moktan**, research focused on women and development in Nepal.

For more information on the Feminist Comparative and International Politics doctoral concentration in Political Science open to Political Science PhD students at UC and of special interest to those who would like to enter our doctoral program to pursue this focus, contact Anne Sisson Runyan at [anne.runyan@uc.edu](mailto:anne.runyan@uc.edu).