

International Conference on
Gender Equity Policies -
New Scenarios, Actors and Articulations

Gender Equality and the Knowledge Society

Anita Gurumurthy

It seems that a cooperative society has never been more realistic in an objective sense but has never been more unrealistic in a subjective sense. The networking of the world advances the idea of bottom-up, grassroots self-organization and of a participatory society. However,under the given conditions, humans are confronted with a colonization of ever more spheres of society to an ever-larger extent by economic reason and the competitive logic of accumulation.

Christian Fuchs

Network Society – The Beast

- A dialectical system, where the Internet and digital technologies are shaping and being shaped by the social
- A potent amalgam of the material and the symbolic
 - New production system and a system that makes meaning / a new semiotics
 - Radical shift in our cognitive and experiential parameters, eroding historical temporality involved in seeing, which generates aesthetic inclinations that prioritize feelings and senses over reason and ethics. **Yumiko iida**
 - Simultaneously totalising and democratising
- A space of flows / deterritorialized space
- Communicative arenas not correlated to political citizenry nor to sovereign states – a post national context

Network Society - Social Arrangements

- A coming together of cyber-ideology and hyper-individualism
- Logic of commodification in the name of participation and citizenship - Gift economy and digital capitalism not in conflict, but in symbiosis!! web 2.0, privatised public
- Cultural platforms sponsored by corporate capital
- Expropriation of the commons
- A multiplicity of pluralities upon which global capitalism thrives
 - Identity as the multiplication of difference
 - Diversity unhinged from justice
 - Normalisation of the bizarre
 - Trivialisation of the political-normative
 - Fragmentation of discursive space in the overlapping visual cultures

New Categories

- from the embedded and embodied 'subject' to the deterritorialised hybrid/cyborg
- a blurring of the fundamental categorical divides between self and other
- a mobile, complex and shifting subjectivity that complicates identity

Network Society – Architecture of Power

- A new architecture of power
 - Informational capitalism, the walmartization of production and the new intermediaries
 - The Informational state, surveillance and moral panic
 - Post national governance regimes – the new 'inclusive' neo-liberal order - participatory community development practices combine with strategic philanthropy, leaving broader responsibilities to 'the public'.
 - New community constellations (fraser) – sub-global and translocal
 - The unlikely feminist

New Scenarios

Paradoxes

Voice without agency

Participation without politics

Collaboration without appropriation

Towards a Theory of Resistance

- Strategic ambiguities and tactical transgressions
- “Bio-power” in Foucaultian terms - cultural resources to invest in the public sphere
- Commons based peer production challenges neo-liberal theories of rationality, self-interest and individuality
- New cultures of hybridisation
- Emancipatory spaces
- Countervailing forces in the digital environment
- *Cooperative cyberculture, Wikipedia, critical online journalism, high-quality cyberscience, participatory cyberart as counter hegemonic forces.*

Questions

- What epistemic lenses allow us to understand
 - Production and social reproduction
 - Public and private
 - Local and global
- How do we conceptualise an epistemology of resistance and emancipation, with a new politics of agency and community?
- How do we reterritorialise relationships that are deterritorialised? How do we make sense of identities embedded in the local-global continuum?

A new feminist pedagogy

For me the issues are.....the over protection of copyrights, the monitoring of net users and compulsory IP logging under the pretext of terrorism. In her talk about net freedom, Hilary Clinton singled out China because of the Google hacking incident. It is indeed true that China is an authoritarian state and applies all measures to suppress online organization and speech freedom. However, singling it out, is hypocritical. Many democratic states are also extremely harsh in controlling online speech. South Korea is the first country to apply real name registration, Singapore sues whoever criticizes the government online defamation. Google also singles out China in its internet freedom campaign. For me the main threats to global users are copyrights, defamation charges, privacy protection, new monopoly model, the lack of transparency and accountability in taking down users content, etc.

Oiwan Lam

Beyond usual referrents

If cyberspace today anticipates the form of society in which we will constitute our subjectivity tomorrow, placing our best hope either on the fantasy of the beyond (the postmodernist carnival without ends) or on the phantom of the past (traditional humanism) will drain the energy and vitality of (cyber-)society and its (cyber-)subjects.

Erik Chia-yi Lee

Feminism is completing the project of democracy

Gita Sen

A New Theory and Praxis of Global Justice

- New Ethics – where are our referents?
- Dealing with a subjectivity that is territorially based and environmentally bound.
- A recovery of subjugated knowledge - political and epistemological challenge
- Bringing economic and socio-political theories on a single continuum (which is what southern feminists have endeavoured to do always!!)
- Voice and political agora – new institutional frameworks to address the local- global
- Web 3.0 – Need for public and nested information infrastructures that are egalitarian and safe

