

LA964-20 Gender, Law and the Global Economy

26/27

Department

School of Law

Level

Taught Postgraduate Level

Module leader

Serena Natile

Credit value

20

Module duration

8 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

The module considers the ways in which gender relations interact with economic and social relations in an era of globalisation. We will investigate the ways in which gender norms interact with international economic dynamics, characterised by processes of migration, marketisation, financialisation, and digitalisation. Throughout the sessions we will explore how these processes are interconnected via so-called 'global value chains' that pose new legal, regulatory, and socioeconomic challenges for gender justice. The module uses gender as a lens to understand where inequalities lie in the global economy, how the law enables disadvantage, and whether the law can be used as a tool for justice.

We will examine how the regulation of the global economy reproduces or shapes gender inequalities. Why is access to labour markets gendered? Does paid work improve women's position within society? Does globalisation offer new opportunities or creates more vulnerabilities for women at the lower end of the global income distribution? What counts as 'work'? Are all women particularly vulnerable to exploitation while at work or do other intersecting inequalities associated with indigeneity, coloniality, race, ethnicity, class, disability, sexual and gender identities play a part? Do the legal and socio-economic gains of women in some parts of the world correspond to marginalisation and exploitation of women elsewhere? How and in what ways can

legal regulation contribute to greater and more equal access and protection?

Through critical engagement with concepts such as social reproduction, care, empowerment, precarity, depletion, and the use of specific case studies, we will consider the ways in which gender issues are understood in discourses on the global economy and within key institutions such as the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Trade Organisation (WTO), regional bodies, private sector actors such as transnational corporations (TNCs) and financial institutions, and NGOs and grassroots groups. We will consider the questions: who do we care about? Who are 'we'? If we care about distant others, how do we do this? Through the discourses of labour/social protection/human rights, corporate social responsibility including ethical codes of practice and fair-trade initiatives, or through local and transnational feminist activism and resistance?

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

- To understand the gender dynamics of global economic governance as shaped by processes of globalisation, migration, marketisation, financialisation and digitalisation, focusing on its contribution to economic and social inequality.
- To develop an understanding of the legal dimensions that impact on gender relations and trade, in particular the range of approaches used to tackle economic and social inequality such as international human rights, labour standards, migration law, private law and ethical trading measures and state-based gender budget and policy audits.
- To use detailed case studies to illustrate the range of issues involved.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

- Gender and the law in a global economy: Introducing global value chains and the conceptual and regulatory frameworks for their analysis
- Global commodity chains: The fast fashion industry
- Global care chains: Migrant domestic workers
- Global body work chains: The global sex industry
- Global financial chains: The case of microfinance
- Global digital chains: Gendered platform work
- Class presentations: Preparing for the assessment
- Bringing the strands together: Striving for global gender justice

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Work effectively in groups, taking account of expressed opinions and dealing with them

effectively, work with sensitivity, recognising different perspectives.

- Demonstrate substantial knowledge of the debates relating to the interaction between gender relations and globalisation particularly the contribution of law to these processes.
- Understand the ways in which global trade relates to economic and social inequality.
- Demonstrate an ability to identify and critically analyse the gender implications of global community/value chains and networks.
- Demonstrate an advanced ability to deliver effective written work and oral presentations.
- Demonstrate critical analysis of current research in the area of gender, social reproduction and international regulatory frameworks in the areas of trade, labour, migration and human rights.
- Identify, and use appropriately interdisciplinary materials, including international policy documents and empirical research findings.
- Critically evaluate the potential for and limitations of legal regulation of aspects of the global economy which particularly affect gender relations.
- Demonstrate high quality research, interpretation and drafting skills in relation to the presentation and gender analysis of global value/commodity chains and networks.

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

[Specific reading list for the module](#)

Research element

Students will develop research skills throughout the sessions of the module via seminar tasks, group work, the final presentation and through formative feedback. They will need to demonstrate their research skills in the summative assignment which is a research project on a global value chain of their choice.

Interdisciplinary

The module is very interdisciplinary as students engage not only with legal and socio-legal scholarship, but also with international political economy, sociology, development studies and need to identify and use appropriately interdisciplinary materials, including international policy documents and empirical research findings.

International

Throughout the module, students will learn how gender norms and relations interact with international economic dynamics shaped by processes of globalisation. Students will engage with the work of international organisations, with international legal and policy frameworks (including the UN SDGs), and scholarship from different contexts with a particular focus on Global South authors. They will also learn about the local impact of global economic dynamics via specific case studies.

Subject specific skills

Subject knowledge and understanding:

- Demonstrate substantial knowledge of the debates relating to the interaction between gender relations and globalisation particularly the contribution of law to these processes. Understand the ways in which global trade relates to economic and social inequality.
- Demonstrate an ability to identify and critically analyse the gender implications of global value chains and networks.

Cognitive Skills :

- Identify, and use appropriately interdisciplinary materials, including international policy documents and empirical research findings.
- Critically evaluate the potential for and limitations of various regulatory frameworks which particularly affect gender relations in the global economy.

Subject-Specific/Professional Skills:

-Demonstrate high quality research, interpretation and drafting skills in relation to the presentation of global value/commodity chains and networks.

Transferable skills

Key transferable skills:

- Work effectively in groups, taking account of expressed opinions and dealing with them effectively, work with sensitivity, recognising different perspectives.
- Demonstrate an advanced ability to deliver effective written work and oral presentations.
- Demonstrate critical analysis of current research in the area of gender, law and economic policies.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	8 sessions of 1 hour (4%)
Seminars	16 sessions of 1 hour (8%)
Private study	176 hours (88%)
Total	200 hours

Private study description

Private study (preparing for weekly sessions following the instructions on Moodle; reading the assigned materials; answering questions and conducting independent research).

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group A2

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
4000 word essay	100%		Yes (extension)
A 4000 word essay based on a creative exercise specific to the module. The assignment requires students to research and discuss the gender dynamics and regulatory implications of a global value chain of their choice. It can be any form of value chain: a global commodity chain, a global care or body work chain, a global financial chain, or a global digital chain. There are no geographical restrictions, but they need to avoid replicating the specific examples discussed in class as case studies. The weekly sessions will provide students with the knowledge and conceptual/methodological tools to approach the assignment with confidence.			
Students receive extensive support to choose their example of global value chain via drop-in sessions; they have the opportunity to present their example in class and receive feedback from the module leader and fellow students; and to submit an outline to receive individual written feedback.			
Reassessment component is the same			

Feedback on assessment

Summative feedback: formal written feedback provided via Tabula. Students will receive detailed individual feedback on their summative assignment as well as group feedback to the entire cohort.

Formative feedback: Students will receive formative feedback throughout the module. They will be able to: attend drop-in sessions to choose the example of global value chain in conversation with the module leader; present their essay topic in class (session 7, week 9 is designed for this purpose as a mini-conference) to answer questions and receive comments; and to submit an outline and receive detailed feedback to finalise the assignment with confidence.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of TLAS-M1M2 LLM International Development Law and Human Rights
- Year 1 of TIMA-L981 Postgraduate Social Science Research
- Year 1 of TLAA-M3PJ Postgraduate Taught Advanced Legal Studies

This module is Core option list B for:

- Year 1 of TLAS-M1M2 LLM International Development Law and Human Rights
- Year 1 of TLAA-M3PJ Postgraduate Taught Advanced Legal Studies

This module is Option list A for:

- TLAS-M1M2 LLM International Development Law and Human Rights
 - Year 1 of M1M2 International Development Law and Human Rights
 - Year 3 of M1M2 International Development Law and Human Rights
- TLAA-M3PJ Postgraduate Taught Advanced Legal Studies
 - Year 1 of M3PJ Advanced Legal Studies
 - Year 3 of M3PJ Advanced Legal Studies

This module is Option list C for:

- TPOS-M9PE Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with NTU Singapore)
 - Year 1 of M91F Globalisation and Development (Double Degree - NTU)
 - Year 1 of M91L International Development (Double Degree - NTU)
 - Year 1 of M91B International Political Economy (Double Degree - NTU)
 - Year 1 of M91C International Politics and East Asia (Double Degree - NTU)
 - Year 1 of M91D International Politics and Europe (Double Degree - NTU)
 - Year 1 of M91G International Security (Double Degree - NTU)
 - Year 1 of M91K Political and Legal Theory (Double Degree - NTU)
 - Year 1 of M91J United States Foreign Policy (Double Degree - NTU)
 - Year 2 of M91L International Development (Double Degree - NTU)
 - Year 2 of M91B International Political Economy (Double Degree - NTU)
 - Year 2 of M91C International Politics and East Asia (Double Degree - NTU)
- TPOS-M9PP Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with Universität Konstanz, Germany)
 - Year 1 of M92L International Development (Double Degree - Konstanz)

- Year 1 of M92B International Political Economy (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 1 of M92C International Politics and East Asia (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 1 of M92D International Politics and Europe (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 1 of M92E International Relations (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 1 of M92G International Security (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 1 of M92K Political and Legal Theory (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 1 of M92H Public Policy (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 2 of M92B International Political Economy (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 2 of M92C International Politics and East Asia (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 2 of M92D International Politics and Europe (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 2 of M92E International Relations (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 2 of M92G International Security (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 2 of M92K Political and Legal Theory (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 2 of M92H Public Policy (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 2 of TPOS-M9PT MA in International Development
- Year 2 of TPOS-M1P8 Postgraduate Taught International Politics and East Asia
- Year 2 of TPOS-M9PS Postgraduate Taught Political and Legal Theory
- Year 2 of TPOS-M9PQ Postgraduate Taught United States Foreign Policy

This module is Option list D for:

- Year 1 of TWSA-M9P7 Postgraduate Taught Gender and International Development