

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN THE HUMANITIES

Blended Intensive Programme

“Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University, Iași, Romania

Call for participants

What is it about?

It is in the nature of humans, in general, and the humanities in particular to perpetually explore and interrogate inherited social norms. Perhaps much more acutely now, in the third decade of the 21st century, than ever before, there is a widespread consensus over the obsolete nature of rules that governed traditional societies, and yet we are still in the throes of negotiating appropriate practices for the advancement of equality and equity. The concept of gender has seen many battles of principle, with the discourse surrounding it pushing it to evolve into a reflection of society. That is precisely why we cannot relegate the discussion of gender and social inclusion solely to the specialists, but rather ensure that it expands to a multi- and interdisciplinary approach and therefore preempt any potential corruption thereof.

This programme aims to gather together students from a variety of cultural and educational backgrounds, and offer them the focused environment to tackle this concern head on from a multitude of perspectives. The programme will be structured in morning lectures and workshops, meant to explore one facet of the topic at hand at a time, and providing the building blocks for the afternoon roundtable conversations. Among the topics tackled by specialists, we count an overview of feminist ideology and thought, its application to translations and the potential references, imagery, undertones, and issues; language and linguistic limitations on gender, and constructing an inclusive, socially aware artificial language; employing the innovative pedagogy developed at Barnard College, *Reacting to the Past*, to explore the first gender-oriented convention and its limitations through role-playing activities; inclusion promoted through music and music for the brain, etc. What we are looking to accomplish through this programme is the multi-fold effect of cultivating social empathy and awareness within the target group, while also providing the appropriate academic and factual framework necessary for the construction of a correct discourse.

Where?

Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania

When?

May 20-24, 2024

Who should attend?

Students of all levels (BA, MA, PhD) interested in the topic of gender and social inclusion.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the programme, participants will be able to:

- define and evaluate the concept of gender and feminism
- understand the constant exchange between culture, society, language, and the individual
- understand the connection between gender and power structures
- understand the intersections between gender, social inclusion, and a variety of disciplines
- distinguish particular issues related to social inclusion relevant to their own academic or professional context

Benefits

3 ECTS Credits

Course structure. Main topics

- **1 online meeting**

The online meeting will provide the participating students with the general overview of the programme and give the necessary details related to the poster presentation for which they will have to prepare. In other words, the students, individually or in groups, will design a presentation poster dealing with a topic under the general umbrella of gender and social inclusion. This presentation can be either an anecdotal event that they dissect, a cultural or historical moment, an instance of social exclusion, or a portion of their own research that would lend itself well to the

conversation at hand. The participants are given complete freedom in what the choice of topic is concerned, provided they keep in mind the format provided to them. The deadline for submitting the posters will be May 10th, 2024, via email to the organizers, so the posters may be printed and prepared.

- **5 days of on-site meetings (May 20-24, 2024)**

The first four days of the programme will revolve around the same basic structure. We will commence each day at 10AM with a warm-up exercise, meant to encourage melting the ice and communication between participants. At 10:30AM, the students will participate in the lecture for that particular day, delivered by a lecturer from the University. After a 30-minute coffee break, the students will be involved in a workshop lasting 90 minutes, whose purpose will be to further delve into the topic explored in the lecture. After the lunch break, we will gather for a roundtable discussion, meant to draw some daily conclusions. These can also be hosted by visiting lecturers accompanying their students.

The fifth day will be dedicated to the participants' poster presentations. Each group will present their findings to the audience. Once done, they will be invited to move on to the next poster. The presentation will take the format of a gallery opening. Everyone is invited to take part in it, participants, lecturers, and guests alike, and to vote on the favorite poster. The poster with the most votes will win a special prize.

Main topics:

- "Roads Around Mountains": A Lecture on Gender and Selfhood in Poetry & "Now I am a lake": A Poetry Workshop (Florina Nastase)
- Lecture: "Seneca Falls" and Why Sentiments Matter: an Overview of the Convention and Its Historical Context & Workshop: Role-Playing Activity "Seneca Falls, 1848. Women Organize for Equality" (Stefana Iosif)
- Feminist Ideology and Thought in Translation Studies: Examples, Strategies and Practices & Feminist References, Imagery, and Undertones in Literary Translation: Case studies and Practical Examples from Muriel Spark and Margaret Atwood (Alexandra Vrinceanu)
- Workshop Built from the bottom up: Constructing a socially aware and inclusive language (Stefan Ghiran)

- Lecture, “Music for the souls that feel different and workshop, “Inclusion through music: songs for social and special occasions” (Oana Frantescu)
- Workshop and roundtable activity: “Activity - Women and Reading: Renegotiating Gender and Power” (Madalina Mandici)