

**The 5th Annual Graduate Conference
in Political Science, International Relations & Public Policy in
memory of Yitzhak Rabin**

**The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel
9-10 December 2009**

Call for Papers: Workshop No. 1

Public Policy and Gender: Comparative Perspectives

Prof. Janet Gornick and Prof. Michael Shalev

The impact of work-family policy and other state interventions on gender roles and inequalities has inspired a growing body of comparative research on policy variation and policy impacts. The classic questions concern what type of public policies (e.g., paid leave schemes, public child care, rights to part-time work, tax-benefit policies) are most effective in promoting equitable divisions of labor in both paid and unpaid work? More specifically, which policies most effectively minimize "motherhood penalties" on women's employment outcomes, including labor force participation, work hours, earnings, and occupational attainment? And which enable or encourage fathers' engagement in family caregiving?

Among the areas where the current literature falls short, we may note these four.

1. The design of work-family policies has been changing in recent years, especially in some conservative states, where policy has become less "familistic". But scholars have been slow to catch up by revising their perception of policies and tracking the actual or probable impacts of change.
2. Nearly all comparative research has focused on determining what is good or bad for women as a whole. Not enough scholarship has recognized that "good" and "bad" often inconveniently come together. Even less research has confronted the fact of *intersectionality* – that gender is crosscut by other cleavages, and hence that what is good for one group of women may not be good for others.
3. We know more about policies in "best practice" countries than we do about what maintains "worst practice" in other contexts. What can comparisons tell us about the political, economic and cultural forces that might be a source of change, progressive or regressive?
4. Citizens adjust themselves to state action or inaction, as well as to labor market conditions. We know much more about how work-family policy varies between nations than we do about cross-national variation in the coping strategies of ordinary people and in the exercise of agency from below.

The conveners of this workshop are experienced in comparing policies across countries, and analyzing their effects using individual-level data. However, other research designs and methods are also welcomed, including intensive studies of one or a few cases, and – in particular – mixed-method studies. This workshop is open to all disciplines.

Workshop Conveners:

Professor **Janet Gornick**, Political Science & Sociology, CUNY Graduate School;
Director, Luxembourg Income Study
Website: http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/wsas/academics/political_science/jgornick.htm
Email: JGornick@gc.cuny.edu

Professor **Michael Shalev**, Political Science & Sociology, Hebrew University
Website: <http://www.geocities.com/michaelshalev>
Email: michael.shalev@gmail.com

Workshop Format:

Workshops are spread over either one or two days, depending on the number of participants. Participation is generally restricted to paper presenters (preferably doctoral students) and discussants (senior faculty members). Papers will be submitted in advance, and one 60-90 minute slot will be assigned for presentation/discussion of each paper. Consideration for inclusion in this highly competitive track requires the submission of an extended abstract (approximately 500 words).

Important Information on the 5th Annual Graduate Conference

The 5th Annual Conference of Graduate Students in the fields of political science, international relations and public policy will convene in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on December 9-10, 2009. Students of political phenomena who work in related fields are also welcomed to present their work in the conference (e.g. law, history, political economy, geography, philosophy, psychology, and communication).

Parallel to the Research Workshops is an alternative "Panels" track.

Each panel is devoted to a specific theme. Three papers are presented in each panel, and participants are not required to submit a paper in advance. A 90 minute slot will be assigned for each panel. Panel chairs and respondents will be senior faculty

members. Consideration for inclusion in this track requires the submission of an extended abstract (approximately 300 words).

Submission requirements: Applications must be submitted by October 15th, 2009. In addition to an abstract, students who wish to participate in either conference track are required to submit a cover letter indicating the subject of their research, their institutional and departmental affiliation, their academic status, the preferred track (workshops or panels), full contact information, and the names of their advisors.

Applicants for the workshop track need to state their commitment to submit a full paper no later than December 1st, 2009.

Best paper competition:

Papers submitted by December 1st, 2009 will be considered for "The Best Paper Award"

Deadline for Submissions:

October 15th, 2009

Application Forms are available from the Conference website:

<http://gradcon.huji.ac.il>

Conference Email:

gradconf@mcc.huji.ac.il

Academic conveners

Dr. Dan Miodownik (The Hebrew University, Jerusalem),

Prof. David Levi-Faur (The Hebrew University, Jerusalem).