



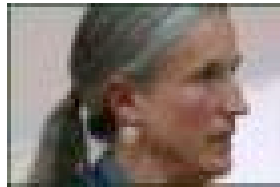
## **GENDER, NATIONALISM AND THE BODY POLITIC**

**SEMINAR IN ANTHROPOLOGY  
AUTUMN 2005 TUES-THURS  
DR. HEATHERINGTON  
ANT 641-002**

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### Key Themes:

- Envisioning and imagining the body politic
- Gender and political subjectivity
- Public bodies in governance, citizenship and resistance
- Violence, embodiment and identity
- Cyborg lives and imagined communities
- Genetic discourses and the nation-state



### Key Thinkers:

- Michel Foucault (History of Sexuality)
- Donna Haraway (Modest Witness, Manifesto for Cyborgs)
- Ann Stoler (Race and the Education of Desire)
- Paul Farmer (Pathologies of Power)
- Diane Nelson (Finger in the Wound)
- Faye Ginsburg and Rayna Rapp (Conceiving the New World Order)
- Begona Aretxaga (Shattering Silence)
- John Borneman (Subversions of International Order)

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This course will explore the emerging relationship between theories of nationalism, embodiment and identity by focusing on the concept of “the body politic”. Anthropological approaches to the study of political identities are distinctive because they have extensively problematised the notion of “culture”, focusing on the dynamic negotiation of cultural representations not only by “nation-states”, institutions, elite groups, and organised ethnonationalist movements, but also “from the bottom up”, and in everyday life. Cutting-edge debates on the body politic emphasize the centrality of embodied experience and practice in this process. Readings demonstrate the relevance of ethnography to the question of how “cultural desires” for imagined communities have been articulated through naturalising metaphors of blood, genes, gender and bodily boundaries, and how “the nature” of the body politic is transforming in the age of high technology and globalisation. For more information, email [heatherington@uwm.edu](mailto:heatherington@uwm.edu).

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