**Gender in Democracies and Elections**

King’s College London

Convenor: Dr Mona Morgan-Collins

**Module Description**

*`Gender equality is fundamental to the achievement of human rights and is an aspiration that benefits* ***all of society****, including girls and women.’* (United Nations Foundation)

Indeed, gender equality affects entire societies, but is inconceivable without women’s equal participation in the polity. Despite a global promise to achieve gender equality, progress towards it has been slow.

In this module, students will acquire the theoretical and analytical tools to understand the role of gender in the study of core topics in political economy, and how to apply these tools to advance gender equality that benefits entire societies, their development, peace and democracy.

After the first week that introduces the concept of gender in the study of political economy, the course is structured to map the importance using gender as a lens to the study of key political economy topics that bring together regime change, elections and the economy.

In the first thematic block, we apply gender lens to the study of democratization, its causes and electoral and economic consequences.

In the second thematic block, we apply the gender lens to the study of elections, how structural and cultural factors skew gendered profiles of political and economic participation and its consequences.

We conclude the module by applying gender lens to the study of the causes and consequences of the covid-19 pandemic.

By taking a global and historical perspective, we will draw on studies of both developed and developing countries and their historical trajectories to generate a comprehensive knowledge of gender and its role in the economy and politics.

Given that studying gender is inherently interdisciplinary, the module draws on works in political science, economics and economic history.

Accordingly, most of the empirical literature uses econometric techniques, although statistical knowledge is not a prerequisite for taking the module.

**Module Outline**

Week 1: The study of gender in political economy: approaches and traditions

*PART I: Democracies and Regime Change*

Week 2: Gender & the Causes of Democratization

Week 3: Gender & the Electoral Consequences of Democratization

Week 4: Gender & Fiscal Consequences of Democratization

Week 5: Gender in Development and Regime Change

*PART II: Voters, Elections and Politicians*

Week 6: Gender in the Household: Origins and Consequences of Labour Division in the Family.

Week 7: Gender in Electoral Institutions: Origins and Consequences of Electoral Systems.

Week 8: Gender & Structural Inequalities in Elections: Origins and Consequences of Education and Employment Gaps.

Week 9: Gender & Cultural Inequalities in Elections: Origins and Consequences of Socialization Inequality.

Week 10: Gender & the Political Economy of Covid-19: Impact of Covid-19 on Gender Equality