



Stenden University Qatar

Research Seminar 12

Dr. Jocelyn Sage Mitchell, Assistant Professor in Residence (Political Science), Northwestern University in Qatar

Dr. Kirsten Pike, Assistant Professor in Residence (Communication), Northwestern University in Qatar

Dr. Tanya Kane, Assistant Professor (College of Medicine – Behavioral Science), Qatar University

“In majalis al-hareem: The complex professional and personal choices of Qatari women”

Abstract

Since 1949, the State of Qatar has used its hydrocarbon revenues to focus on human development of all its citizens—male and female—through increased opportunities in the educational and employment fields. Yet we need more information about the drivers and obstacles of Qatari women’s engagement and empowerment in order to help women balance work-life commitments and ensure successful personal and professional lives. Our research team used quantitative and qualitative methods to study two pressing concerns—increasing female participation in education and the work force, while maintaining the integrity of the family and ensuring that women’s personal needs are met. Our research reveals the conflict between Qatari women’s increased ability to pursue higher education and enter the public sphere through participation in the workforce or political arena, and traditional social norms and attitudes that prioritize domestic life—a conflict that necessitates complex personal and professional choices for Qatari women today.

Biography

Dr. Jocelyn Sage Mitchell is assistant professor at Northwestern University in Qatar, teaching comparative and American politics and interdisciplinary courses. Mitchell holds a BA in political science and Middle Eastern studies from Brown University, and an MA and a PhD in government from Georgetown University. Mitchell's research agenda centers on the interaction between citizens and their governments. Her work has been published in political science journals including the International Journal of Public Opinion Research as well as encyclopedias and edited book volumes. She has lived in Doha, Qatar, since August 2008 with her husband and two sons.

Dr. Kirsten Pike is an assistant professor in the Communication Program at Northwestern University in Qatar. Her teaching and research interests include girls’ and children’s media culture, feminist media studies, and critical histories of television and film. Her research has appeared in publications such as Feminist Media Histories, Girlhood Studies, Mediated Girlhoods, and Reality Gendervision, and her book, Girls’ Media in the Women’s Liberation Era: Girls Act and Talk Back, is forthcoming with Routledge.

Dr. Tanya Kane is an Assistant Professor of Behavioral Science in the College of Medicine at the University of Qatar. She holds a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Edinburgh, as well as an MA (McMaster University), a BEd (University of Toronto), and a BA (Queen's

University). Her research interests include globalization of higher education, gender and medicine, especially in relation to the countries of the Arabian Peninsula. Her current research grant focuses on the psychosocial dimensions of dementia care in Qatar. She has lived and worked in Qatar since 2006.

Date: 25 April 2017 (4-5pm)

Venue: Room 200, Stenden University Qatar