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**UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN**

Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS)

# Gender, Justice, Globalisation

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2016/2017

Negotiating Gender and  
Cultural Difference  
in Contemporary  
Societies



# Negotiating Gender and Cultural Difference in Contemporary Societies

## Experts

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University of Zurich

## Coordination

**Dr. Sabin Bieri**  
University of Bern

## Dates

**Thursday, 17 November 2016**

**Friday, 18 November 2016**

**Saturday, 19 November 2016**

## Information

**Course fee:** CHF 1'400.-

**Closing Date:** 13 November 2016

**Course language:** English

## Registration

[www.izfg.unibe.ch/](http://www.izfg.unibe.ch/)

[weiterbildung](http://weiterbildung)

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Globalisation and migration confront societies all over the world with pluralising cultural norms and identities. As a result, established values and rules of daily interaction are challenged. Combined with the effects of economic slow-down, such challenges aggravate social tensions and increase negative attitudes towards migrant communities. In current debates, gender roles frequently serve as markers of culture, and gender issues are staged as symbols for incompatible cultural differences. **This module aims to assess the dynamics of gendering cultural difference and to challenge essentialist interpretations of culture.** Furthermore, the paradox between the universal claim for equal rights and the cultural rights of minorities will be debated.

## QUESTIONS OF MAJOR INTEREST

- How can the imbroglio of culture, tradition and discrimination against women in contemporary societies be disentangled?
- What are the political and legal possibilities for empowering women whose human rights are violated in the name of culture, while at the same time respecting the cultural rights of (immigrant) communities?
- What do gender studies offer in terms of negotiating gender equality and cultural difference?

## OBJECTIVES

Participants will develop insights into the historical transformations of gender cultures both in the South and the North and are thus encouraged to put the dichotomy of universal rights and cultural relativism into perspective. They will learn to challenge essentialist interpretations of gender and culture and to argue against the use of gendered ethnic stereotypes. Furthermore, they will evaluate current policies to protect the rights of women and girls in migrant communities in Europe.



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