

Introduction

Women, indigenous, poor? The construction of gender in Latin America from the perspective of intersectionality

The following three articles are based on the results of the research project *Women, Indigenous, Poor? The Construction of Gender in Latin America from the Perspective of Intersectionality* funded by the University of Helsinki (2008-10). The general purpose of the project was to apply the concept of intersectionality in Latin American gender studies. The participants in the project were Elina Vuola (director), Auli Leskinen, and Sarri Vuorisalo-Tiitinen (researchers). Our case studies are in the fields of the study of religion (Vuola) and literature (Leskinen and Vuorisalo-Tiitinen).

The first article by Vuola sets the common theoretical ground for all the articles, asking how intersectionality might be used in Latin American gender studies and especially in the case of religion as possibly one "difference" that has to be taken into account in intersectional analyses. In their articles, both Leskinen and Vuorisalo-Tiitinen apply the concept in the study of literature - Leskinen in contemporary Cuban women's writing produced in the island and Vuorisalo-Tiitinen in one important writer, the Mexican novelist Rosario Castellanos.

It is recommended that the three articles be read in the order they appear in the book. Some of the common theoretical considerations are presented in the first article and thus not repeated in the two subsequent articles. Intersectionality has mostly been used in the Anglo-American feminist theory of the global North and, even there, only in certain disciplines. Our project aimed to expand both the geographical and cultural field but also to apply the term intersectionality in new disciplines and fields of study.