**Beyond Abortion Rights:**

**Expanding Reproductive Rights Discourse in America**

**Fall 2013**

***Course Instructor:*** *Damiana Andonova*

***Course Meeting Time:*** *November 16th, 4-5pm*

***Location****: Olin Sang Auditorium*

***Course Type:*** *Seminar* ***Course Description:***

The United States’ focus on negative reproductive rights controversies has greatly limited the positive reproductive rights discourse in America simply by use of language. This course focuses expanding what “reproductive rights” mean by exploring reproductive rights in a global context. This course touches on women’s economic rights, as well as the status of positive reproductive health rights in America: primarily the lack of access to public assistive reproduction technologies and parental leave. We will consider limitations to policy improvement and we will consider why women’s reproduction is socially considered an impediment in her economic and work-related successes. International policy comparisons will provide for an informative discussion on whether the “reproductive rights” narrative in America limits women’s options and limits strategies for expanding upon a more parent-friendly work environment for both sexes. Statistics and discipline specific vocabulary will be addressed for audience’s participation.

***Means of Assessment:*** A grade will not be assigned for this one-day course.

**Syllabus**

**Assigned Readings—Due at the beginning of class**

**Course Readings will be uploaded shortly.**

**1. Review summary of Family and Medical Leave Act. Accessible here:** [**http://www.dol.gov/whd/fmla/**](http://www.dol.gov/whd/fmla/)

**2. Read abstract of Maternal Employment, Work Schedules, and Children’s Body Mass Index**

**3. Read abstract of Employment Patterns of Less-Skilled Workers: Links to Children’s Behavior and Academic Progress**

**4. Read the introduction of , “The Impact of Labor Policies on the Health of Young Children in the Context of Globalization”**

**5. Read the introduction of, “International Perspectives on Work-Family Policies: Lessons from the World’s Most Competitive Economies”**

**6. Read, “Going Negative: How Reproductive Rights Discourse Has Been Altered from a Positive to a Negative Rights Framework in Support of Women’s Rights**

**7. Read this blog entry, accessible here:** [**http://peasoup.typepad.com/peasoup/2006/04/reproductive\_ri.html**](http://peasoup.typepad.com/peasoup/2006/04/reproductive_ri.html)

**Class Proceedings:**

4-4:10 pm Introductions, Review of Course Expectations

4:10-4:35pm Lecture

4:35-4:55pm Discussion

4:55-5pm Closing remarks

5pm-5:15pm—Instructor available after class to have further discussion

**Further Readings:**

To be shared during lecture