

ABSTRACT

Gender Identity and International Relations: A Study of Women's Participation in

International Negotiations

Jeanelle Monique Van GlaanenWeygel

The major concerns that confront this thesis are the issues of gender inequality and the hegemony of masculinism in International Relations (IR). To discuss these issues the social construction of gender, the experiences of women in decision-making world-wide as well as the experiences of Caribbean women and men involved in international negotiations and decision-making are dealt with. By employing a gender perspective and a sociological approach, this study examines how gender identity informs decision-making and leadership styles in IR. It is argued in this thesis that gender is socially constructed and that existing gender identity roles can thus be deconstructed and changed. It is also argued that the deconstruction of gender identities in IR, should take place within a postmodern frame, because it allows for the role, position and experience of marginalised groups in IR, such as women and subordinate masculinities to be incorporated into this analysis. The deconstruction of existing gender identities in IR suggests that women's participation in international negotiations and other forms of decision-making could add a positive element of 'newness' to the field of IR.

Keywords: Jeanelle Monique van GlaanenWeygel; Gender Identity; International Relations; International Negotiations; Postmodernism.