

Seminar Task 2 | Gender, Power & Technology

Part 3 of the course deals with the relationship between gender, technology and power. This includes questions such as: Do artifacts (and technologies) have politics, and how might technologies affect power relationships? What is the relationship between gender and technology? Who should select and control technological development, and how?

The purpose of the seminar task is to reflect on the literature, videos and key themes of part 3 of the course, which also serves as preparations for the seminar discussion on March 6th. Please email the task to jakob.grandin@csduppsala.uu.se on Friday, March 6th at the latest. The task will be graded pass/fail.

Discuss the following two questions (2–3 pages)

- a) Use the course literature and relevant video lectures to define the two terms *gender* and *power* and discuss different interpretations of how they relate to technology.

- b) A prominent theme in part 3 of the course has been how certain politics, power relationships and gender relations may be 'inscribed' in certain technologies or artifacts. Pick one of the technologies that have been discussed in part 3 (energy systems, nuclear power, GMOs, geoengineering, various urban technologies, etc.) and discuss how it relates to politics, power and gender. Does it depend on, or reinforce, particular politics or power relationships? How might it affect gender relations? Who controls it (or should control it)? Relate your discussion to relevant theoretical perspectives from the course literature.