

## Seminar Agenda | Gender, Power & Technology

**Friday, April 8th.**

The purpose of the seminar is to discuss and build a common, critical understanding of the themes and course content of part 3. The seminar should last for 2–3 hours. If you are taking part in an online seminar, please make sure to be online and ready 15 minutes before the seminar starts. Please remember to keep on topic so that you make the most of the seminar. *Please read through the following seminar instructions in full before the seminar starts.*

### Seminar process and group roles

The seminar is an opportunity for you to share reflections that have come up during part 3 of the course, to critically discuss your interpretations of the course material and topics, and to create a common understanding of the course themes. *The seminar discussion has four parts, that are outlined below.* Remember that you don't need to agree with each other on everything, and that challenging conclusions and raising divergent interpretations can often lead to more broad, nuanced and interesting discussions. At the same time, the seminar is also the opportunity to create new knowledge together and generate a common understanding of the topics that are discussed, so aim for creating a respectful, critical and creative atmosphere for both debate and dialogue. No seminar runs smoothly without some degree of facilitation, and the following group roles are meant to make your discussions more fruitful:

- *Time-keeper*: makes sure that there is enough time for everything that needs to be covered, and reminds the group to move on to the next topic when needed.
- *Facilitator*: helps the group stay on topic, may ask the group to explore other possible interpretations of the topic, and makes sure that everyone gets an (at least somewhat) equal share of the talking time.
- *Secretary*: takes brief notes that summarizes the key points of your discussion, and emails these notes to the seminar participants and [jakob.grandin@csduppsala.uu.se](mailto:jakob.grandin@csduppsala.uu.se). (1–2 pages in bullet point format is fine.)

### Part 1: Introductions

This part of the seminar should last no more than 15 minutes.

- a) Read through the seminar instructions (that is, this document) and make sure that you all understand and agree on the overall outline of, and time plan for, the discussions.
- b) Assign group roles (time-keeper, facilitator and secretary – see above) that help the discussion flow smoothly. (NB: Make sure that someone else gets to be secretary this time.)
- c) Make a round and identify any themes or questions that at least some of you found difficult to understand or contradictory during your seminar preparations, or in Part 3 of the course as a whole?

## Part 2: Discussions based Individual task 3, question (a), and the overall course content

Please discuss the following three topics. Spend *around half of your seminar time* here, and save the rest of the time for part 3 and 4 of the seminar. Please remember to keep on topic so that you make the most of the seminar.

- a) Discuss and try to clarify the questions that you identified in Part 1:c.
- b) What are the relationships between gender, power and technology? Which different interpretations of this relationship have you come across in the course literature and web lectures, and how do they define *gender* and *power*? Do you agree with these interpretations and definitions? Why/why not? Who should control technological development, and how?

## Part 3: Discussions based Individual task 3, question (b)

Spend *around half of your seminar time* here, but make sure you save 10 minutes for part 4 of the seminar.

Share and compare your analyses of how a certain technology relates to politics, power and gender (part b of the seminar task). Which technologies did you choose? What conclusions did you make about whether these technologies depend on or reinforce particular gender relations, politics or power relationships? Did you come to different conclusions for different technologies?

What is your take on the general argument that ‘artifacts have politics’? Do you agree that certain politics, power relationships and gender relations may be ‘inscribed’ in certain technologies or artifacts? If so, is this true for all technologies, or only for some? And does it really matter if ‘artifacts have politics’ or not?

## Part 4: Conclusions and new questions

Spend the last 10 minutes to summarize your discussion. What were the key insights from your discussion? Were any new, burning questions raised in your discussion? How did the seminar discussion work out – time keeping, how easy it was to topic, etc. – and what can be improved in the next seminar?

## Don't forget to email your notes from the seminar to Jakob

Please take brief notes during your seminar discussions (in bullet points is fine) and email to [jakob.grandin@csduppsala.uu.se](mailto:jakob.grandin@csduppsala.uu.se) after the seminar. Remember to include the *full names* of all seminar participants in your notes.