"Judging and Gender Equity in the International Realm"

Mildred Fish-Harnack lecture, Wednesday, Sept 28 2016
4pm, Pyle Center

Abstract

Legal decisions of an international scope affect everything from what we recognize as the boundaries of our home countries, to establishing precedents for trying gender-related crimes and systematic mass-rapes as war crimes in an international court. In ways that range from mundane to major, International Law affects the daily lives people across the globe. However, women remain under-represented in spaces in charge of making these decisions. As of January 2016, women occupied only 17% of all positions within the main international and regional tribunals. For example, only 3 out of 15 judges on the International Court of Justice are women; the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea has 21 judges and only one is a woman; the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia has 17 members and only 2 women; and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights has one female judge among its seven members.

The Lecture will focus on the dearth of female representation in international tribunals and monitoring bodies; the impact the lack—and sometimes outright absence—of women has in these spaces and decisions made within them; and discuss points of entry for the creation of mechanisms, guidelines and rules to guarantee gender parity within international bodies.