

Emily Bent

“No Girl Left Behind: Tracing Girls’ Rights Mobilization at the United Nations.”

This classroom-based research proposal brings undergraduate students directly into the processes of human rights mobilization for girls around the world, enabling students to not only contribute to feminist and girlhood studies literatures on girls’ legibility as rights-bearing subjects but likewise to on-going advocacy efforts at the United Nations. Together, we will answer the question: what does it mean to place girls at the “center of inter-generational change” (“Announcement on Action Coalition Themes” 2020, 2)? Students enrolled in WS 297X: Gender and Human Rights will attend two-weeks of high-level meetings at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) to monitor Member State and Action Coalition briefings, analyze NGO reports and initiatives, interview leaders and activists involved in girls’ rights organizing, and follow other human rights mechanisms related to the research question. Based on our research findings, students will work with one another to develop a comprehensive and critical blueprint of girls’ rights and visibility within UN Women’s Generation Equality campaign, identifying best practices, areas for improvement, and recommendations for building a transformative rights’ agenda for the world’s girls. I anticipate making our research findings public and sharing the results with girl-centered organizations engaged in girls’ rights advocacy at the UN.