

049

**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA**  
**MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND PUBLIC**  
**POLICY**  
**FINAL EXAMINATION -- 2008**  
**SSP 2103 – CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL THOUGHT & PUBLIC POLICY**



**DURATION – THREE (03) HOURS**

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**Date: 05<sup>th</sup> July 2008**

**Time: 1.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.**

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**Answer three (03) questions only.**

1. Explain the significance of the contribution made by Naila Kabeer in understanding and conceptualizing the concept of empowerment with regard to women.
2. It was the position of Amartya Sen that freedom is a pre-requisite for development and that development without freedom only undermines the spirit of human development. Discuss with reference to ground level realities that prevail in countries like Sri Lanka.
3. The Public Sphere as discussed by Jurgen Habermas could be defined as an independent space between the rulers and the ruled where all interests could be mediated and consensus reached concerning the direction of society. Discuss with reference to the need for a more formidable civil society in transitional societies of the Third World.
4. “The goal of gender planning is emancipation of women from subordination and their achievement of equality, equity and empowerment”. Critically assess this statement in a locally relevant manner with reference to Moser’s framework for gender planning and development.
5. Explain the significance of the contribution made by Johann Galtung with regard to social obligations of peace communicators including journalists with reference to Sri Lankan media realities.
6. Critically discuss Foucault’s scholarly contribution through “Genealogy of Power”, focusing on the impact of knowledge production on the lives of people in the development process in general.
7. Laderach’s contribution helps us to appreciate more deeply the significance of reconciliation as a peace making paradigm. Discuss with reference to the Sri Lankan ethno political crisis.

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