

Abstracts

Soo-Hyun Mun

The question of women's pay in the early years of the German Federal Republic: same work versus same performance?

This article investigates the way in which the judicial debate in Germany conformed to gender bias characteristic of the time by focusing on lawsuits in the German Labour Court in the 1950s. In the first half of the 1950s the German Labour Courts were wrestling with the question of equal pay for men and women and the Federal Labour Court ultimately declared that the Basic Law should stipulate equal pay, but only in cases where women and men did exactly the same job. This meant that the substantial part of women's work, namely the typical women's job, was excluded. The narrow scope of the legal debate was related to the sexual prejudice of the actors at that time: not only conservative jurists and employers, but also liberal jurists and trade unionists who did not believe that the different work of women had the same worth as the work of men.

Keywords: Comparable Worth, Equal Pay, the Typical Women's Job

Jutta Hergenhan

»Reflecting the will of the Citizens...«. A feminist perspective on the European constitutional treaty

If gender equality in the EU has always been a topic linked essentially to social policy issues, the constitutional treaty of 2004 does not change a great deal in this regard. The principle according to which European integration promotes equal treatment of women and men on the labour market is confirmed, as well as the opposition to discrimination and the objective of gender mainstreaming, but a quota for increased political representation

of women in the European Commission was refused by the European Council. In order to react to the increased trade with human beings, especially from Central and Eastern Europe, the possibility to take common measures against sexual exploitation of women and children has been introduced into the treaty. In general, the delegation of women to the Constitutional Convention by institutions of the member states was very low and women's issues were only a marginal topic on the agenda during the constitutional process.

Keywords: gender equality in the EU, constitutional treaty, gender mainstreaming, political representation of women

Claudia Opitz

The reason of state has no sex? Female sovereignty and state building in Early Modern Europe

The main purpose of this paper is an analysis of the concept of »reason of state« that was developed during the sixteenth and seventeenth century from a gender historian's point of view. The paper aims not only to make a contribution to the history of political ideas and concepts, but also at a critical revision of actual feminist debates on gender and the state that are usually centered around contract theory, the history of modern liberal democracy, and gender equality (Pateman, Frazer, Fauré et al.).

Considering not only early modern political writers (like for example Jean Bodin) and their concepts of state, sovereignty and (gender) politics but equally texts from the »querelle des femmes« which developed at the same time (in France as much as in England), it becomes quite clear, that the »reason of state« concept not only helped to bring into being a non-personal and non-confessional concept of the state but equally a de-gendered one, especially in

England. The fact that the realm had to and did accept a female ruler (i.e. Queen Elizabeth I.) in the middle of the sixteenth century had to be legitimised by arguments of »reason of state« that went far beyond the traditional gender order or even inverted it. It did not, however, change the situation of »usual« Englishwomen – for »reason of state« was based on a clear distinction between a de-gendered public and a gendered private sphere (and law).

Keywords: Feminist political theory, state building, sovereignty, early modern history, gender history.

Beate Rosenzweig

Equality, Difference and Differences – Feminist controversies surrounding Plato's political philosophy

The article discusses feminist interpretations of Plato's political philosophy. The argument is that the diversity of feminist Plato receptions is closely linked to prevailing feminist theory debates. In this regard, it identifies three different phases of feminist re-readings of Plato: a. pro-feminist receptions that either stress the category of equality or difference between the sexes, b. antifeminist receptions based on the same categories, c. deconstructions of feminist Plato interpretations.

The essay illustrates that the common aim of canon transformation produces a number of feminist controversies about the appropriate way to rethink a classical text, i.e. Plato.

Keywords: Plato, feminist perspectives, political theory, canon transformation

Sasha Roseneil Shelley Budgeon

Cultures of Intimacy and Care beyond »the Family«: Personal Life and Social Change in the Early 21st Century

The authors argue that if sociologists are to understand the current state, and likely

future, of intimacy and care, we should de-centre the »family« and the heterosexual couple in our intellectual imaginaries. In the context of processes of individualization much that matters to people in terms of intimacy and care increasingly takes place beyond the »family«, between partners who are not living together »as family«, and within networks of friends. The first section of the article provides a critique of family sociology and the sociology of gender for the heteronormative frameworks within which they operate. It proposes an extension of the framework within which contemporary transformations in the realm of intimacy are to be analysed, and it suggests that there is a need for research focusing on the cultures of intimacy and care inhabited by those living at the cutting edge of social change. In the second part of the article, the authors draw upon their own research on the most »individualized« sector of the population – adults who are not living with a partner. They explore contemporary cultures of intimacy and care among this group through a number of case studies, and argue that two interrelated processes characterize these cultures: centring on friendship, and decentring sexual relationships.

Keywords: care, family, individualization, intimacy

Susan Splinter

A physicist looking for a bride

In the course of the 18th century ideas about love and marriage changed, and the concept of a marriage based on mutual love gained more and more ground. My article explores the conflicting views in a specific case. A professor of experimental physics in Copenhagen, Christian Gottlieb Kratzenstein (1723–1795), a widower, asked his friend in Berlin, the astronomer Johann III Bernoulli, to help him find a new wife. In the ensuing correspondence Kratzenstein informed Bernoulli in detail about his expectations. He wished for a

young, healthy and attractive wife, who was not only capable of good house-keeping, but also educated in the typical female accomplishments of those days. The woman Bernoulli found, however, rejected her suitor after a first meeting. She favoured a love match and was repelled by Kratzenstein's rational planning of the marriage. A special appeal of this article lies in its extended quotations from Kratzenstein's hitherto unpublished letters.

Keywords: 18th century, rational planning of marriage, looking for a bride

Malaika Rödel, Charlotte Ullrich

Decoding Human Genetics? – on critique of the human genome database in Iceland

In December 1998, the Icelandic Government passed the *Act on Biobanks*, as a consequence of which the genomics company Decode Genetics set up the *Health Sector Database* (HSD). The *HSD* integrates Icelanders' phenotype and genotype by bringing together medical records, genealogies, and genetic data. This paper investigates the reasons why this development was met with broad acceptance by both the government and the public. We argue that critics of the *HSD* merely focused on political and technical implementation issues, overlooking the broader political, social, and cultural implications of the *HSD*. We conclude by exploring how the consideration of the impact of the database on gender relations can open up new contextualizing perspectives on the Icelandic *HSD* and life sciences in general.

Keywords: Biopolitics, Gender, Genomics, Iceland, Life Sciences

Danièle Kergoat

On the sexual division of labour and gender in France

In this paper, we swiftly touch upon the evolution, in the French context, of the

notion of the sexual division of labour and we describe the ramifications of research that refers to this notion. We propose our definition of the concept, a definition that rests on a distinction between the principles and modalities of the sexual division of labour. Finally, we draw the contours of several paradigms to attempt to construct a model that takes the current evolution of the modalities of the sexual division of labour into account.

Keywords: sexual division of labour, gender, work, evolution of paradigms

Helena Hirata

The conciliation of family life and professional life: some hypotheses based on fieldwork

The idea of a complementarity between the sexes or one of conciliation of roles appears in diverse forms: 1) the »traditional model«; 2) the »conciliation model«; and 3) the »partnership paradigm«. In this article I develop the hypothesis of the emergence of a »delegation model«, which can substitute for or be superimposed on the model of the conciliation of family life and professional life. The limits of the conciliation of roles from the point of view of social practice and the alternatives, from the point of view of public policies as well as of social movements, will be discussed. This article will have as its starting point some international comparative research in progress, where women sometimes conjugate the term »conciliation« under different forms and in very different meanings, to the extent that they act in notably contrasting societal and family/couple contexts.

Keywords: Conciliation, Gender Relations, Servants and Domestic Work, Polarisation of Women's Employment, Public Policies