

17th Meeting of the Committee for Women- and Gender-Studies of the German Association for European Ethnology (dgv)

CALL FOR PAPERS

Troubling Gender: New Upheavals in the Politics of Gender in Europe

09-11 April 2021, University of Goettingen

Organized by the *dgv Committee for Women- and Gender-Studies* in cooperation with the *dgv Committee for Europeanization/Globalization: Ethnographies of the Political* and the *Department for Cultural Anthropology/European Ethnology* of the University of Goettingen

The latest events in Europe indicate that the politics of gender and sexuality is becoming extremely hostile. Many gender-related topics are (again) open for a discussion, including transgender and queer rights, legal regulation of sexual offences, gender mainstreaming, or the regulation of reproductive bodies through abortion, reproductive technologies, or infrastructures of care. We can also notice that gender plays a major role in the reshaping of diversity and antidiscrimination policies, formations of care and social reproduction, as well as in sustainable economies in the light of global intersectional inequalities. Diverse actors are involved in these new processes: gender and sexual orientation are becoming points of contention and controversy for political parties, law-makers, (international) political bodies, the media, various publics and social movements, in scholarly discussions, and so on.

The seriousness of the situation becomes clear when we look across Europe: in Poland, Hungary, and Croatia there are attempts to limit or to revoke the right to abortion; Gender Studies have been banned at universities in Hungary and Bulgaria; Austrian FPÖ/ÖVP government has severely limited the money for the research of gender politics. LGBT rights have been questioned in France and Italy, while in Poland we witness the emergence of the so-called "LGBT-free zones" and the diminishment of LGBT rights. With the rise of the AfD in Germany, gender imaginaries and anti-feminist discourses (believed to had been long overcome) gain more and more prominence at local, state and federal levels, while the successes of gender democracy and the attained liberalization of gender relations and sexual practices are increasingly framed as threats (Lang/Peters 2018; Villa/Hark 2015; Sauer 2017).

Considering such dynamics, we want to structure the discussions at the conference around the three following problems:

1. Regulations: Policy, Regime, Right, Knowledge

In and through which places, scales, politics, instruments, knowledges and/or body images can we see attempts to regulate gender relations? What moral/ethical forms of structuring, standardisation, classification and naming are taking place today? What is their relationship to exclusion, subjectivities, and fields of action? In what ways are knowledge and politics interwoven today? Which negotiations, collaborations, and conflicts become visible?

2. Gender as a Point of Contention in Politics

Here it would be particularly important to ask: In whose name are arguments concerning gender articulated? Whose knowledge about gender is taken as relevant? And which (intended as well as unintended) consequences does this have?

3. Practices and politics of feminist intervention

Here it is especially important to re-examine the following: How are feminisms themselves in motion and which feminisms are becoming virulent in social movements? How are feminisms articulated? And which old-new links between activism, knowledge, and feminism appear today?

During the conference “**Troubling Gender: New Upheavals in the Politics of Gender in Europe**”, we aim to discuss these three strands of topics in various formats: in addition to the more conventional panels and open forums, we plan also roundtables and World Cafés. We explicitly invite transnational/European and interdisciplinary perspectives. We will also gladly support panels organized by early-career scholars and the presentation of graduate works.

Submissions: We look forward to receiving your proposals for presentations, panels, and other formats. Eligible are contributions from all empirically-based social sciences and humanities.

Abstracts of 2000 characters should introduce the research question, empirical background, and the key argument and they should include brief information about the author. Please send abstracts by 30. June to: shess@uni-goettingen.de