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Call for Papers

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Gender Relations in Eastern Europe: The Dilemma of Non-Simultaneity (Working Title)

At the beginning of the transformation in Eastern Europe more than two decades ago, Claus Offe coined the term of the „dilemma of simultaneity“: this meant the challenge that simultaneous transformations – the shifting of state territories, the reformation of nation states, the establishment of consolidated democracies and the transformation from a planned to a market economy – could block each other so that the historically unprecedented regime change would fail.

25 years later we notice a „dilemma of non-simultaneity“ with regard to gender relations. Democratization was not synonymous with gender democracy, the transition to a „free“ market economy was no equivalent to economic gender equality and, finally, the shift of state borders has given rise to conflicts that often were fought out in the field of gender politics. Gender relations are at the heart of these transformations which caused Janus-headed and controversial results: This concerns the marginalisation of women in public politics, the feminisation of civil society or welfare retrenchment, to name only a few. While neo-traditional women's roles are further disseminated, the downsizing of social services and subsidies render it impossible for most of the people to live according to the male breadwinner model. As everywhere, democratization of gender relations is not realized. On the contrary, we witness redistribution processes in terms of work, time and money, and an increasing revert to traditionalism and stereotyping, as well as more and more intersectional social exclusion.

In addition to the developments on the nation state level, we can see differences in gender politics *between* the states of Central and Eastern Europe, not least along the new material and discursive boundaries that have been established in the wake of EU enlargement. About ten years after the eastern enlargement, we can speak of an emergent supranational gender regime in the European Union, which is evident in the *gender acquis communautaire*. Nevertheless, there are still major differences between the EU Member States. Overall, gender equality policies have slowed down, and the transposition of the given equality directives on the national level is often

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protracted. However, if distinction from countries such as Russia is at stake, gender equality moves into the heart of the European identity.

Civil society (in this context: its gender political part), however, seems better suited to withstand the new boundaries. The alleged feminist West-East-West one-way street of the 1990s has given way to mutual exchange, not least thanks to new media. Today, on an international level the most provocative political movement impulses come from Eastern Europe, especially from Russia and Ukraine (Femen and Pussy Riot).

The "dilemma of the non-simultaneity" in Eastern European gender relations is the focus of our special issue. Against the background of the advancing construction and shifting meanings of "Europe", "EU-rope" and "Eastern Europe", we are interested in the question of the complex interactions of the three transformations of state / nation, democracy and economy on gender relations: How do state-building or its decay, democracy building or hybridization of regimes, economic crises, privatization and neoliberalization relate to gender relations? And vice versa: Which role do gender relations and gender constructions play in these processes?

We are particularly interested in abstracts for "The dilemma of the non-simultaneity" that discuss interdependencies along three main points:

- The construction of "(Eastern) Europe" is not completed. Against this background, it would be worth striving for a continuation of early feminist analyses of the state in the wake of the Eastern European regime changes. Once more, discourses show the interplay between "gender" and "nation". On what evidence the feminist theory of the state gets in the face of State developments in Eastern Europe? How are nation and gender intertwined? How gender is inscribed in the nation?
- In addition, we need analyses of the interdependence of the economy and gender. How is it reflected, for example, in the "gender of the oligarchs" or "gender of poverty"? Have women's movements, as a result of the economic crisis, left behind their often criticized liberal bias and their neglect of economic issues? Are there feminist critics of neoliberalism?
- The European Union and its specific supranational gender regimes form a reference point for policy makers and civil society in Eastern Europe - regardless of whether a specific country is a member or not. What are the impacts of the EU (gender) policy on the region of Eastern Europe so far? How we can explain its current standstill? How do developments in Eastern Europe influence the EU gender policy?
- To what extent politics in the region have become more gender inclusive in terms of participation and (substantial as well as descriptive) representation? What are the challenges of civil society in the unsteady "spring" democracy movements in hybrid and authoritarian regimes in Eastern Europe, especially from a gender perspective? How do women organize in these movements? What is the role of masculinity and femininity constructions in this context?

Abstracts and Contact

Gesine Fuchs and Eva Hinterhuber are the supporting editors for this issue. Abstracts of one or two pages should be sent to post@gesine-fuchs.net and eva-maria.hinterhuber@hochschule-rhein-waal.de or to redaktion@femina-politica.de by **30 November 2014**. As a feminist journal promoting women inside and outside academia *Femina Politica* will prioritize qualified abstracts by women.

Submission Deadline for Contributions

The editors will select contributions from the abstracts and invite authors to submit full papers until **15 December 2014**. The deadline for manuscripts between 35,000 and 40,000 characters (including spaces, notes, and bibliography), prepared for anonymous review, is **15 March 2015**. Information concerning the author should only be given on the title page. All manuscripts are reviewed by external reviewers and editors. The reviews will be returned by **15 May 2015**.

Open Section Forum

In addition to the topic of *Gender Relations in Eastern Europe*, this issue of *Femina Politica* provides the opportunity to publish original manuscripts from the field of gender-sensitive political science in the journal's section *Forum*. Articles should have no more than 20,000 characters (including spaces, notes, and biography) and should either provide access to important research findings or be involved around contemporary debates in feminist research. Abstracts of one or two pages should be sent by **31 March 2015** to redaktion@femina-politica.de. The final selection will be based on the full-length paper.

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