

Governing Gender Relations /Critical Governance Studies

Research network at the Department of Political Science, Vienna
„Governance and Gender“, Prof. Dr. Birgit Sauer

Current Debates about changes in gender relations in the context of economic globalisation and political internalisation of the state as well as debates about the intersectionality of different structures of inequality have given new relevance to the theoretisation of gender within Political Science. Debates about democracy and difference, the politisation of gender differences by social movements as well as equality policies at the national and international level have gained new importance.

Within Political Science, the notion of "governance" has become a metaphor for new forms of governing, decision-making and participating. The research network is claiming to contribute to the field of Critical Governance Studies in the context of the current transformation of Statehood. The main focus is put on gender sensible analysis of governance-concepts and empirical analysis of governance-processes. Moreover, we are in particular interested in analysing different forms of regulating gender regimes. In this context, we consider it as necessary to link gender to other analytical categories like race, class and sexuality.

Our work in the network is based on feminist state- and social theory. Hence, we are referring to an extended notion of the state, which also includes the civil society as part of the state. In particular we are referring to the theory of hegemony by Antonio Gramsci and the concept of gouvernementality by Michel Foucault. This not only widens the field of the state but also expands the area of state theory. In the research projects of the network we are analysing both, the macro-political as well as the micro-political dimension of gender relations in the state. Therefore, in empirical studies we are focussing on the gendered structures of the state, while we are also theorising the relationship between the state and gendered subjection.

The research network is aiming to point out modernisations, transformations as well as stabilisations within gender relations. Furthermore we are claiming to contribute in deepening feminist State- und Social Theory.

Current members of the research network are: Mag. Gundula Ludwig, Dr. Stefanie Wöhl and Prof. Dr. Birgit Sauer.

CVs of the members

Mag.^a Gundula Ludwig

Since September 2006 Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Sciences. Currently writing her dissertation on „Governing gender. State and gendered subjection“.

Main Research

Political Theory, Feminist State Theory, Gouvernementality Studies

Bibliography

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Dr. Stefanie Wöhl

Studied Political Sciences in Bonn and Frankfurt/Main. Assistant at the Institut für Sozialforschung Frankfurt/M. (2001 – 2003). Assistant at the Philipps-Universität Marburg in the research group „Europäische Integration im Globalisierungsprozess“ (2003 – 2006). PhD at Philipps-Universität Marburg. Title: „Gender Mainstreaming in the European Union. Eine staatstheoretische Analyse“. Since November 2006 Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science, University of Vienna.

Main Research

State Theory, Politics of gender relations, feminist Social Theory, European Integration.

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