

# FEMINA POLITICA

ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR FEMINISTISCHE POLITIKWISSENSCHAFT

Call for Papers

2/2023

## **Trans\*Politics and Trans\*Critiques of Cis- and Transnormative Political Orders (Working Title)**

Since the early 2000s, the term trans\*feminism<sup>1</sup> has increasingly been used in international activist contexts and theories. However, within German-speaking social sciences, trans\*feminist analyses and critiques have so far been taken up only rarely. Given this, the special issue aims to create a space to explore the potential of trans\*feminist analyses in the social sciences and political sciences. Instead of assuming an irreconcilable opposition between 'cis-feminisms' and 'trans\*feminisms', the special issue reflects on the contribution of trans\*feminist social sciences: What constitutes a trans\*feminist perspective in social sciences? How can feminist knowledge archives can be re-read, re-interpreted and expanded in a way that avoids to reproduce a binary notion of gender? What constitutes trans\*feminist politics? What are the implications of trans\*feminist perspectives for gender equality policies? What are key elements of trans\*feminist analyses of our present times? How have historical struggles, movements and theories criticized and reworked the heteronormative, colonial system of the binary of gender?

We take the following observations as background of this special issue: Trans\*gender people have become more visible in socio-political and feminist debates in recent years. An increased visibility of transgender and gender-nonconforming people can be observed in mass media and in private and public institutions. However, this visibility is structured by intersectional relations of inequalities. Furthermore, pathologizing and stigmatizing representations continue to exist. At the same time, there are steps of legal liberalization and de-pathologization with regard to access to transitional medicine, legal recognition, and legal protection against discrimination. Despite these changes, marginalization and discrimination persist in almost all areas of society and especially in wage labor. In addition, killings of trans\*persons and gender-non-conforming people are increasing globally.

<sup>1</sup> We use the asterisk (\*) intentionally to draw attention to dominant narratives of gender nonconformity and transgenderedness infused with coloniality, gender and class relations and to decenter them.

Trans\* people and gender-nonconforming people are affected differently by violence and discrimination. In the context of homonationalism and transnationalisms, white trans\* people who conform to neoliberal norms are partially included in citizenship. Meanwhile, QTIBPoC (Queer, Trans\*, Inter Black People and People of Color) increasingly face racist security policies and violence. They also work more often in dangerous workplaces or are denied basic human rights as refugees. The coloniality of the neoliberal division of labor deepens trans\*phobic and masculinist politics in parts of the Global South, which manifest e.g. in trans\*femicidal violence in Central and South America. In the Global North, the significance of class divisions among trans\* people emerge in the context of austerity policies: the commodification of public infrastructure and housing, the reprivatization of transitional medicine, and the push for wage labor as the only way to sustain life deepen inequalities among trans\* and gender-nonconforming people.

A norm of being trans\* and gender non-conforming associated with whiteness, wealth, gender binarity, and ability emerges. It regulates which trans\* and gender nonconforming people are considered worthy of protection and recognition and which are not. Analyses and politics that conceive trans\* and gender-nonconforming persons as a homogenous group – constituted solely by the category of gender – reproduce these normative and violent relations.

Even with regard to the ambivalent transformations on a legal level, it is not clear whether these changes will lead to improvements for trans\* and gender conforming persons. Currently, trans\*hostile discourses gain momentum, as can be seen e.g. in Germany in the public hatred against Tessa Ganserer, one of the first two openly transgender members of the *Bundestag*. And it shows on a global scale in trans\*hostile positions of the Catholic Church and of right-wing politicians.

The special issue explores these paradoxical and contradictory developments. It aims to further sharpen trans\* and trans\*feminist perspectives in the social sciences. The issue aims to show how concepts of political science, social science and social theory can be expanded when trans\*, gender-nonconformist, and trans\*feminist perspectives are accentuated as part of feminist social science. Furthermore, trans\*feminist contemporary analyses are also subject of the special issue. Since we assume that current gender politics can only be understood against the background of historical developments, we also ask about the genealogies of cis- and transnormative modes of regulations and trans\*phobic politics. We are interested in both, continuities and ruptures of trans\* and trans\*feminist struggles and politics – public politics as well as semi-public and intimate policies such as trans\* and gender-nonconformist care.

We want to address the following sets of questions with the special issue:

- What constitutes trans\* and trans\*feminist epistemologies? How do trans\*, gender-nonconformist and trans\*feminist perspectives intervene in methodologies and epistemologies of (feminist) political science and social sciences? What new methodologies and epistemologies do they produce? How do trans\* and trans\*feminist analyses re-articulate notions, concepts, and theories in political science and social sciences?
- How can we grasp the formation and transformation of hetero-cis-normativity as well as the rejection, normalization and regulation of its dis\_abled and racialized others? How are norms such as 'transsexuality' or 'transnormativity' to be

understood in light of current and historical intersectional power relations? How do pre/post/colonial and state/post-socialist gender politics overlap in oppressing, enabling, and normalizing of gender nonconformity and transgenerness?

- In what ways did and do the phenomena of transgenerness, gender-nonconformity or transgender people function as tropes of (post-)modernity, state and nation? What roles did and do Eurocentric, (post-)modern, capitalist, (post-)colonial, and (post-)Nazi relations play here? How are state policies around trans\* people legitimizing demarcation lines between the Global North and the Global South and between Western and Eastern Europe?
- What are the potentials of trans\* and trans\*feminist analyses of political, social and economic relations? How do they challenge and transform the understanding of current (post-)colonial gendered and sexualized relations? To what extent do trans\*feminist perspectives contribute to a more precise understanding of the current 'multiple crises'? To what extent can we observe a reinforcement of binary gender concepts in the face of the current global militarization?
- How do trans\*feminist policies find entrance in the state and the law? Which actors put them on the agenda, which political factors act as obstacles? What ambivalences does the recognition and institutionalization of the category 'transgenerness' produce for different policy fields? What ambivalences are inherent in the institutionalization of other categories such as 'woman' in gender equality policies? What ambivalences accompany the recognition and institutionalization of the category 'transgenerness' with regard to intersectional power relations – for example in the discourses on 'hate crime'?
- What constitutes historical and current politics of trans\* and gender-nonconforming subjects and collectives? How do they intervene in intersectional relations of power and domination and how are they entangled in them? How do trans\* and trans\*feminist politics and theories produce subversive and emancipatory imaginaries and utopias of solidarity, care, life, labor, bodies, and collectivity? What solidary relations did and do exist between trans\* and other feminist analyses and politics?

We look forward to empirical, methodological, and theoretical contributions with a broad geopolitical scope.

### **Abstracts and contact**

The special issue will be edited by Zoe\* Steinsberger und Gundula Ludwig. One- or two-page abstracts may be sent to [zoe.steinsberger@uibk.ac.at](mailto:zoe.steinsberger@uibk.ac.at), [gundula.ludwig@uibk.ac.at](mailto:gundula.ludwig@uibk.ac.at) or [redaktion@femina-politica.de](mailto:redaktion@femina-politica.de) until **November, 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022**. Given the focus of the issue, we are especially looking forward to qualified abstracts by trans\*, inter, and gender non-conforming colleagues.

### **Submission of articles**

The editors of the special issue will invite articles selected on the basis of the submitted abstracts until **December, 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**. The anonymised articles, ranging from 35,000 to a maximum of 40,000 characters (including spaces, footnotes and sources) must be handed in by **March, 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. Information regarding authors may be included on the title page only. All submissions are subject to a double-blind peer review process. Each article will receive one external (double-blind) review and one internal review. In some circumstances, a third review may be requested. The final decision regarding publishing of the article will be made by the editors based on the reviews by **May, 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. The deadline for the finalized version of the article is **July, 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023**.

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