

FEMINA POLITICA

ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR FEMINISTISCHE POLITIKWISSENSCHAFT
(JOURNAL OF FEMINIST POLITICAL SCIENCE)

Call for Papers

Issue 1, 2022

Right Outside

Intersectional Dimensions of Poverty and Exploitation

(Working title)

For some time now, national and transnational NGOs have been warning of increasing poverty risks for an ever-growing population. The neoliberalization of Western modern welfare states, austerity policies in the wake of the 2008/09 financial crisis, and authoritarianism have exacerbated the risks of poverty. The current COVID-19 pandemic intensifies these tendencies, while also producing new political and socio-economic crises: It is likely that the group of those affected by poverty will expand in the near future and that forms of “extreme poverty” will rise even in welfare states or states with only minimal social security. Likewise, many countries of the global south face new hunger and survival crises due to income loss and inadequate support programs. Impoverishment is in many ways gendered, sexualized, racialized and classed, it primarily affects those who are already vulnerable and marginalized.

Poverty is multidimensional and transnational, and it has global effects: Exploitation in globalized value chains destroys social structures in countries of the global south. Externalizing the labour force, for instance in the textile industry or through the digitalization of labour, circumvents social security protection and creates precarious living conditions. At the same time, poverty has to be historically situated, for instance, in view of the implementation of capitalism after the dissolution of the Soviet bloc or with regard to postcolonial continuities, which translate into contemporary (trans-)national politics and affect intersectional gender relations in different ways.

In recent decades, research on Western welfare states has revealed that politics as well as media tend to see poverty as an individual problem. These discourses help legitimize the dismantling of welfare state structures, the expansion of state sanctions, the criminalization of poor populations, as well as surveillance of particular residential areas. As a supposedly ‘individual’ problem, structural poverty is also often located in a ‘different time’ or a ‘different geographical area’ and linked to the narrative of ‘democratic backwardness’ or lack of sovereignty. These discourses, then, ignore hierarchical transnational interdependencies that contribute to the production of

poverty. They also neglect the fact that poverty is due to interlocking systems of oppression and, consequently, is rather to be found alongside the one-third world/two-third world axis. An intersectional and transnational perspective is therefore crucial for analysing poverty – and at the same time it is often lacking within contemporary debates.

However, the history of poverty is and always has been one of resistance as well: be it through worldwide strikes, through local and transnational protests such as poverty, food sovereignty, or homeless initiatives, or nationally and transnationally organized lobby groups. Moreover, topics like exclusion, poverty and classism have recently gained more attention in research and teaching.

From an intersectional and especially gender-sensitive perspective, the special issue aims to focus on poverty, its current and historical causes as well as possible ways to fight poverty. In terms of the different approaches within research and the challenges of how to measure poverty, we understand poverty to be multi-dimensional phenomenon and suggest to consider three interrelated facets: first, as an expression of socio-economic inequality, second, as everyday life process and experience, and, third, as an affective relation.

Theory-based empirical contributions and theoretical articles that address the following topics are of particular interest:

- Which aspects of poverty have to be taken into account in order to better understand poverty as a complex phenomenon? How can we theorize poverty as a result of multiple systems of oppression from a feminist intersectional perspective? How could socio-economic aspects, everyday experiences and feelings as well as global or transnational dimensions of poverty and impoverishment be thought together? And what are the methodological consequences?
- What are the old and new discourses on poverty – e.g. criminalization, stigmatization, shaming, deserving/undeserving poor – to be currently observed? How do political actors position themselves within these debates, what role do they play for politically dealing with poverty, and which political constellations foster which poverty policies?
- Which forms of appropriating poverty are currently at stake – for instance, in the sense of a “new charity economy” or right-wing “national-social” policies – and what is the role of intersectional gender perspectives for grasping these phenomena? How do current state or transnational policies, such as urban space policy, social and labour market policies or development policies, contribute either to expand or fight poverty?
- Which forms of (self-)organization and resistance do not only signify (necessary) survival struggles, but also enhance the possibilities of political agency, participation and emancipation? And what kinds of (informal) networks and political practices support these processes?

Abstracts and Contact

The editors of this issue are Brigitte Bargetz and Jana Günther. We invite one to two-page abstracts to be submitted to b.bargetz@politik.uni-kiel.de and jana.guenther@h-da.de or redaktion@femina-politica.de by **31 May 2021**. As a feminist journal that promotes women* within and outside academia Femina Politica will prioritize qualified abstracts by women*.

Submission Deadline for Contributions

On the basis of the abstracts, the editorial team invites authors to submit full papers by **15 Juni 2021**. The deadline for these anonymized papers of 35,000—40,000 characters (including spaces, notes, and bibliography) is **15 September 2021**. Information about the author should only appear on the title page. All papers undergo a double-blind peer review process. Each paper is reviewed by one external reviewer (double-blind) and one internal reviewer (issue editors). If needed, a third review might be asked for. Authors will receive the reviews of their articles by **15 November 2019**. Based on the reviews, the editors of the journal will make the final decisions for the publication. The final papers are due on **15 January 2021**.

Femina Politica

<http://www.femina-politica.de>

<http://www.budrich-journals.de/index.php/feminapolitica>

<https://de-de.facebook.com/FeminaPolitica>

Kontakt: redaktion@femina-politica.de