

Summaries:

Anthias, Floya/Yuval-Davis, Nira: Frauen - Nation - Staat

This article is taken from the introduction to *Woman - Nation - State* (1989) edited by the same authors. The authors provide the theoretical background and the main lines of debate on woman - nation - state. They locate five major ways in which women have tended to participate in ethnic and national processes and in relation to state practices. This relationship is explored using the concepts of cultural and biological reproduction, the significance of culture in ethnic and national processes and women as signifiers of national and ethnic boundaries. Finally the authors warn against the reification of either of these concepts and point out the complexity of and the need to contextualise the relationship between woman - nation - state.

Hülya Demirdirek: Die Verewigung von Tradition und Modernität: Frauen und die Politik der Weiblichkeit in Aserbaidshan

Hülya Demirdirek illustrates the specific dynamics of gender construction within the politics and nationhood processes in Azerbaijan. Her work is based on anthropological fieldwork in Baku and explores examples of images of women as mothers, professionals, and housewives. Azeri women are part of the nationhood processes as border markers to other societies and nations. Nevertheless the modernity project, the Soviet experience as well as class and urban-rural divisions provide for multiple representations of Azeri womanhood. Her discussion focuses on the structural limitations and various discourses of conceptualizing gender in Azerbaijan and seeks to predict the sources and political future of a feminist movement in this country.

Yelda: Wer bist du, das oder das dort?

Yelda's article is a statement on the debate on racism and nationalism(s) in Turkey. She provides for ample examples from the nature of racial and nationalist prejudice in the media but also of 'normal' people, including herself. She sees the state hegemony as a crucial factor in reducing identities into opposite poles and illustrates the difficulty of the feminist discourse in Turkey in dealing with Kurdish nationalist arguments, human rights' issues

and the Islamist women and appeals for self-critique and more awareness of one's own prejudices against the 'other'.

Soraya Duval de Dampierre: Sexus und die 'neue Verschleierung'. Islamistische Frauen in Ägypten

In her paper on Islamic women in Egypt, Duval de Dampierre interprets these women's groups as specific social movements growing within the context of a general social movement that was triggered by the 1967 debacle with Israel. Islamism grew to be the language of dissent and protest against an inept government and as such became the new nationalist creed that was widely perceived as being able to counter debasing western influence. Islamist women's groups grew mainly among the middle-class and enabled an unprecedented move into areas previously only open to men, e.g. mosques. Consequently, Duval de Dampierre's thesis is that under prevailing conditions, Islamism presents a genuinely modernistic, emancipatory alternative for Egyptian women and enables them to carve out free space for themselves within this traditionally paternalistic society.

Lydia Potts/Tina Harms: Frauen und Rechtsextremismus
- eine erste Annäherung -

Women have not as of yet played a prominent role in extreme rightist parties of organizations, leading to a dearth in empirical research concerned with questions on the affinity of gender-based considerations to these extremist positions. Potts and Harms quote from the most recent studies ranging from those which deal with the effects of modernization and individuation theories on the development of the extreme right to those which focus on rightist orientation as coping mechanism for difficult life situations. Specifically, they focus on the gender difference as manifested in female-specific conflict areas within the family as well as conditions of socialisation and the roles these play in the formation of extreme rightist views. Interestingly, the authors counter-check these findings with their own preliminary interviews with social workers dealing with women and girls of this political leaning and conclude that their views are much more finely delineated and in certain points contradictory to existing research.