

FEMINA POLITICA

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(FEMINIST JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE)

Call for Papers

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100 Years of Women's Suffrage – What Happened to Equality?

“Demand the right to vote, because suffrage leads the way to women's independence and equality, to freedom and the pursuit of happiness” – motivated by this enthusiastic motto the German radical feminist Hedwig Dohm called for women's suffrage as early as 1873. Yet, it took another 45 years until this hope became a reality in Germany.

Currently, many countries such as Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands or Germany commemorate the 100th anniversary of the introduction of women's right to vote and the demand for equality which is closely linked to this right. The elections to the Weimar national assembly on 19 January 1919 were the very first national elections in Germany in which women exercised their right to vote and to stand as candidate. Ever since then the participation and representation of women in politics has slowly, but constantly increased – yet with some variation among parties and regions. We have a female chancellor for more than a decade; six out of 15 ministers are women and the share of female parliamentarians in the German Bundestag stands at 37 percent – this is more than the European average.

Descriptive representation – i.e. standing for a specific group – is linked to the idea of substantive representation, which should lead to bring more women's interest into the policy-process. Thus, suffrage should serve as an instrument for more gender equality. The 'herstory' of women's suffrage illustrates, however, that there is no straightforward linkage between descriptive and substantive representation. Therefore, a century later the question still comes up: What happened to equality?

Even though comparative gender studies in the field of representation and participation have analysed manifold trends and reasons for women's ongoing underrepresentation in parliaments and governments, the critical need to investigate these developments and to assess the impact of women in politics remains. This special issue will focus on the achievements made in the last century, the effects of and the reasons for the still existing variation of women's representation in politics. Yet, we cannot speak of 'women' and 'women's interests' as if this is a clear-cut category. It is necessary to

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bring a gender-sensitive and an intersectional perspective together in order to analyse mechanisms of exclusion (e.g. class-based participation patterns; voting as a right linked to national citizenship).

We invite contributions investigating representation and participation in the past and today through a gender and/or intersectionality lens. We are interested in historical or international comparative studies as well as theoretical discussions in the following areas:

- Firstly, contributions focussing on the political conditions for the political and social empowerment of women. Which national and international factors have contributed to the success of women's suffrage? What was the reasoning behind the call for equality and how can we assess this today? Which suffrage for which (groups of) women was called for and implemented? How was the relation between the right to vote (active) and to stand as candidate (passive) discussed? How is the in some countries still-existing exclusion of women from politics legitimised? Do international conventions (e.g. CEDAW) have an impact upon these national debates?
- Secondly, we are interested in critical perspectives on who represents whom and how? How has suffrage affected women's life and women's movements? In which way do women's interests or gender-sensitive interests develop? How and in which way can interests be transformed into political programmes and desirable policies? Is there a linkage between the timing and the kind of suffrage introduced and descriptive and substantive representation today? What is the impact of intersectional and conflicting interests? Were there any losers on the long way to suffrage? How were advocacy coalitions formed?
- Thirdly, the question is which kind of debates and discourses have accompanied the call for suffrage, women's political and social empowerment in the past and today? What is and was the role of political parties, civil society and social movements, the media and the public? In which way have these discourses changed? Were women's suffrage or women's quotas a response to public opinions, and how have they affected public opinion? Which issues raised by the 'old' women's (suffrage) movement are still topical today and who promotes them? Who opposes women's suffrage today?
- Fourthly, what are today the barriers for women to achieve public office in their country? How does the electoral and the party system affect women's participation in public life? Do we need a 'critical mass' for realizing gender-sensitive interests and better substantial representation? How are gender-sensitive interests constructed and negotiated?

We welcome theoretical as well as more empirical contributions, which attend to one or more of the above outlined topics. Theoretical ideas can be derived, for instance, from theories of representation or of the state, from citizenship studies, from intersectionality and social movement studies.

Abstracts and Contact

Gabriele Abels, Petra Ahrens and Agnes Blome are the supporting editors for this issue. Abstracts of one or two pages should be sent to gabriele.abels@uni-tuebingen.de, Petra.Ahrens@uantwerpen.be, ablome@zedat.fu-berlin.de or to redaktion@femina-politica.de by **30 November 2017**. 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 **16 December 2017**. The deadline for manuscripts between 35,000 and 40,000 characters (including spaces, notes, and bibliography), prepared for anonymous double blind review, is **15 March 2018**. Information concerning the author should only be given on the title page. All manuscripts are reviewed by external reviewers (double blind) and editors. The reviews will be returned by **15 May 2018**. The final selection will be based on the full-length paper. The deadline for the final version is **15 July 2018**.

Open Section *Forum*

In addition to the topic of *100 Years of Women's Suffrage*, 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 be between 20,000 and 25,000 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 to redaktion@femina-politica.de. The final selection will be based on the full-length paper.

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