



**INSTITUTE
OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**
Institute of national significance
for the Republic of Serbia



**INSTITUT
ZA FILOZOFIJU
I DRUŠTVENU
TEORIJU**

GENDER AND POLITICS RESEARCH NETWORK IN SOUTH-EAST EUROPE (GenPolSEE)

Founding Meeting

2-3 November 2022

Institute of Social Sciences and Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory
Street Kraljice Natalije 45, First Floor, Belgrade

Wednesday, 2 November 2022

09.30-10.00

Welcoming remarks

Goran Bašić and Gazala Pudar Draško, directors of the host institutes

Host team: Adriana Zaharijević, Lilijana Čičkarić, Saša Gavrić and Naida Kučukalić

10.00-12.30

First Panel

The State of Gender and Politics Research in Europe and the Balkans

Feminist political science research has been developing over the last three decades intensively, aiming at gendering research methodologies, theoretical debates and empirical research. Feminist political science, neighbouring disciplines and interdisciplinary research have shaped new approaches to theory and practice, and have sought to produce work that is of direct relevance to achieving women's movement goals, whether within public policy or within political institutions broadly conceived. Gender and politics research seeks to identify obstacles to change and the possibilities for a broad gender-responsive transformation. However, we are witnessing a continual marginalization of feminist political analysis in the “mainstream” social sciences and growing opposition to gender studies in Europe and beyond. The First Panel will aim at a limited review of the state of gender and politics research in Europe and the Balkans, with a special focus on anti-gender movements.

Moderator:

Adriana Zaharijević, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade

Keynote speakers:

Gender and Politics Research in Europe

Petra Ahrens, Tampere University

It's the end of the world as we know it: Anti-Gender Crusades in Europe

Roman Kuhar, University of Ljubljana

Speakers from the Balkans region:

Amila Ždralović, University of Sarajevo

Vjollca Krasniqi, University of Prishtina

Biljana Đorđević, University of Belgrade

Irena Cvetovikj, Koalicija Margini, Skopje

12:30-14:00

Lunch & Networking

14.00-16.30

Second Panel

Who Represents Women?

Issues of women's political representation are a core focus of gender and politics research. Over the last decades, different approaches have been taken in order to define and empirically operationalise the concepts of representation, “acting for women”, “women’s interests” and “women’s issues”, some being very narrow and feminist, others very broad, incl. non-feminist definitions. Next to studying numerical representation, concepts like “critical actors”, “critical acts” and “representative claims” are at the centre of the debate. The focus is not anymore on a critical mass of female politicians, but on critical actors, female and male, which don’t have to be elected politicians. The critical act of representing women is therefore multifaceted and women might be represented by diverse actors, like women’s movements and women’s policy agencies. The Second Panel will aim at a limited review of the state of women’s political representation research in Europe, with a special focus on the Balkans.

Moderator:

Lilijana Čičkarić, Institute of Social Sciences, Belgrade

Keynote speaker:

Researching Women’s Presence and Representation in Politics

Milica Antić Gaber, University of Ljubljana

Speakers from the Balkans region:

Elena Nachevska, University of Ljubljana

Zlatiborka Popov Momčinović, University of East Sarajevo

Jelena Lončar, University of Belgrade

Marsela Dauti, University of Tirana

Biljana Kotevska, European Policy Institute, Skopje

Tajma Kapić, Dublin City University

16:30-17.00

Coffee break

17:00-18.30

Keynote lecture (hybrid, lecturer online)

Feminist Democratic Representation

Feminist Democratic Representation (Oxford University Press, 2020, by Karen Celis and Sarah Childs) considers a broad spectrum of contemporary problematics - abortion, prostitution/sex work, Muslim women's dress, and Marine Le Pen - to discuss women's under- and misrepresentation and the "good, bad and the ugly" representative. As problem-driven scholars firmly grounded in feminist and democratic empirical and theoretical political science, Celis and Childs imagine what good representation for women in all their diversity could look like—representation as it should be. To realize this ideal in today's established representative democracies, they present a second-generation feminist design for parliaments and legislatures, underpinned by a re-thinking of feminist and democratic principles.

Keynote speaker:

Sarah Childs, University of Edinburgh & Karen Celis, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Moderator:

Saša Gavrić, University of Leipzig

19:00

Dinner & networking

Thursday, 3 November 2022

9.30-13.00

Strategic Planning Workshop for the GenPolSEE

Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory

Street Kraljice Natalije 45, Fourth Floor, Belgrade

Facilitators:

Naida Kučukalić, Heinrich Boell Stiftung and Saša Gavrić, University of Leipzig

13:00-14.30

Lunch



The organisation of the Founding Meeting is supported by the
[Global Unit for Feminism and Gender Democracy of the Heinrich Böll Stiftung](#)

Why GenPolSEE?

Feminist political science research has been developing over the last three decades intensively, aiming at gendering research methodologies, theoretical debates and empirical research. Feminist political science, neighbouring disciplines and interdisciplinary research have shaped new approaches to theory and practice, and have sought to produce work that is of direct relevance to achieving women's movement goals, whether within public policy or within political institutions broadly conceived. Gender and politics research seeks to identify obstacles to change and the possibilities for a broad gender-responsive transformation. However, we are witnessing a continual marginalization of feminist political analysis in the “mainstream” social sciences and growing opposition to gender studies in Europe and beyond. These negative developments have indeed arrived to the South-East Europe and the feminist political science is still on the margins, very much dependent on individual engagement and endeavours. In order to promote regional cooperation and collaborative approaches, the **Gender and Politics Research Network in South-East Europe** (GenPolSEE) is being established.

GenPolSEE is an informal, board-based feminist network of researchers interested in fostering research on gender, politics and representation in South-East Europe. The network is committed to the following **network objectives**:

- Strengthening peer-to-peer learning and exchange among gender and politics researchers in the region;
- Promoting contemporary feminist research methodologies among scholars from the region and strengthening links with international experts, networks and platforms;
- Conducting empirical research aimed at supporting change, innovation and transformation.

The **thematic research focus** of the GenPolSEE network revolves around the following issues:

- **Gender and representation**: critical actors, women’s and social movements, intersectionality;
- **Gender and institutions**: parliaments, political parties, institutional mechanisms, executive;
- **Gender and public policy**: inclusive policy making, accountability, gender mainstreaming;

The informal **GenPolSEE** network will be fully non-profit and will conduct, among others, following activities:

- Informal exchange via a network mailing list & social media channels;
- GenPolSEE network meetings (incl. feminist research methodology workshops, thematic online and in-person events);
- Thematic national or comparative, regional research projects.