

Abstracts

Regina Wecker, "Marriage is Destiny, Fatherland is Destiny – There is no Remedy for It". Women's Citizenship in Switzerland 1789–1998

In the current political debates on naturalisation law and citizenship, the status of a citizen is assumed as permanent and fixed. Cultural homogeneity and equality are considered the basis of those being citizens of one nation, and cultural homogeneity is asked of those who want to become citizens. However, the history of citizenship in Switzerland between 1798 and 1998 does not only show how much the naturalisation laws changed but as well how inconsistent the meaning of citizenship was. This holds true for men and women, but in addition married women's identities as citizens depended on their husband's legal identities. The analysis of the history of women's citizenship shows that the notion of homogeneity can only be held up if women's historical reality is declared irrelevant.

Hannelore Burger, The history of women's citizenship in Austria. Some case studies from the first half of the 19th century

There is some evidence that surprisingly many women have applied for independent citizenship in Lower Austria in the first half of the 19th century. The article analyses records documented in the Archives of Lower Austria. The documents contradict not only to parts of the juridical literature considering women's citizenship dependent either on birth or on marriage, but they correct also the clichés of the dependent non-working women in the 19th century. Besides this, the analysis of these documents contributes to changing the semantic field of the term 'citizen,' being connected exclusively with the male citizen since Rousseau and Kant.

Dilek Çinar, "Successful integration", and citizenship in Austria

Since the beginnings of the 1990's several Western European countries have modified their naturalization policies. In most cases, access to citizenship for immigrants has been made easier, for example, by reducing the waiting period of an application for naturalization or by allowing dual citizenship in order to promote the integration of immigrants as citizens. In contrast to other Western European countries, the amendment of the Austrian Nationality Law in 1998 was motivated by the aim of tightening up the conditions to be fulfilled by immigrants who apply for naturalization. This article gives an overview of the recent political developments concerning the integration of immigrants in Austria and the modification of the legal provisions regulating access to Austrian citizenship.

Helma Lutz, Borders, passports and rights. European scenarios

The essay aims at deconstructing the idea of Europe as a de-nationalized supra-state in which a common free market economy, a common currency and open borders allow its members to share equal rights and opportunities. Helma Lutz argues that Europe while adjusting membership rights for European Union citizens it is simultaneously reinforcing exclusionary practices for minorities. The situation of immigrant women will serve as a case study for the analysis of gender, ethnicity, sexuality and age as interlocking systems in operation.

Yvanka B. Raynova, The "Other Sex" in the context of post-modern theory

Yvanka B. Raynova argues that Simone de Beauvoir's de-legitimization of the "grand stories," the deconstruction of the dualistic thinking in binaries, the refusal of abstract human rights, and finally, her call for an ethic of justice are strong indicators that Simone de Beauvoir can be seen as a predecessor of post-modern theory.

Elisabeth Malleier, "A Emile Zola – Les jeunes filles de Vienne". The 500 Viennese girls or: 500 against 4.000

A solidarity note of 500 Viennese women in favour of Emile Zola's critique of the French jurisdiction in the Dreyfus case provoked sharp reactions from the Christian-Social Party (Christlichsoziale Partei). More than 4.000 women of the "Christian Women's League" (Christlicher Wiener Frauenbund) met in the Viennese city hall to condemn the pro-Zola and pro-Dreyfus note. It was one of the biggest anti-Semitic demonstrations in Vienna before World War I.

Ruth R. Pierson in dialogue with Erna Appelt, About the difficulties of 'white' women to understand their contribution to an imperialistic and racist production of knowledge

In this interview Ruth Pierson argues that racist and imperialistic thinking is still alive in the academic world of the United States and Canada. There is strong evidence that also 'white' feminists are not at all immunized against racism, and quite often 'white' academics have rather strong difficulties to understand their own involvement in everyday racism in academic life.

Jiřina Šmejkalová/Waltraud Heindl, "Aspekt". A feminist periodical in the post-communist era ten years after the "Wende"

Jirina Smejkalova and Waltraud Heindl present the multi-disciplinary periodical "Aspekt!" that deals with the question of women's rights and gender studies. The periodical, edited by (female) Slovak scientists, is of very high quality.

Roswitha Muttenthaler, "My group goes into the open body ..." A commentary to the exhibition in Lower Austria in 1998 " 'Rebelling & adjusted' – Women's life in Austria"

Exhibiting is always an argument, an act of producing meaning, a performance. This exhibition uses patterns of the parts of the female body for shaping some show-cases and while doing so provoking voyeuristic views on the female body, confirming common visions on "the woman". This commentary is focusing on the meaning-constituting processes by designing displays and thereby pleading for increased reflections of the frequently proposed "narrative innocence" of scenarios presented in exhibitions.