

Abstracts

Mineke Bosch, *Persona and the Performance of Identity. Parallel Developments in the Biographical Historiography of Science and Gender, and the Related Uses of Self Narrative*

In this article Bosch explores the parallel development in scientific and gender biography to shed light on the relation between the individual and the collective, the self and society. In the history of science the relational/collective scientific self and the concept of the scientific persona (or mask) were developed in order to gain insight in the co-construction of the individual scientist and the collective scientific enterprise. In gender studies theatrical metaphors came into use to understand collective and relational aspects of (gender) identity formation. Doing or performing science as shown in the cases of Boyle and Harris, and doing or performing gender as shown in the cases of Lady Dilke and Marguerite Durand simultaneously entered the stage of biographical representations of scientists and subjects of feminist inquiries. They inform what can be called the 'new biography'. This study of identity formation investigates self representations and self narrative in a variety of texts from autobiographies to travelogues and house hold accounts to scientific works. It interprets these texts not as unreliable subjective sources but as key texts crucial to comprehend the situated historical subject.

Angelika Schaser, *Inscribed? Gender in the Autobiographies of the First Women Politicians in Germany*

The article focuses on four published autobiographies of German women, born between 1873 and 1886, who were active both in the women's movement and in liberal parties. The four books appeared in the years 1933, 1956, 1961 and 1963 respectively. In retrospect the authors describe their lives as continuous lines throughout German history and its political turning points. They consider themselves – depending on the respective phases of their lives – as Germans, members of the women's movement and the female elite, as scholars, politicians, liberals and as *Bildungsbürgerinnen*. Everyone

of them wrote her autobiography when she feared her lifework might fall into oblivion. Examining the spheres of education and politics, I will point out in which context the authors explicitly referred to themselves as women. Moreover I will examine the role gender plays in their autobiographies.

Yury Zaretskiy, *The Figure of the Protopopica. A Contribution to the Study of Old Russian Autobiography*

The article discusses the famous Russian pre-modern autobiography “The Life” by *protopope* Avvakum (1621/22–1682) by having a closer look at one of its main characters: his wife Natas’ja Markovna. Being the leader of the movement against religious reform in seventeenth century Russia, Avvakum composed his life story in accordance with the hagiographical canon of the martyr to send a propaganda message to his followers. The figure of Natas’ja Markovna in his text is part of this message. In line with the female hagiographic canon, she is portrayed as a wife and mother, completely subjected to her husband’s will and doomed to share the hardships of his life. Though Avvakum’s autobiography was widely read, its religious and social contexts have often been ignored. The same is true for the figure of the *protopopica*, which has been used by Russian scholars and writers of the twentieth century to establish a canon of the model wife.

Li Gerhalter, *Materialities of Diary-Writing. Manifestations of Girls’ and Women’s Diaries in the Twentieth Century*

This article discusses the materials on which auto/biographical texts were written. Focusing on girls’ and women’s diaries of the twentieth century, the author argues for a broad understanding on which writing materials might contain diary records. An analysis of ‘schoolgirl diaries’, calendars, household books, and ‘mothers’ diaries’ shows the complex relationships between individual auto/biographical practices, which could change during the course of an author’s life, and historical styles, conventions, gift-giving cultures and socio-political interests. The paper demonstrates, among other things, that the idea of girls mainly using lockable diaries is nothing more than a cliché. Looking at different levels of diary-related materialities (writing style, paper, enclosures and cover sheets) and the places where they were kept, this paper also explores the aspects of ‘secrecy’ and ‘self-re/presentation’ in a diary context. Taking the appearances of archived records as a starting point, the perspective finally broadens to include those transformations that egodocuments undergo on their way to being researched or edited.

Ayşe Gül Altınay, Gendered Silences, Gendered Memories: New Memory Work on Islamized Armenians in Turkey

Since 2004, at least 17 books (across the genres of memoir, fiction, oral history, and historiography) have been published in the Turkish language on the Islamized Armenian survivors of the 1915 genocide and the (post)memories of their “Muslim” grandchildren. This emerging body of memory work poses significant challenges to Turkish national self-understanding, the official politics of genocide denial as well as to the growing scholarship on 1915. It also calls for a critical analysis of the nine decades of silence on Islamized Armenians in all historiographies. This article aims to discuss the need for a feminist perspective to make sense of both this silence and the recent process of unsilencing.

