

Summaries

Frigga Haug: Being Human: What Kind of Appropriation of the Female Gender? Editorial

Human beings differ from all other beings in their capacity to make tools. This is a general assumption that is also at the basis of Critical Psychology. But human beings are, in their reality, the ensemble of social relations, explains Marx. Challenged by these two statements, Haug asks whether women can be thought of as human beings under these circumstances. The article reorganizes our basic ideas regarding the socialization of humankind.

Meg Luxton: Reclaiming Our History, Reanimating our Politics

The author states, that marxist feminist politics offers contemporary anti-capitalist struggles both a vision of a viable and attractive alternative future and strategies for how to organise effectively. However, both the left and the feminist movement ignore or distort in ways that seriously weaken the capacity to challenge capitalism and its neoliberal policies. This paper argues that marxist feminist politics offer an oppositional perspective useful today.

Adelheid Biesecker, Sabine Hofmeister und Uta von Winterfeld: Externalized? The Dialectic of Expropriation and Appropriation and Recent Manifestations.

The article argues that modern global capitalism is characterized by a systemic structure of division in which the »internal« (public, and »productive«) appropriates the »external« (private, and »reproductive«) without recognizing it. Two recent processes of appropriation are discussed: The integration of nature by two research projects: The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) and »Women on Top«. Practices of internalization do not change the paradox structure of division but only shift the relationship between the »internal« and the »external«. Resistance can develop within each realm, but, especially in intermediary spaces. New forms of action can thereby arise. These can be interpreted as steps towards sustainable relations, both between the genders and between society and nature.

Ruth May: Appropriation of the City

Analysing the gendered appropriation of spaces in history, the author analyses how social relations and physical-spatial structures are mutually related. The comparative study of urban planning in the second half of the 20th century shows that planning concepts can be regarded as successful in a human sense insofar as they support the appropriation of urban public space by women. The current economic crisis has brought to the fore the right to life and habitation as endangered and threatened by private appropriation. The slogan of *the right to the city* puts various efforts to overcome the urban crisis on a platform of solidarity.

Katharina Schwabedissen: When the Lights go out for Others, You Still have Time – The Appropriation and Adaptation of Longing for a Different Time in Women’s Magazines

Women’s magazines serve as a hegemony apparatus of dominant groups. They perform passive revolutions with the revolutionary desires and needs of women. The author provides a material analysis of the acquisition of needs according to a different distribution in women’s life-times and the self-determination that accompanies them. Gaps are shown, arguing that filling them is necessary so that from women’s dreams, revolutionary realpolitik may arise. The article opposes the isolation of capitalism, calling for the Political in the common struggle for a humane society.

Sabine Plonz: Leaving Precariousness behind without Denying Precarity: Discursive Reappropriations and the Ethical Project

The debate on precarisation in modern capitalist labor- and security regimes deals with the marginalization of employees and the jobless. Feminist scholars have criticized the androcentrism of several of its assumptions and interpretations that render the discourse on precariousness incomplete. They have also investigated how precarious life and work conditions question gender role models. The article summarizes the main arguments of this criticism and reflects on its ethical, ideological and religious implications. The biblical affirmation of the rights of the oppressed and precarious is remembered. Emerging form antique class struggles, the latter offers an alternative appropriation of similar stories.

Frigga Haug: How is Gramsci Useful in the Struggle for a Feminist Politics of the Left?

The article discusses efforts to change party politics in an emancipative manner. The author analyzes in some detail a process of intervening politics of a growing group within the German Left party, *Die Linke*. Using Marx’s ideas as developed in the Theses on Feuerbach and Gramsci’s translation of them into political action, Haug discusses mistakes and failures in favour of hope.

Ines Philipp: Appropriation of Power: About the Paradoxical Strength of Women in the Socialist Project. Venezuelan Experiences

This text discusses the different projects, institutions and places that the Venezuelan women fought for and gained under Chávez in order to participate in political, public life, to intervene and organise themselves.

Wolf-Dieter Narr: The Federal Republic of Germany – A Country that (Almost) Casts no Shadow. On History and Those Who Write It

Two recent books prompted this review essay: Nicolas Berg, *The Holocaust and Historians of West-Germany. Research and Memory*; and Klaus Kempster, *Joseph Wulf. The Destiny of an Historian inside of Germany*. The essay situates Holocaust research by West-German historians between 1945 and 1990 into the context of a country that went from being destroyed to becoming a key power in the European Union of today. For a long period, ›tragedy‹, ›catastrophe‹ and the like served as surrogate terms for an in-depth analysis of the Holocaust. Younger generations of historians have pretended to pursue an apolitical, object-oriented »science«, thereby marginalizing many of the victims of fascism through a kind of essentialist symbolism. In this respect present-day Germany mimics its historians.