Gender, Intersectionality and the European Public Sphere

Siim, Birte

Publication date:
2010

Document Version
Early version, also known as pre-print

Link to publication from Aalborg University

Citation for published version (APA):

General rights
Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

? Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
? You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
? You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal

Take down policy
If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us at vbn@aub.aau.dk providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

Downloaded from vbn.aau.dk on: december 29, 2018
Gender, Intersectionality and the European Public Sphere

Birte Siim, Aalborg University

EUROFORUM SESSIONS: EUROSPHERE
Mid-Term International Conference, Brussels. 11-12 November, 2010
Issues for Debate

- Methodological reflections and design
- How is gender linked to diversity in different organizations?
- How is gender equality & women’s issues being framed in the EU & across Europe?
- Confrontation of research findings with theories, models & concepts
Eurosphere: Diversity and the EPS

http://www.eurospheres.org/

➢ What are social & pol. actors views about diversity & EPS? What models do organizations believe in - a centralized or fragmented (or another model of) European Polity? Organizations’ views on EU polity/policies: views on the development of EU-polity; and views concerning EU's involvement and power in policy-making

➢ Do actors/organizations communicate/participate in EURO-networks spaces?

➢ What are their perceptions of diversity, PS & EPS
Gendering The EPS

Critique of the EP models:

- The *liberal* market model is exclusionary
- The *republican* citizenship model – is homogenizing
- The *cosmopolitan* model – is built 'from above'
- Only the *deliberative* model is able to empower women as social & political actors
Democratic Diversity in the Public Sphere

*Dimensions in public sphere* (Ferree 2002):

- *Who* should participate, on what occasions?
- *What* should be the form of content of their contribution to the public discourse?
- *How* should the actors communicate with one another?
- *What* are the desired outcome of the process?
Guiding Hypothesis

- Gender makes a difference for attitudes of opinion makers on the four different sites
- Presence: Women are marginalised in the EP; but different positions on the four sites
- Power: Women and minorities are both marginalised in the EPS
- Discourses: Gender intersects with diversity with various meanings across Europe
Research Dimensions

- *Where are the women* – presence, voice & power/empowerment
- *Gendering as a process* – framings, arguments & discourse, silencing
- *Diversity & pluralism* – a focus on intersections of gender and diversity
- * Desired outcomes* – policies, models & visions and practice?
Research Questions

- To explore and explain the role of women and gender groups in the articulation of the national public sphere(s) & in relation to the four sites – i.e. political parties, social movements, media and think tanks - if and how they interact, cooperate and negotiate with ethnic minority groups.

- To explore and explain the role of gender related concerns in the articulation of the national public sphere(/s) and how they relate to issues of diversity in relation to social and political spaces/sites.

- To explore and explain the role of gender groups in the articulation of the European Public Sphere (EPS), how they cooperate & negotiate with ethnic minority groups.

- To explore and explain the role of gender-related concerns in the articulation of the European Public Sphere and how they relate to issues of diversity, especially to ethno-national concerns.
Methodological Reflections: Challenges & limitations

- **Multi-level model** – macro-meso & micro
- **Multiple approaches to the EPS**
- **Comparative approach**: 16 countries, 200 organisations, 1300 interviews
- **Multiple sites**: Political parties, social movements/NGOs, think tanks, and media
- **Data**: Elite interviews, institutional data, media and surveys
- **Methods**: Content analysis, critical frame analysis and discourse analysis of texts
The dominant picture: gender interacts with other factors & categories, i.e. nationality, pol. families, ethnicity/race

The EWL is challenged: from minority women’s org. & new (Conservative) women’s organizations

The dominant picture: a positive perception of women’s SMOs of the link between European integration and gender equality?
Gendering as a Process

- New struggles about the meaning of gender equality & women’s issues at the national level and in the EP?
- Conservative & Socialists in the EP have different values, models & visions of gender
- Majority and minority women’s org. have alliances but may have different priorities
- A Paradox? No common public sphere – yet many org. belong to transnat. networks
Intersectionality

- Dominant national discourses are gendered - some exclude the unequal other
- Incusive counter discourses intersecting gender with ethno-national diversity exist, i.e. in pol. parties & anti-racist org.
- The coupling of gender and ethnicity/race is not a dominant concern in the selected women’s organisations
The European Public Sphere

- Counter discourses to the EPS: Euro-scepticisms & visions of a social Europe
- Is the dominant gender discourse in the EP & the EWL is challenged by enlargement?
- New struggles about the meaning of gender equality & women’s rights
- Intersections of gender and ethnicity/race by women’s org. as rhetoric and practice
Confronting Theory and Research

- **Gender and Diversity**: Respondents articulate a dualism between gender and diversity models.
- **Gendering the EPS**: Alliances between women & minorities cannot be taken for granted; questions common interests based upon marginalisation.
- **Challenge to assumptions**: About a gap between civil society actors and national pol. institutions.
- **Diversity**: Respondents express differences in terms of nationality, pol. families, ethnicity/race.