

Let's give (wo)men a chance



Gender Equality and Democracy: Elements for rethinking feminism within the EU

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Diagnosis:

Is there a backlash on women's rights? How does it manifest itself, previous experiences

- Current Backlash: the 2008 economic crisis with severe social and political implications + threats of terrorism (fear), rise in populism, xenophobic nationalism (disillusion), religious fundamentalism of different creeds(identity politics) in a context of instant/lowcost/fastfed information (buzz)
- Snail pace for gender equality: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-index/2015>
- Recurrent excuses: Gender equality exist, not the right time, other priorities

Analysis of the causes:

Where does it come from? Social and economic reasons v/s identity politics

- Valence différentielle des sexes (Françoise Héritier): control of reproduction; engrained male supremacy
- Faces of oppression (Iris Young): Violence, Exploitation and marginalisation, powerlessness, cultural imperialism
- oppressive/uncomfortable patriarchal culture: agony or revival
- Where power lies: political, economic, social/private spheres

***Oppression:* any system that reduces the potential of people to be fully human (denied the opportunities to reach their full human potential in body and mind)**

- Violence: 1 in 3 women has experienced physical or sexual violence (60million); 1 in 20 has experiences rape (fear, anger, shame, anxiety, lack of self confidence)+ sexual harassment+cyberstalking and domestic violence (1in 5) rarely reported.
- Exploitation and marginalisation: gender pay gap (16%)pension gap(38%)part time; segregation; unpaid care and household work 9h/week for men and 26h for women
- Powerlessness: 28% of elected representatives (EP 37%); 21% of board members; 39% board of funding organisations, 32% board of public broadcasting and 13% of sport organisations
- Cultural imperialism: androcentrism is an institutionalised pattern of cultural value that privileges traits associated with masculinity while devaluing anything coded as feminine (Nancy Fraser) - carer/trader

Remedies: what can we do against it? Institutions, opinion leaders, civil society, academia

- Ideas :, political, economic and cultural empowerment of women (“representation, redistribution , recognition” Nancy Fraser); question “common sense” norms, habits and symbols (ex the irrepressible sexual impulse of men!); monitor Dangers an opportunities: populism (family model), neoliberalism(growth does not produce well being for all) vs the male breadwinner family model is dead(women are not leaving the labour market);
- Interest: promote participation of women, support feminist men role models, ...
- Institutions: Local, national, EU

1. What has the EU done for women?
2. What gender equality does for the EU?

What has the EU done for women?

GENDER EQUALITY IS A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT in the EU Treaty

- A European value (art1bis);
- A **principle** to promote (art 2)
- It conditions **sanctions**(art7) and the **accession of new MS** (art49);
- Gender equality must be mainstreamed in **all EU policies** (art8)
- Gender equality on the Labor market (art157)
- Charter+ Declaration 19 on gender violence

GENDER EQUALITY EMBEDDED IN INSTITUTIONS

- European Commission: a commissioner+ the gender equality unit
- European Parliament: FEMM committee
- The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)
- The European Women's Lobby (EWL)

GENDER EQUALITY SECONDARY LEGISLATION

- 9 directives and case law on gender equality+ other directives which can serve women (trafficking(2011), child sex abuse(2011), victims rights(2012), harassment in employment(2002), harassment in sale and distribution of goods(2004)

CAPACITY BUILDING: MONEY, STRATEGIES, MEASURE , POLITICAL ATTENTION

- European Social Fund, Gender equality Strategic engagement, **EU gender equality index**, Forums, Conferences, informal councils, council conclusions, recommendations, pact....

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What CAN Gender Equality do for the EU

IN POLITICS: : WOMEN'S RIGHTS IS A TEST CASE FOR DEMOCRACY AND POLITICAL LEGITIMACY

IN THE ECONOMY : EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, CARE, DEMOGRAPHY ,

IN SOCIETY : VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, ROOT CAUSE OF VIOLENCES; COMBAT POVERTY;
MIGRANTS

Back to the Future: THE EU AS A PEACE AND SOLIDARITY PROJECT

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MORE WOMEN IN POWER

Integrating gender , a transformative agenda

Gender mainstreaming supports a reorganisation process of policies to integrate the needs of users

ex gender budgeting, where goes the money : cost of gender based violence

Women at the vanguard of organizations which conciliate growth of well being, respect of the environment, social cohesion:

Ex: the wealth of nations beyond GDP

The EU Gender Equality Policy: historical landmarks

1957: Fair competition promotes equal pay

1976 : ECJ and article 119

1983 : Women's Labour market participation = 43%

1992 : the Athens declaration

1997 : Amsterdam Treaty: Gender Mainstreaming

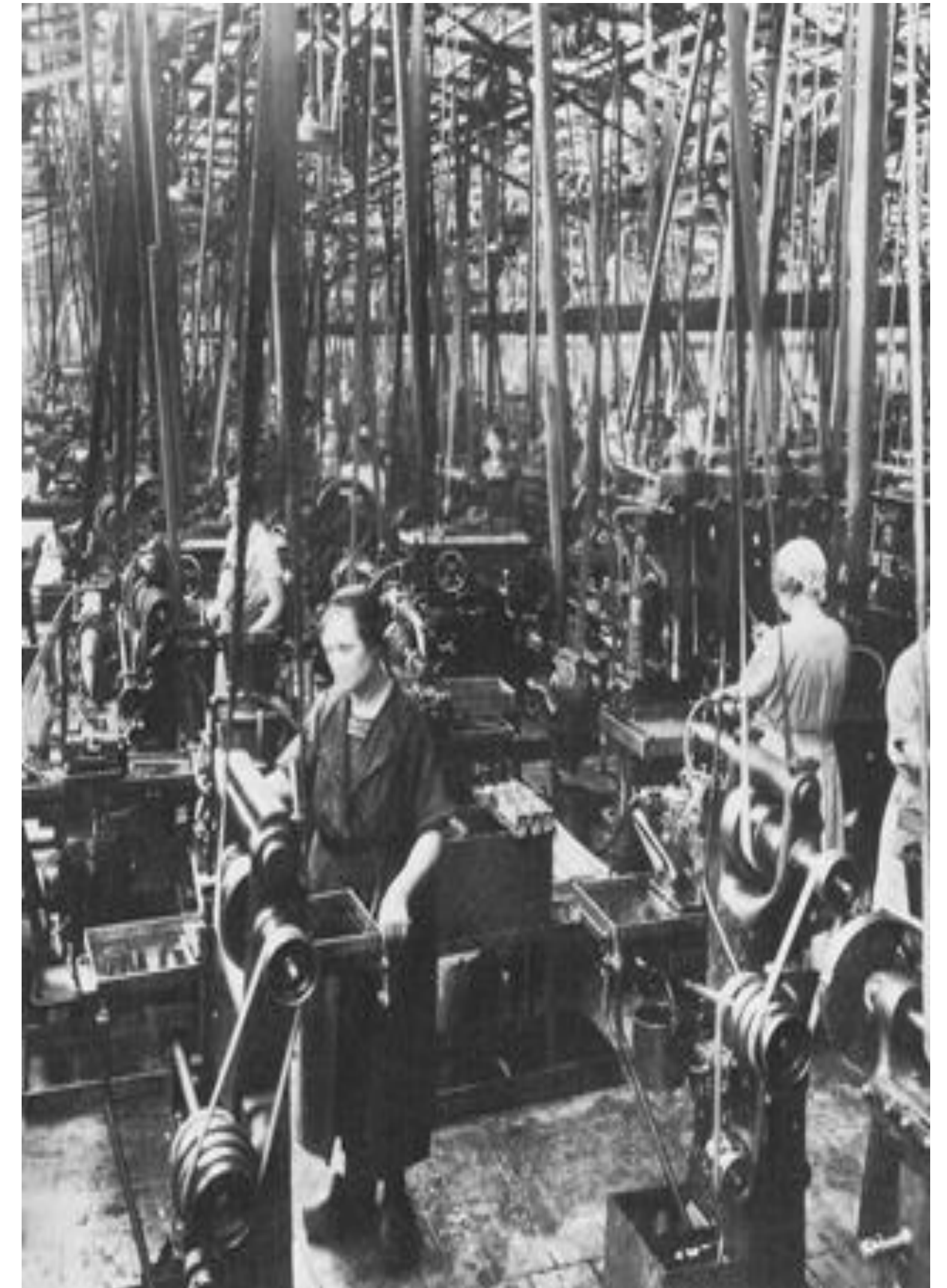
2005 : Lisbon Strategy and the empowerment of women

2010: EU2020, Treaty of Lisbon, New strategy for GE

2015: NO maternity directive, women on boards??. gender equality strategy??

2017: accession to the Istanbul convention

Work life balance in the European Pillar of Social rights



Herstal Belgium 1966

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What is wrong with the EU that women and gender equality could not fix?

Or how to prepare for the European Elections May 2019.....