

Summaries

Frigga Haug: Working on a Culture in Strife. An International Survey

A survey among international feminist Marxists is the basis for this reflection on movement historiography: relevant is the recognition of difference, not unification. Only in West European countries did a feminist Marxism develop in tension to the worker's movement, which led to an intensified preoccupation with Marx as characteristics of their own interventions. Important issues for further work remain: the relation between theory and practice; research on the processes of exclusion and change; the evaluation of the experience of ex-socialist countries. A suggestion concerning the question, what it is that constitutes a movement, is offered.

Verónica Schild: The Specificity of Latin American Feminisms in the Context of Neoliberal Regulation: Disconcerting Divergencies – Productive Ambivalences

The fate and legacies of nearly forty years of feminist activism seem to be under increasing scrutiny in many parts of the world today. There is a growing concern among critical feminists in the Americas, Europe and beyond concerning the convergence between certain forms of feminism and neoliberal capitalism. The argument in this paper is that, seen from the history of contemporary Latin American feminism – an ›other‹ feminist history –, what is disturbing about the convergence between a particular variant of feminism and the demands of a restructured capitalism is that emancipation has become a key element in the regulation of women and of gender normalization.

Susanne Maurer: Dispersed (Her)Stories? Considerations on Feminist Historiography

This essay develops a specific approach to feminist narratives as a contribution to a reflexive culture of feminist tradition(ing). Thus, it argues that phenomena of dispersion, disruption and fragmenting related to »a history of women's liberation and feminist critique« can also be considered as potential for the »open archive of gender conflicts and politics«. Stressing the political dimension of remembrance and especially marking its political function for social movements and critical thought leads to the notion of historiography as »memory of transformative struggles«.

Frigga Haug: From Fate to History. How to Write Movement History?

Nancy Fraser's attempt to present an all-embracing history of the women's movement in her new book *Fortunes of Feminism* serves here as the basis for developing criteria for movement historiography. The central criticism is that Fraser writes a history of concepts instead of one of real movements with different aims and demands. This is why she overlooks essential motivating forces in society, critiques of social domination and demands for emancipation, which are supposed to be precisely the outcome of her historiography. By writing movement history without actresses the spirit as well as the soul of the movement disappears from her view. – Nevertheless it is to her credit that socialist feminism has gained in popularity again, taken on new momentum.

Melanie Stütz and Ruth May: About Silvia Federici's »Counter-Planning from the Kitchen«

Since her discussion of »Wages for Housework«, Federici has inspired feminists and activists of various movements. The review essay analyses Federici's arguments, emphasizing that they show a world without contradictions. What she does not take into account, for instance,

is the development of human productive forces and struggles for hegemony. The essay highlights the achievements of Federici's work and finally argues that her perspective fails with her simplistic scheme of the ›good guys‹ at the bottom and the ›bad guys‹ at the top.

Ursula Schröter: Abandonment of an Awakening: Women's Politics in the GDR

On the basis of historical GDR-documents, the quite contradictory specifics of women's politics in the early 1960s are brought to mind. Unlike later years, there were influential politicians, and above all women politicians, who realized the necessity for finding an appropriate place in class politics for the contradictions caused by gender. The focus of the article is the first women's congress held in 1964 is, at which numerous GDR-women trustfully turned to their state, and were immediately criticized by it. The government of the GDR responded to this demands with a law regulating abortion in 1972.

Sylvia Schraut: Strategies and Blockades of Feminist Creation of Tradition

When in Germany the new women's movement and women's history arose in the 1970s they defined themselves as movements almost without tradition. But feminist publications of the early 20th century show that there was writing about the history of the women's movement and writing about women's history even then. The article analyses the reasons for the ›forgetting‹ of these publications: the gender-model of the Socialist Party, the fact that the authors belonged to the moderate wing of the women's movement, and National Socialism. After this came the division into silent actors and victims.

Susi Zornig: Capital ›Building‹ with Alice. On the Context of Contemporary Women's Historiography

Germany's most popular feminist, Alice Schwarzer, has been revealed as a transgressor of income tax laws. Although there is no doubt about the issue, she has defended herself as being a victim of anti-feminist campaigning. The article echoes this in an ironical manner, and proceeds to some analyses why Schwarzer is considered as representative of a women's movement which simultaneously is neglected by the broader public. It turns out that this paradox has to do with the convergence of ruling interests in the German society and Schwarzer's own interest in capital ›building‹.

Ursula Huws: The Underpinnings of Class in the Digital Age

This article contends that Marx's labour theory is still relevant in a world in which increasing proportions of the population are involved in ›immaterial‹ or ›digital‹ labour, but it is necessary to examine critically the three key components of the theory: the particular nature of any given form of labour, the value that is created by that labour, and the worker's means of subsistence. Such an analysis enables us not only to distinguish between ›necessary labour time‹ and surplus value but also to identify the point of production.

Zillah Eisenstein: The Newest Proletariats – Females in All Colours

The new proletariats are defined by any kind of labor primarily done by women, from sex workers in all their variety, to migrant female laborers crisscrossing the globe, to the dagonmei in China's mind-numbing Ipad factories. There are various proletariats – and each is polyglot in race and gendered predominantly as female, and they need to unite.