

Summaries

Christa Wichterich: Gender Relations and Gender Discourses in the Economic Crisis. The integration of women into markets, in particular the feminisation of employment and financialisation, has caused the male breadwinner model to erode, while gender inequalities remain. During the economic crisis of 2008/09 this conflicting tendency was reflected in a mixture of conservative, essentialist and neoliberal gender discourses on the root causes and impacts of the crisis. Going beyond the earlier pattern of research, which has highlighted how women have been adversely affected by the crisis, this article explores the empirical and discursive transformation of gender norms and roles during this period. Apart from its sector-, region- and gender-specific effects, the crisis has accelerated long standing tendencies regarding the flexibilisation of labour and precarisation of employment. The article argues that these developments have contributed to the emergence of a neoliberal form of gender equity; one which works to further topple breadwinner masculinity as well as stress the individual responsibility of women as market agents.

Renate Kreile: Between Purdah, Bollywood and Politics – Gender and Transformation in Afghanistan. In Afghanistan the „women’s question“ has always been of great significance for state-building and anti-state resistance. By using gender policies and regulating family laws, the state has attempted to intervene into familial, tribal and religious communities and to impose state control and hegemony over the society. Local communities have, however, defended their autonomy from the state, as well as their control over „their women“. In modified forms, the structural contradictions of the past are affecting and shaping gender politics in the „new Afghanistan“. The externally dependent and internally fractioned Afghani state, which lacks legitimacy and capacity, is being confronted by strong social and political forces that use the „women’s question“ as a powerful symbol for upholding and legitimising resistance to central government. Consequently, today’s Afghan women are striving for empowerment in a complex legal setting, which sees the interaction of formal and informal, global and local, gender norms.

Marian Burchardt: Living a Better Life without Men? Tactical Religion, Gender and HIV/AIDS in South Africa. Social science scholarship has pointed to the renewed presence of religion in public discourses and institutional networks of development politics and humanitarianism but has largely ignored questions regarding the gender politics resulting from this renewed presence. Building on research that has explored the role of religion in development, this article explores how gendered arrangements of domination are addressed and reconfigured in Christian responses to the AIDS epidemic in urban South Africa. Based on 10 months of ethnographic research in Cape Town, the findings suggest that responses to HIV/AIDS originating from the religious domain reinforce the construction of separate gender spheres. While the construction of separate spheres provides benefits to women dealing with

the consequences of HIV/AIDS, it also replicates the existing gender division of labour, leading to ambivalent outcomes.

Ulrike Schultz: „This is not work for a woman like me“: The Discourse on Female Employment in Sudan. Since the establishment of the Islamic regime of Omer El Beshir in Sudan, female income has been highly contested and is a topic at the centre of the Islamisation and modernisation project of the Sudanese state. This article argues that modernity and tradition are negotiated and constructed through discourses surrounding female income and female employment. While in the mainstream discourse, Western and Islamic modernity and tradition are often perceived as antagonistic in everyday life, they are also frequently interpreted in new ways and put together to form a modernity characterized by hybridisation. Female income is, on the one side, perceived as a symbol for the radical transformation of Sudanese society and is, therefore, considered to be part of modernity. However, on the other side, being a ‘modern’ mother and wife is often conceptualised as not being compatible with employment and working outside the home. This is in contrast to the life stories of elder women, which reveal that female income is part of local „traditions“. That is, „modern Islamic tradition“ is often constructed in a way that contradicts local „traditions“ and the biographies of older women. The text argues, therefore, that discourses surrounding modernity and „tradition“ can only be understood if connected to ethnic and class specific ascriptions and forms of belonging. Whereas poor women draw on traditions which exist in their local surroundings, middle class women position themselves as part of modernity and try to distinguish themselves from local traditions. Moreover, education and female employment play an increasing role in ascribing family status and class position. The article is based on qualitative interviews conducted between 2001 and 2003 in the Three Towns (= Khartoum, Omdurman and Bahri) and a village south of Omdurman.

Ruth Streicher: Of Traditional Protectors and Modern Men – Engendering a Youth Gang in East Timor. „Youth gangs“ have emerged as the main actors being held responsible for the bulk of the violence which occurred during the East Timor crisis of 2006. In this explorative article I contest homogenising accounts of gang violence in Dili by offering an empirically based and theoretically grounded gender analysis of one of these „youth gangs“. On the theoretical level, I argue that since Bourdieu’s notion of habitus helps to integrate different theoretical gender perspectives that emphasise either agency or structure, it is useful for conceptualising the interlinkages between the construction of masculinities and the practice of violence. In applying this theoretical approach, I analyse empirical data collected from interviews with members of civil society and members of one youth gang in Dili. By critically discussing my first tentative results, I come to suggest avenues for future research which would help to deepen gendered analysis of gang violence in East Timor.

Stefanie Kron: Coyotes, Norteños Transeúntes and Viudas Blancas: Transmigration and Gender in Rural Areas of Guatemala. Since pacification and formal

democratisation in Central America during the mid-1990s, the accelerated and asymmetrical integration of the region into the global economy has led to various widespread social consequences, among them the increased migration of, mainly, impoverished peasants, artisans and traders to the United States. As a result, the formation of a new border regime in southern Mexico can be observed. In this essay, I take a micro-sociological perspective of these transformation processes in the Central American region and examine gender relations in the context of transnational migration. Using data from field work in 2006, ethnographic methods and concepts such as transmigration and social remittances, I analyse the social and cultural changes in a rural and indigenous Guatemalan town (municipio) located in the Guatemalan-Mexican border region. Here, like in many other towns of the region, male (trans-)migration to the USA has become a social and biographical norm. I stress (transborder) interactions and the relationships of migrants and residents of the municipio, new forms of social and political participation, as well as the emergence of new engendered and transcultural subjects like the „coyote“, the „norteño transeunte“ („passer-by“) and the „viuda blanca“ („white widow“). I argue that these subjects and various their forms of participation have developed and are performed at the margins of the institutions of the nation-state and are, likewise, beyond identification with the nation-state. Existing instead in communal spaces and transnational social fields, transcultural subjects are redefining local power relations along the lines of gender and ethnicity.

Claudia Prinz: Hermann von Wissmann: a Colonial „Pioneer“ in German East Africa. Relations between the metropole and colonies and the implications of colonial rule remain important research topics of European colonial history. This article argues that the biographies of actors in the process of colonization can reveal important aspects of colonial rule. Looking specifically at Hermann von Wissmann in German East Africa, the text highlights his individual contributions to the process of colonization in Central and Eastern Africa. Going further, the text also asks which of von Wissmann's traits are representative of a certain type, or group, of colonizing agents at the end of the nineteenth century – the colonial pioneers. This entails analysing his relations and position vis-à-vis the metropole as well as the concrete practices of occupation in East Africa. The article deals with the external conditions surrounding his actions and examines which avenues and patterns of behaviour were feasible for Wissmann as a German military officer, and adventurer, enrolled in providing colonial services.