

Summaries

Helke Sander: Exchange – Division of Labor – Marriage

Sander gives a brief overview of the origins of the division of labor and the family, from the stone age to the present. She draws attention to anachronisms in current politics and political demands (such as marriage equality for all) that borrow from other times across history.

Jutta Meyer-Siebert: To Recapture the Future in Family Politics

Starting from the criticism of the women's movement on the Fordist nuclear family, the women's editors made their projects practical using the slogan »the women must overthrow the family to enforce their personality«. This proposal is put to the test in the article. In times of crises family becomes necessary, at the same time it seems to be practically decomposed while the overall social mechanisms are deprived of the last safety valves.

Frigga Haug: Hoping for a Family

Youth unemployment, and an accompanying loss of predictability of one's own life has marked an entire generation – especially in countries most affected by the austerity regime, such as Spain. The author discusses the essays of 180 young people from four countries, making recommendations to teachers, school systems and politics.

Uta von Winterfeld: Thinking about Family

Thinking about family departs from one's own family, then turning to historical roots and processes. Continuities and ruptures are outlined from both a structural and a functional perspective. The author argues against a positive family utopia, formulating instead a negative critique of social expropriation.

Marianthi Anastasiadou: The Discreet Charm of Family. On (New) Paradoxes of the Private in Greece Under the Crisis

The author discusses the contradictory social functions of family as well as aspects pertaining to the development of family politics in contemporary Greece. The family as a social resource and as a burden of unpaid household and care work, mostly for women, has deepened in times of neoliberal restructuring in the country. At the same time the old feminist demand for emancipation from the »prison« of family has recently ceded place to demands for a right to the family, a demand coming mostly from the LGBTQ-movement and the youth. At the same time, the far-right vision for a return to the family has also been gaining political ground.

María Gómez Garrido: The Family in Spain during the Crisis: A Last Place of Refuge?

The family plays a fundamental role in Spain in the context of the economic crisis and austerity policies, both in term of cash transfers and informal care. Furthermore, in the midst of harsh neoliberalism and increasing individualism, some activists tend to view maternity as sacred and as a political project. But this ›refuge‹ has many limitations: It reproduces social inequalities and reveals that it is not possible to construct a sustainable solidarity within the narrow frontiers of the nuclear family, whatever its composition may be. The author suggests the need to explore broader forms of solidarity.

Angela McRobbie: The Neoliberal Economics of Family

This review essay offers a detailed engagement with the recent writing of Melinda Cooper who has provided a post-war history of welfareism in the United States. Cooper discusses the hostility to state provision of welfare that pre-date the Clinton administration and which equate the idea of benefits with dependence. This position has gathered pace since then and constitutes a defining feature of the anti-feminist right that is currently expanding during the Trump administration.

Martha E. Gimenez: Reactionary Family Policies in the 21st Century: The Republican War on the Working Class in the United States

Although birth control and abortion are legal in the United States, the Republican Party promotes policies intended to curtail women's ability to control their reproductive lives. Despite of deepening income inequality and economic insecurity, when family planning is crucial for working class families' wellbeing and for individual women's economic survival, republicans insist on undermining reproductive rights. In this essay Gimenez argues that, given that capitalist and affluent women are not affected by these policies, their promotion and implementation entail a war on the working class quality of life and ability to form stable families.

Tine Haubner: An Uncomfortable Legacy. The Exploitation of Care Work and the Marxist Concept of Exploitation

Since the 1980s the concept of exploitation has largely disappeared not only from the social sciences, but also from contemporary feminism. This is noteworthy since the Marxist-feminist domestic work debate of the early 1970s placed the Marxist concept of exploitation at the center of its theoretical reconceptualization. Haubner aims to summarize Marxist and feminist insights on the concept of exploitation, pointing out their theoretical weaknesses in order to place them in the context of the current use of labor in the area of geriatric care, exploring the latter from a theoretical perspective using the notion of exploitation. A dynamic of exclusion, social vulnerability and the exploitative use of labor that is characteristic of the field of low paid, supposedly ›simple‹ services proves to be a special challenge but also a touchstone for the Marxist concept of exploitation.

Ton Veerkamp: Border Crossing

Theopolitische Existenz – Von gestern, Für heute (Theopolitical Existence – From Yesterday, For Today, 2017) is the account of theologian and minister of the Dutch Reformed Church, Dick Boer, who for many years crossed the border back and forth between the German Democratic Republic (GDR) and the West. This review of Boer's book follows Boer in analyzing ideological frontiers between Christianity and Marxism. In the first part of the book he lays the theoretical foundations for a dialogue between Christians and Marxists. The second part offers a number of sermons, speeches, articles in which Boer describes his work as professor of theology in Amsterdam and as minister of a Christian community in the GDR.

Richard Gebhardt: »Just a Slap in the Face«. 1968, the New Right and the Limits of Political Discourse

The book *Die Angstmacher. 1968 und die Neue Rechte (Creating Fear. 1968 and the New Right)* by Thomas Wagner found a broad echo in the media. The questions raised by Wagner discuss the influence of the student revolt of 1968 on the genesis of the New Right and the adequate response to the political actors in the context of the right-wing Party, Alternative for Germany (AfD) as well as Pegida and other Identitarian movements. In this review, the author questions how leftist theory is presented by right-wing intellectuals. He also challenges the necessary conditions for Wagner's demand for an »open-ended dispute« between the two camps.

Klaus Weber: The »Instinct of the Words«

The author takes up Ulla Plener's approach from *Das Argument* No. 322 regarding whether and how »National Socialism« and »Fascism« are used as categories of historical analysis in the current dominant discourses. He shows that Plener is correct in thinking about German fascism from 1920 to 1945 in the context of economic, political and cultural phenomena as pan-European forms of movement, state and war.

Buchhandlungen, die das Argument-Verlagsprogramm führen

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Berlin	Argument-Buchladen, Reichenberger Straße 150 (030/611 39 83) Motzbuch, Motzstraße 32 (030/2115958) Schleichers Buchladen, Königin-Luise-Straße 40/41 (030/841902-0) Schwarze Risse, Mehringhof - Gneisenaustraße 2a (030/6928779)
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Erfurt	Buchhandlung Contineo, Magdeburger Allee 90 (0361/7314536)
Essen	Heinrich-Heine-Buchhandlung, Viehofer Platz 8 (0201/820700)
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Frauenbuchläden, die das Argument-Frauenprogramm führen

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