

Sexual Citizens Beyond Liberalism

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The aim of the research is to explore the contemporary articulation between citizenship, sexuality and subjectivity in order to shed light on the regulatory dimension and the exclusionary limits of the figure of the "sexual citizen" shaped by current European democratic ideals.

Through this interrogation the research aims to contribute to the critique of current restrictive notions of citizenship and the western conception of the political that sustains them.

Questioning Sexual Democracy

The orientalist and colonialist uses of democratic rhetoric and policies regarding gender and sexuality



Research Focus



The restrictively liberal form that the democratization of gender and sexuality has assumed

How is the ideal of sexual democracy enacted and negotiated in different scenarios? How are postnational notions of sexual democracy negotiated and changed in this process of cultural translation?

Within so called "western advanced democracies", and more specifically in the EU, progressive politics aimed to achieve gender equity and the recognition of sexual diversity (executed in the name of equality, freedom, human rights and antidiscrimination) have become essential to the definitions of secularism, modernity and even the opposition between western national identities and their "others".



"Naturalization Test"
Pictogram designed by Kollektiv Migrantas, 2008.

What other kinds of political agency were and are available to sexual claims, and what new versions of citizenship might they enact?

The hypothesis that guides this inquiry is that the orientalizing and colonizing logics that govern current sexual democratic politics – as expressed in the ways that these politics have become the occasion for implementing other discriminations based in racial, religious or culturally marked differences- are indebted to its already western liberal framework; more specifically to its versions of autonomy and individual rights that support regulatory power and expand zones of subjection and effacement.

Revising orientalist and colonial narratives

Spain and Argentina

The research analyses the relevant Spanish and Argentine recent legislation with regards to sexual and gender rights and the debates around them.

Having been the site of orientalist figurations, Spain has now come to be positioned as the "vanguard" in matters of sexual politics as a result of its widely recognized progressive legislation. In the context of postcolonial Latin America, post-dictatorial Argentina has become a landmark example for liberalized sexual legislation as well.

Therefore, the analysis of this process of "sexual modernization" opens the path to consider the tensions between the de/orientalizing and de/colonizing processes.

The genealogical approach

The notion of gender and sexual rights has been naturalized under the liberal paradigm, but by what process has the language of rights cut across the constitution of gender and sexual identities and crystallized their constitution as political subjects?

This genealogical question, concerned with the constitutive conditions that made possible these particular constellations, building a certain episteme (or scheme of intelligibility) under which different subject formations emerged and then were taken for granted, will allow us to critically approach assumed liberal ontologies of the individual that supports the ideas of representation and political struggle constrained by classically liberal conceptions of representative democracy.