

INSeCT Research Project 2014–2017

**A Question of Gender Justice:
The Role of Women in Decision-Making in Different Areas of Church and Society**

**The Role of Women in Political and
Ecclesial Decision-Making Processes
Ideological and Practical Issues between
Gender "Ideology" and Gender Justice**

Vienna, September 22–25, 2016

Call for Papers

Joint Research Project of
the "European Society for Catholic Theology" (ET),
the ecumenical "European Society of Women in Theological Research" (ESWTR),
and the global "International Network of Societies for Catholic Theology" (INSeCT)

Date & Place

Thu, Sept 22, 2016, evening

Public lecture by Marianne Heimbach-Steins at the University of Vienna.

Fri, Sept 23 – Sat, Sept 24, 2016

Four keynote lectures and workshop presentations (approx. 20 papers, 20 minutes presentation and 20 minutes discussion each). Location: lecture rooms Departments of Catholic and Protestant Theology of the University of Vienna.

Fri, Sept 23, evening

Public round table discussion.

Sun, Sept 25, morning

Paper presentations or leisure time in the City of Vienna.

Please hand in an outline of your paper (approx. 800 words) by May 30, 2016

Aim of the project

Today's global challenges – poverty, violence, war, ecological disasters, and human rights violations resulting from ethnic, religious, and gender discrimination – affect especially and foremost women. Gender issues, therefore, require the special attention of the church and of all theological disciplines.

INSeCT wants to take up the call of Pope Francis who, in *Evangelii Gaudium* (nos. 103-104), urged theologians to contribute to an up-to-date theology of women:

Because "the feminine genius is needed in all expressions in the life of society, the presence of women must also be guaranteed in the workplace" and in the various other settings where important decisions are made, both in the Church and in social structures. [...] This presents a great challenge for pastors and theologians, who are in a position to recognize more fully what this entails with regard to the possible role of women in decision-making in different areas of the Church's life.

Of course there is much discussion today about the concept of "the feminine". Further, it seems impossible to redefine the role of women in church and society without also discussing the role of men. So this task will include a broad theological discussion on sex and gender, especially because we are aware that the arguments about gender are highly controversial. Within the Catholic Church there is a tendency to lump all gender theories together and label them "ideological". In response to this tendency, an open, differentiated discussion is essential for our theological society.

Since this debate is pressing on not only within the churches but also in civil society and in politics, especially in the countries of Eastern Central Europe, it is necessary to take up the challenge and advance the discussion based on actual scientific data and taking into account current philosophical and theological research.

So we invite European women and men of all Christian denominations who are engaged in those matters either scientifically or practically to contribute to an open, maybe even controversial discussion on these topics – with an open mind, a clear and preferential option for the poor and marginalized and an awareness of the different regional and historical contexts.

Papers may be handed may be originating from all disciplines of theology, philosophy, social sciences, and humanities. They should deal with concrete issues linked to the overall topic: *"The Role of Women in Political and Ecclesial Decision-Making Processes: Ideological and Practical Issues between Gender Ideology and Gender Justice"*. We ask for 20 minutes of presentation and will have another 20 minutes of discussion.

Possible areas:

- questions dealing with the the role of women in the bible, in church history, in different religions and cultures;
- questions dealing with patriarchy on a Christian, interreligious and intercultural background;
- questions of church constitution, especially the clerical order;
- questions of philosophical and theological anthropology in respect of gender theories;
- questions dealing with the position of churches vis-à-vis society and politics, especially in relation to the role(s) of women;
- questions dealing with the multiple forms of sex and gender relations and the respective ethical issues;
- ...

Who is invited to participate?

We invite persons from all over Europe, especially from Eastern Central Europe, who work in the respective fields of research or as practitioners. Presentations and discussions can be held in German or in English. However, as we cannot provide for simultaneous translation, participants should at least understand both languages to a certain degree, so that we can have bi-lingual discussions.

Method and deadline for the papers

All participants will have a time slot of 40 minutes; 20 minutes for presentation and 20 minutes for discussion. A short version of the papers will be handed out to each participant in advance. We ask you to provide a handout to your paper in English.

Please submit an outline of your paper in German (ca. 5000 characters) or English (approx. 800 words) by May 30, 2016. You will be informed in early July, whether your paper has been accepted or not.

The best papers will be published in a book. The choice will be made by the organisational committee and the scientific board. The versions for publication shall not exceed 8.300 words.

Organisation

- ESWTR: European Society of Women in Theological Research
- ET: European Society for Catholic Theology – Austrian Section

Organisational Committee for Vienna

- Rita Perintfalvi (ESWTR, Biblical Studies, Vienna): rita.perintfalvi@gmail.com
- Gunter Prüller-Jagenteufel (ET, Theological Ethics, Vienna)
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- Petra Steinmair-Pösel (Christian Social Ethics, Vienna–Innsbruck):
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- Sebastian Pittl (Institute for World Church and Mission, Frankfurt):
pittl@iwm.sankt-georgen.de

Scientific Board

Marianne Heimbach-Steins; Saskia Wendel, Maria K. Moser, Rebeka Anić

Travel and Accommodation

Unfortunately we are not able to organize or pay for your travel costs or accommodation. But we will provide a list of low priced hotels for you together with your invitation.

Financial Support

We hope to be able to support approx. 10 participants from Eastern Central Europe covering at least part of their travel and accommodation costs. Please contact us if you need support.

Keynote Speakers

- Thu Sept 22, evening
Marianne Heimbach-Steins (Münster):
"Gender": Not just an Ideology but a Matter of Justice. Discussions and quarrels within the Catholic Church (German)
m.heimbach-steins@uni-muenster.de
- Keynote 1
Saskia Wendel (Köln):
Woman: Image of God or Second Class Christian? (German)
saskia.wendel@uni-koeln.de
- Keynote 2
Maaïke de Haardt (Tilburg):
Mary: Sister in Faith and Queen of the Heavens (English)
m.a.c.dehaardt@tilburguniversity.edu
- Keynote 3
Maria K. Moser (Wien):
Beyond Victimization: Women Speak Up and take Responsibility (German)
mariakatharinamoser@gmail.com
- Keynote 5
Elzbieta Adamiak (Koblenz/Lublin):
The Social, Political and Religious Conflicts in the Gender Debate of Eastern Central Europe (German)
adamiak@uni-landau.de
- Keynote 6
N.N.
A contribution to the topic from the perspective of men's studies