
SUMMARIES

► *Lisa Baraitser*

Nomadic subjects and the feminist archives

The publication of the second edition of Rosi Braidotti's seminal book, *Nomadic subjects: embodiment and sexual difference in contemporary feminist theory*, invites us to think about the notion of feminist archives. In *Archive fever*, Jacques Derrida links archive to the death drive, understanding archivation as both conservative and institutive, a 'prosthesis' to retentive memory whilst always being yet to come. In the way Braidotti has assembled the second edition of *Nomadic subjects*, she proposes a different kind of archive – one that eschews the death drive in favour of a mode of 'counter-memory' that is deeply political in its intent. In forgetting to forget injustice, Braidotti's feminist archive insists on making a difference, as well as providing us with the theoretical tools for understanding difference differently.

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► *Tine Destrooper*

'The venomous personal enemy of president Ortega'

New left and autonomous feminist activists in Nicaragua

Since the 2006 re-election of Daniel Ortega, relations between the governing party – FSLN – and autonomous feminist activists in Nicaragua have become highly strained. This is visible in several legal changes and government actions, but also in the changing discourse of the FSLN, which, on the one hand, vigorously condemns autonomous feminists, and on the other hand, incorporates several feminist demands and rhetorical elements into its own discourse. The article poses the question 'What is the influence of the new left discourse on the room for maneuver of autonomous feminists in Nicaragua?' It thereby goes beyond an analysis of material factors, and assesses the impact of ideological and discursive strategies of the new FSLN on autonomous feminists' demands and actions. I argue that the influence of this discursive shift is commonly underestimated or ignored by local activists, who tend to focus on financial, legal and even physical attacks by the FSLN when discussing the impediments to their efficiency. I found however that discursive attacks have tangible short-term and long-term consequences, which require due attention in themselves.

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► *Ellen Janssens*

'Men, come and see, a broad on a racing bike'

Gender and the experience of sports in Belgian athletes' narratives (1955-1975)

From its origins in the nineteenth century, modern sports were a male domain. However, things began to change in Belgium after the Second World War, and women gained ground in almost all branches of sports. But how were these first women in 'male' sports (like athletics, cycling and soccer) perceived? To which extent did the 'male' qualities of these sports conflict with their femininity? Testimonies of sportswomen active during the period 1955-1975 show that women in the fifties and sixties confronted much discrimination by sports committees. Towards the end of the sixties and during the seventies, when sports became more accessible to women, they began to encounter opposition of society at large in the form of the stereotype of the manly (lesbian) athlete. Central in this analysis is the concept of the 'negotiated self', which made space for the interviewee's own definition of femininity – one that also included the male qualities of sports.

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► *Anneke Ribberink*

Servicable, but slightly domineering

A closer look at five male members of Man Woman Society 1968-1973

Whereas the radical feminism of the late 1970's thought feminism and men to be incompatible, the last decade has been marked by the realization that there have always been men who were dedicated to feminist issues. As historian Karen Offen writes: 'Neither are all women feminists nor are all feminists women.'

Man Vrouw Maatschappij (MVM) (Man Woman Society, 1968) was the first second wave feminist organization in the Netherlands. Within this organization women and men struggled together for feminist issues and to transform the existing roles of men and women. Men made up about eleven to twenty percent of the members of MVM during the important years between 1968-1973.

In order to learn more about the role of men in leadership positions in MVM, five prominent men were chosen to reflect on their activities and motivations. The investigation suggests that these men all held liberal outlooks and were already convinced of the necessity of equality between men and women before the founding of MVM. Their (relatively) high positions in society suited the aims of the female leaders of MVM well. At the same time, the dominant societal expectations of female subservience and MVM's opinion that male members should be subservient also caused friction.