

# Summaries

*Marc de Leeuw*

## Male get-togethers

*On the representation of militaries and masculinity in Velazquez' 'The Surrender of Breda' and Karremans' 'The Fall of Srebrenica'*

This article focuses on the specific relationship between notions of military, masculinity, fraternization and a male get-together during the process of surrender or 'peace-making' as visualized on a seventeenth century painting and a contemporary photograph. The male 'get-together' show warriors in the act of handling out a *gentlemen's* agreement. This apparent post-war moment seems fundamental for our understanding of the similarity between the 'praxis of war' and the 'praxis of peacemaking': the male 'get-together' stages the transition from war to peace, from warrior to citizen. Here concepts of heroism/ humiliation and losing or keeping

face serve multiple functions: the affirmation of total control, the avoidance of the enemy's revenge and the mutual affirmation of masculinity through an exchange of gallantry and glory. In addition, the 'male-get-together' legitimizes the warriors desire to reappropriate his patriarchal supremacy within the community after the war. I conclude that as long as the gestures, rhetorics and power-game of the male 'get-together' governs not only the war-arena but also our peace-keeping practices and national self-image we will not be able to fundamentally change the structures of masculine patriarchy and war-making.

*Sarah Bracke and María Puig de la Bellacasa*

## Who's afraid of Standpoint Feminism?

Our article addresses the way in which feminist standpoint theory was constituted as a recognizable strand of feminist knowledge politics. It engages critically with the equation of the notion of a standpoint with an 'essentialised' or 'universalised' vision of women and with a modern conception of the subject. It therefore offers a vision of what standpoint thinking entails, drawing upon a broad range of authors (not necessarily considered as standpoint theorists). We subsequently try to displace the con-

flation of standpoint with 'modern' in opposition to 'postmodern' highlighting the vision of (knowledge) politics based on women's lives as not contradicted, but rather precisely encouraged by feminist experiences of differences in women's lives. Moreover, through this discussion on the notion of a standpoint this article aims to underline the singularity of feminist theory as a collective endeavor and the difficulty to attune this difference with traditional academic theoretical practice.

*Anna van der Vleuten*

## Women and the European 'Sandwich-state'

*The making and implementation of gender equality policies in the EU*

EU gender equality policies are often considered to be 'one of the great success stories of the European Union', as European legislation in this domain was ahead of much national legislation and influenced policies in the member states strongly. This is striking, as a state is not expected to approve international policies, that require a far-reaching adaptation of its own rules and practices, let alone to implement such policies. Still this is exactly what happened in the domain of gender equality policies.

The article deals with three questions: how to explain that equal rights were put on the

supranational agenda, that EEC member states approved gender equality policies requiring expensive and far-reaching changes in their national policies, and that they even implemented these policies. In order to answer these questions, the article analyses the making and implementation of the Equal Treatment Directive (1976) in France, Germany, Great Britain and the Netherlands. It argues that unwilling governments will approve far-reaching and expensive international policies and even implement them when they are 'sandwiched' by pressure at the subnational and the supranational level simultaneously.

*Anneke Sools, Cor Baerveldt en Marloes van Engen*

## The paradox of ambition

*A cultural-psychological analysis of the discourse of aspiring to become a manager within a multinational in the Netherlands using a gender-perspective*

In a Dutch research laboratory of a multinational we studied the glass ceiling phenomenon from a cultural psychological and gender perspective. Male and female middle managers were asked about how to make a career in this organization. By analyzing the discourse on career-making and specifically the discourse on ambition, we aimed to unravel the mechanisms underlying the persistent underrepresentation of women in the higher ranks of this

organization. We found that ambition was central in the discourse of all managers. However, managers were ambivalent towards ambition. We identify an underlying paradox that explains when managers are competent in 'doing ambition' - and when they are not. Women, however, face a double bind in mastering this competence because of a collision of the discourse on the nature of women and the discourse on ambition.