Summaries

Josien Pieterse

The career of an ideal
The gender politics of the squatter's movement versus the breeding ground policy of the city of Amsterdam

In the late 1990's the squatter's movement in Amsterdam started negotiations with the local authorities to stop eviction of several buildings. These buildings could be considered breeding ground for new economical and cultural activities. The local authorities turned out to be sensitive for the arguments of the squatter's movement but in the negotiation process other achievements of the squatter's movement got lost. The squatter's movement was initially a space for gender sensitive way of living and experiments. Josien Pieterse analyses how the gender politics, especially the principle 'the personal is political' disappeared during the negotiations with the city council and was replaced by concepts as creative class and cultural entrepreneur-ship.

Amade M'charek

Problems with diversity, or why we should stop compiling lists

In the current attention to diversity and intersectionality, individual bodies have become the carriers of ever expanding lists of socially given variables. This way, individuals are made to represent groups, and bodies are being made to carry too much weight, becoming impossibly obese bodies. Turning every-day experiences into etnographical material, M'charek questions popular notions of diversity, and illustrates what a relational notion of difference might mean. She shows how the various markers of difference may interact, and produce as well as dissolve received notions of difference and the Other.

Judith Vega

Desiring the city
A short history of gender and modernity

The intrinsic relation of modernity and urbanization has become a challenging subject for feminist reflection. From the Enlightenment onwards, optimism and pessimism *vis-à-vis* the city have developed alongside each other, both in anti-feminist and feminist varieties. Judith Vega discusses representatives of both traditions, starting with Rousseau's infamous combination of anti-urbanism and aversion to 'public' women. She subsequently discusses twentieth-century social philosophy of the city – by Simmel, Habermas, Sennett and Benjamin – in connection to the feminist critique that developed in response to these mainstream theories. To social philosophy, the main characters of modernity are economic man, the citizen, the flâneur. All have been criticized by feminist theorists for harbouring masculinist assumptions of identity, citizenship, and observation. Especially the figure of the flâneur has elicited a search for female variants. Feminist theorists have newly conceptu-

alized women's specific appropriations of urban space, while problematizing men's desire for the city. Feminist studies of the ways gender complicates the experience of urban space show that in the study of urban space novel encounters of political and cultur-al theory – often fairly separated practices – take place. Finally, Judith Vega's discussion takes issue with the recent essay by Buruma and Margalit in cautioning against associating current anti-feminist forms of anti-urbanism exclusively with eastern 'Occidentalism'.

Louis van den Hengel

Forum and phallus
The Forum Augustum and the embodiment of gender in early imperial Rome

The Forum of Augustus, dedicated in 2 BC, was the most important public space in the city of Rome during the early imperial age. Combining social, economic, justice and religious functions, the complex was designed as a coherent architectural space, centred on the representation of power. The elaborate adornment of the Forum, most notably consisting of sculptures glorifying the mytho-historical ancestry of Augustus, clearly embodied the ideology of the new regime. Classical archaeology has frequently analysed the Forum to point to the intricate entanglement of ideology, power, art and monumental architecture during the imperial age. However, the critical role of gender and sexuality in, on the one hand, the meaning of the Forum as a political space, and, on the other, the ideology suffusing both the lay-out and the (political and ritual) use of the complex, has remained largely unquestioned. This article proposes a critical reading of the Forum as a gendered space, focusing on its significance as a *locus* for the construction of socio-sexual subject-positions for elite Roman men. Drawing on Lacanian psychoanalysis, the article specifically addresses the crucial importance of the phallus in the meaning of the Forum as a gendered, political, and ritual space.

Frans Spierings and Monique Stavenuiter

Gender and youth in urban renewal policies
Towards a structural approach of deprivation

Urban Renewal Policy in The Netherlands concentrates on ethnicity rather than on gender and age. Its focus is on how urban policies may improve the disadvantaged position of newcomers, that is, ethnic minorities. Urban Renewal Policy displays a lack of attention to existing structural deprivation in the urban environment maintained by existing gender, age and ethnic inequalities. Document analysis shows how individual and group-based deficiencies have become the central concern of policy, practice and research. Case studies of the 'time and space' policies of Dutch cities show, first, that the problems of dual earner and single parent families are in particular dealt with, focusing on improving child care and various services and hardly by introducing innovative time and space policies. Secondly, the case of municipal youth policy indicates slow progression regarding the adoption of Child Friendly City policy within Dutch cities. The broader concept of social inclusion to combat structural inequalities in the city should be taken into account by Dutch urban policy and research. A growing awareness of age and gender is needed in urban policy and will improve not only the quality of cities but also the competitiveness of cities as attractive living and working environments in The Netherlands.

Saskia Poldervaart

Non-governmental forms of politics

Or: How the personal has become political in the squatters, queer and alterglobalisation movements

This article's purpose is to analyse how the squatter, queer, and alterglobalisation movements have coalesced during the past decade due to the influence of feminism and postmodern sensibilities. The article aims to encourage a scholarly debate concerning non-governmental forms of politics. The question whether social movements have to address official politics or to invent an alternative own way of life by formulating a radical democratic ethos has a long history. There have always been movements which emphasize that people have to change themselves and their direct surroundings in the first place without addressing existing power structures at the macro-level. In these movements, politics is considered a deliberate social practice in daily life. Influenced by feminist groups you can recognize this meaning of politics in the squatters movement. And influenced too by postmodern notions (with its critiques of fixed identities) the queer movement has embraced a similar set of ideas and attitudes. Both movements are interconnected with the alterglobalisation movement and all three try to employ a Do-it-Yourself strategy by privileging 'personal politics' and rejecting identity politics. However, the crucial questions remain 1) Can we always reject collective identities? How to prevent that gender disappears from the slogan 'the personal is political' as seems to happen in the alterglobalisation movement? 2) How can formal and established political structures be altered through the inspiration and creative ideas of non-governmental politics?