

SUMMARIES

► *Vincent Duindam and Ed Spruijt*
**An argument for a sex-neutral Dutch
homer and family culture**

Dutch government policy aims at enhancing the labour force participation of women. Most Dutch women work part-time, on average 25 hours per week. They declare to be quite happy with this situation. It is to be noted that Dutch women are more satisfied with their work-parenting-arrangements than other European women are, who spend more hours at paid labour. For many centuries Dutch culture has highly valued the world of the home and the family. We argue that strongly economically underpinned government policy threatens this culture. Government policy should be aimed at stimulating men to take their share of the unpaid care work, rather than to force women to accept more hours of (less) paid labour. Our studies show that when men do care at home, they discover the value of it. And they report good relationships with their partners and children as well.

► *Stans van Egmond*
**The embezzlement of self-evident
things**

The *Emancipatiemonitor 2006* shows that, contrary to common thinking, the emancipation of women in the Netherlands seems to have come to a halt. It argues that the power perspective seems to have disappeared from government policy due to the current emphasis on economic factors in unequal power relations, but invisible but real, are seen as the main contributors to the static situation. This article highlights how the emancipation policy in the Netherlands is caught in a paradox. It

shows how the monitor's critique on the economic focus is at the same time part and parcel of the invisible and matter-of-fact power relations that seem to stall women's emancipation. The double perspective on emancipation leads to a double standard; an economic one for men and another one for women. In order to reveal and break down invisible power mechanisms, feminist studies should focus more on the effects of economics and economy at large on the position and emancipation of women. And they have to let go the idea that an economic focus on emancipation contrasts with women's interests.

► *Marc Hooghe, Ellen Quintelier and Tim Reeskens*
How personal are politics?
*Towards a gender-neutral measurement of
political knowledge*

Research routinely reveals lower political knowledge levels for women compared to men. Within the literature, however, there is a long-standing discussion on how political knowledge might best be measured. In particular it is suggested that currently available knowledge scales show a strong gender bias. Authors have suggested that female respondents are more easily inclined to use the 'don't know' option, while they are also more strongly interested in 'female' political issues and in the work of female politicians. Based on these considerations, we developed a gender-sensitive measurement scale for political knowledge, and the scale was tested on a group of 469 students. The results of the experiment suggest that the gender-differences in political knowledge are greatly reduced when using a gender-sensitive measurement