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Abstracts

Sharon Crozier-De Rosa, *Vote100/Vótáil100. Women's Suffrage Commemorations in Britain and Ireland*

This article investigates some of the major themes that emerged from acts of remembering suffragists across Britain and Ireland, focusing especially on the English “Vote100” and Irish “Vótáil100” commemorations. It pays particular attention to the memory of the small number of patriotic militant suffragists who at times struggled to reconcile competing nationalist and feminist goals. This was especially apparent when nationalist feeling was high, for example, in wartime. The article traces how far these tensions are reflected in centennial suffrage commemorations. Through examining major themes emerging from these acts of remembering, it seeks to understand why those memories are considered relevant in the early twenty-first century. The paper finds that memories of the English and the Irish suffrage campaigns have been used to address concerns shared by feminists in both states today, including the under-representation of women in national politics. However, it also finds that twenty-first century memorials have been harnessed to address issues of specifically national concern, such as the efficacy of feminist militancy or ‘terrorism’ in England, and the pro-abortion movement in Ireland.

Kerstin Wolff, *Women's Citizenship as Obligation or Political Self-Empowerment. Women's Suffrage Centennial in Germany*

This article focuses on the question of who remembered the introduction of women's suffrage in Germany, and what function this remembering had. Initially, it was women's suffrage activists themselves who commemorated the introduction of women's suffrage and wanted to encourage women's political commitment. In the years after the Second World War, the

political parties took over and used the commemoration to attract women voters. The 1970s witnessed a watershed in women's history, which enabled civil society actors to use the anniversary in order to promote women's own political demands. This changed the perspective, and women were no longer only addressed as voters. The new and self-empowering narrative of the suffrage struggle offered the possibility to remind parties of women's political demands. This increasingly emphasised the importance of women's role as citizens, thus integrating them into the political system, which was particularly evident in the 2018–2019 celebrations of the centennial of women's suffrage.

Mineke Bosch, Gender and the Politics of History and Memory – an Inside Reflection on the Dutch Centenary of Universal (Women's) Suffrage

In this article, Mineke Bosch analyses – against the background of historians' general disdain for commemoration, and from a personal perspective – the commemoration of 100 years of women's suffrage in the Netherlands. The main aim of this commemoration was to ensure a 'rewriting' of the standard narrative of Dutch universal suffrage, in which women's struggle for the vote was as historically relevant as men's. It meant, first of all, that the traditional timeframe had to be disrupted. After various political skirmishes with a semi-official steering group for the celebration of universal suffrage first planned for 2017, then for 2017–2019, and the political successor of that, Dutch women and gender historians united on the common goal of a separate celebration of the centenary of women's suffrage in 2019, with an emphasis on the collective advertising of all planned public historical activities. Though this did, in fact, greatly advance the visibility and knowledge of the Dutch women's struggle for suffrage, this act of inclusion did not lead to a fully inclusive history, as the colonial dimension of this narrative remained largely uncovered and therefore mystified the fact that all inhabitants of Dutch colonies remained outside the constitution.

Ulla Manns, Memory Work, Memory Politics and the Centennial of Women's Suffrage in Sweden

This article explores memory politics in the context of the centennial of women's suffrage, focusing on the jubilee for democracy in 2018–2022, initiated and organised by the Swedish parliament. The article pays particular attention to how the centennial celebration of votes for women is represented and materialised during the jubilee. Similar to its neighboring country,

Norway, Sweden has chosen to widen the scope of its celebrations beyond women's suffrage. Instead, democracy, its values, history and current challenges take centre stage. The years between 1918 and 1922 are portrayed as a period of democratic breakthrough, even as the birth of Sweden as a modern nation. In this memory production, "votes for women" have an important symbolic value, not least with respect to visual representations, such as pictures and photos. At the same time, contemporary gender related issues and feminist historiography are pushed to the margins.

Kristina Schulz, A Multi-Perspective Approach to the History of Foreign Workers' Children in Postwar Switzerland

According to an estimate from the 1970s, during the boom years after the Second World War, 10,000 to 15,000 children of foreign workers lived secretly in Switzerland because their parents had no right to family reunification due to their seasonal status. As a result, many of these children stayed in hiding in Switzerland, sometimes for several months, often for several years. The clandestine character of this situation is reflected in the almost complete absence of these children in the historical record. The paper argues that a historical reappraisal of the history of the hidden children requires a multi-perspective approach, drawing on a variety of source genres and sources. Three approaches are presented: an approach that focuses on sources from popular culture in order to highlight the gender-historical dimensions of the topic; a second one that looks at the mobilisation of civil society in terms of solidarity and lobbying; and a third that examines political discourses between national and international agenda-setting. The approaches reveal that the story of the hidden children is able to challenge long-held certainties of post-war history at the intersection of gender and social history.