This is the published version of a paper published in *Baltic Worlds*.

Citation for the original published paper (version of record):

Introduction. Gender and post-Soviet discourses.
*Baltic Worlds*, (1-2): 36-37

Access to the published version may require subscription.

N.B. When citing this work, cite the original published paper.

Permanent link to this version:
http://urn.kb.se/resolve?urn=urn:nbn:se:sh:diva-28432
Introduction. Gender and post-Soviet discourses

During the last decade, the debates about social transformations in post-Soviet countries have mainly been focused on whether these processes have come to an end, what kind of trajectory they have or had, and, most importantly, whether it is possible to place countries so different from one another under the common rubric “post-Soviet.”

In this issue, we take up this discussion using the framework of gender studies, providing the reader with the perspectives of researchers who have lived and worked in the “post-Soviet countries” and whose research is primarily concerned with that space.

The idea to put together this special Baltic Worlds section, “Gender and post-Soviet discourses,” was much inspired by our workshop with the same name that took place in May 2013 at Södertörn University and by the academic background, and on sexual identity.

The post-Soviet space includes 15 independent countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. The workshop “Gender and Post-Soviet Discourses” was sponsored by the Centre for Baltic and East European Studies (CBEES) at Södertörn University and by the academic network CERES (http://www.helsinki.fi/ceres/).

We are delighted that this issue appears as a forum for both emerging and established scholars who are engaged in an exciting discussion about gender and post-Soviet discourses.

Ljudmila Voronova, Ekaterina Kalinina
Department of Media Communication, Södertörn University.

Daria Dimitrieva continues the discussion on the southern Caucasus by addressing the political challenges and threats to female online activists and journalists in Azerbaijan. Her main focus is on state surveillance apparatuses, both online and offline.

The role of the state in defining the limits of women’s presence in the public sphere and public space is also discussed by Ekaterina Vilkina, who turns to the political implications behind the prevalence of patriarchal discourses in Soviet and post-Soviet photography.

Daria Dimitrieva

We are delighted that this issue appears as a forum for both emerging and established scholars who are engaged in an exciting discussion about gender and post-Soviet discourses.

Ljudmila Voronova, Ekaterina Kalinina
Department of Media Communication, Södertörn University.

inclusion of women in local discourses.

Guest editors: Ljudmila Voronova, Ekaterina Kalinina, and Ulrika Dahl
Illustration: Ragni Svensson

What does this tendency mean to the scholars focusing on gender issues? Our contributors show that gender tends to become not only a political issue, but also a political trigger. It becomes a platform for political domination and ideology mainstreaming as well as for political activism and engagement. Whether our authors talk about online political activists, the portrayal of Fathers of the Nation, or comic books and education, gender appears as a conjunction between the past and the present, where the established present seems not to recognize the past, but at the same time eagerly renews the past discourses of domination.

These discourses of domination are constructed through various dimensions. In this issue, we try to provide an intersectional perspective on gender in post-Soviet discourses in which the contributors focus not only on gender, but also on class, ethnic, racial, and religious background, and on sexual identity.


4 Madina Tlostanova. “Gender and intersectional coalitions, (under)development, Tetyana Busnychak.

Translating “gender equality” in southeastern Russia meets the global gender equality agenda, Yulia Gratskikh.

contents

38 Post-colonial post-Soviet trajectories and intersectional coalitions, Madina Tlostanova.


48 Postcolonial images of power in Soviet photography, Ekaterina Vilkina.

57 Searching for new male identity: going west or going back? Daria Dimitrieva.

64 Studies on men and masculinities in Ukraine: the dynamics of gender development, Tetyana Busnychak.

The idea to put together this special Baltic Worlds section, “Gender and post-Soviet discourses,” was much inspired by our workshop with the same name that took place in May 2013 at Södertörn University.

We realized that despite the numerous academic and political discussions about gender transitions in the post-Soviet and, more broadly, post-communist and post-socialist space: ‘there is an urgent need to reach a deeper understanding of the processes at work in the “post-Soviet countries” and whose research is primarily concerned with that space. The idea to put together this special Baltic Worlds section, “Gender and post-Soviet discourses,” was much inspired by our workshop with the same name that took place in May 2013 at Södertörn University.1’ We realized that despite the numerous academic and political discussions about gender transitions in the post-Soviet and, more broadly, post-communist and post-socialist space: ‘there is an urgent need to reach a deeper understanding of the processes at work in the “post-Soviet countries” and whose research is primarily concerned with that space. The idea to put together this special Baltic Worlds section, “Gender and post-Soviet discourses,” was much inspired by our workshop with the same name that took place in May 2013 at Södertörn University.1’ We realized that despite the numerous academic and political discussions about gender transitions in the post-Soviet and, more broadly, post-communist and post-socialist space: ‘there is an urgent need to reach a deeper understanding of the processes at work in the “post-Soviet countries” and whose research is primarily concerned with that space. The idea to put together this special Baltic Worlds section, “Gender and post-Soviet discourses,” was much inspired by our workshop with the same name that took place in May 2013 at Södertörn University.1’ We realized that despite the numerous academic and political discussions about gender transitions in the post-Soviet and, more broadly, post-communist and post-socialist space: ‘there is an urgent need to reach a deeper understanding of the processes at work in the “post-Soviet countries” and whose research is primarily concerned with that space. The idea to put together this special Baltic Worlds section, “Gender and post-Soviet discourses,” was much inspired by our workshop with the same name that took place in May 2013 at Södertörn University.1’ We realized that despite the numerous academic and political discussions about gender transitions in the post-Soviet and, more broadly, post-communist and post-socialist space: ‘there is an urgent need to reach a deeper understanding of the processes at work in the “post-Soviet countries” and whose research is primarily concerned with that space. The idea to put together this special Baltic Worlds section, “Gender and post-Soviet discourses,” was much inspired by our workshop with the same name that took place in May 2013 at Södertörn University.1’