

Annotations on Recent Important Czech Publications on Gender and Feminism

Books, Journals:

V. Kuchařová, L. Zamykalová: Aktuální otázky postavení žen v ČR [Questions on the Status of Women in the Czech Republic Today]

Praha, VÚPSV 1998, 86 pp.

This research report provides an overview of the results of the project on "The Position of Women in the Czech Republic – Problems Today", which included empirical surveys of opinions and living conditions of men and women. The authors consider subjective perceptions on the position of women and men, and summarise the major or disputed questions relating to 'women's issues' in this country: women's education, women's employment and individual problems affecting them on the labour market, such as unemployment, role in management, discrimination at work and in terms of income. In the second part, entitled "Women between Work and Family – The Women's View", they concentrate on the value orientations of men and women in relation to the family and the division of roles within it. They conclude by looking at women's participation in politics and violence towards women. The report also uses data from other VÚPSV research.

V. Kuchařová, A. Nedomová, L. Zamykalová: Předpoklady sňatkového a rodinného chování mladé generace [Preconditions for Marital and Family Patterns of the Young Generation]

Praha, VÚPSV 1999, 96 pp.

The report is related to the project, "Forms of Family Life among the Young Generation" (for a report on this see Kuchařová et al., 1997), which aimed to ascertain the circumstances which influence young people's behaviour in relation to marriage and family today. This was a continuation of work with data from research into young single people's plans for a family in the "Young Generation" project, carried out

jointly by the Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences and VÚPSV. The report is divided into three related parts. The first looks at patterns of forming partnerships and natality, opinions on marriage and living together outside marriage and young people's plans for their lives. The second half includes the basic possible explanations for the demographic changes under way in this country and internationally. The third section is entitled "Accommodation as one of the fundamental requirements for young families' independence" and deals with the most common problem, one possible explanation for the state of affairs of young people today.

M. Tuček et al.: Česká rodina v transformaci – Stratifikace, dělba rolí a hodnotové orientace [The Czech Family in the Throes of Transformation – Stratification, Division of Roles and Value Orientations]

Praha, SoÚ AV ČR, Working Papers 3/1998, 162 pp., ISBN 80-85950-45-6

This study summarises the results of the project, "Stratification, Gender, and Family", which mapped the state of the contemporary Czech family, with particular emphasis on the changing positions and roles of men and women in society and in the family, using a wide range of empirical material from recent research. The first chapter describes the development of the Czech family since the beginning of the century from a demographic perspective, the second analyses the models and norms of behaviour of the Czech family in the European context, and the third looks at the general situation of young families. A further three chapters deal with the functioning of the Czech family today, covering parenthood, partnership relations, and the combining of family and professional roles from the point of view of gender, including two-career marriages. The last three chapters are devoted to questions of work and stratification, both the historical development of women's position on the labour market and their subjective perception of work, and conceptual questions of the position of women in the stratification structure of society.

M. Čermáková: Rodina a měnící se gender role – sociální analýza české rodiny [The Family and Changing Gender Roles – A Social Analysis of the Czech Family]

Praha, SoÚ AV ČR, Working Papers 8/1997, 120 pp, ISBN 80-85950-42-1

The study is a social analysis of the Czech family based on data from the representative survey, "The Family 1994 – a sociological survey of the social conditions of the Czech family", carried out by the Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences. The research formed part of the International Social Survey Programme, which encompasses 22 countries and the subject was gender roles in the private sphere since 1989. The analysis presents the divergence between female and male perceptions of the private sphere and investigates the factors causing this difference. Individual chapters deal with the basic characteristics of the sample, gender roles in the family, the position of men and women in the private and public spheres, money and gender roles, the division of labour in the household, the role of sexuality, marital relations, the role of children in the family and relations to the mother. The study identifies specific features of the Czech sample in comparison with other countries surveyed. A sample of the questionnaire is given in an appendix.

M. Lenderová: K hříchu i k modlitbě. Žena v minulém století [On Sin and Prayer. Woman in the Last Century]

Praha, Mladá fronta 1999, 306 pp. ISBN 80-204-0737-5

The author reflects on the position of women in Czech society in the context of the history of culture and everyday life in the 19th century, i.e. approximately from the 1780s to the emergence of the first women's political organisations. She looked particularly at the life of middle-class women, although not entirely disregarding the nobility or the urban or rural poor. The work first traces the course of women's life from birth to maturity, marriage

and motherhood, and then looks at the lives of adult women of the time. It looks at health, beauty, cosmetics, sport and fashion, including the emergence of salons both in this country and in the European context. The author also remembers that women were not only a subject of art but also created works of art themselves. The conclusion is devoted to the first beginnings of the emancipation movement, which was largely driven by women's demands for the right to a university education, choice of profession and political careers. The author used works published in the period, and newspapers, church, medical, legal, educational, philosophical and scientific literature. However, as she was also interested in describing women's inner life, as they themselves experienced the period, a major source of information was women's letters, diaries and memoirs. The book includes many illustrations and reproductions.

J. Špitz, Š. Gjuričová, J. Kubička, E. Poďulková: Vidět věci jinak, rozhovory rodinných terapeutů [Seeing Things Differently: Interviews with Family Therapists]

Praha, SLON 1998, 136 pp. ISBN 80-85850-51-6

This book by three family therapists is an attempt to explain their way of working and their views on problems in the family to all those who are interested in the question of living in the family. They decided to do this in the form of interviews with the 'lay person', rather than as yet another handbook of recommendations, as they wanted to inspire people to think about their own difficulties and possible ways of resolving these. After a brief introduction looking at the basic questions of what is family therapy, how problems can be solved by talking about them, what a family therapist is good for, etc., the interview is divided into thematic sections: How We Can Understand Each Other, The Child and Divorce, The Child in the New Family, Violence, On the Edge of Life, and Where Children May Not Go.

E. Věšínová-Kalivodová, H. Maříková (ed.): Společnost žen a mužů z aspektu gender, sborník studií [The Society of Men and Women from the Aspect of Gender: A Collection of Studies]

Praha, Open Society Fund 1999, 172 pp.

This collection presents the lectures from the course on "Society, Women and Men from the Aspect of Gender" which was run in 1997 on the initiative of the Open Society Fund. The lecturers included experts from different disciplines of the social sciences and humanities and the participants were largely from secondary schools. This was an attempt to help introduce the perspective of gender into Czech education. It did not, and indeed could not, provide an opportunity to go into the subject in depth, but rather offered ideas for further reflection, information on problems already analysed, and an overview of the broad range of the concept of gender studies. The volume includes lectures by J. Šiklová: *Gender Studies and Feminism in Universities in the Czech Republic and the World*, E. Věšínová-Kalivodová: *The Gender of Lifestyle: A Comparative Reflection*, H. Havelková: *The History of Feminism in the Czech Lands*, M. Čermáková: *Gender and the Labour Market*, H. Maříková: *The Changing Roles of Men and Women in the Family*, Š. Gjuríčová: *The Construction of Gender: Masculinity and Femininity from Different Perspectives*, P. Řičan: *The Life of Women with Men as War?*, S. Hubálek: *Ethics and Aggression in Business*, M. Balabán: *The Conception of Man and Woman in the Bible*, J. Opočenská: *Violence and Overcoming it*, L. Oates-Indruchová: *Gender in the Media: An Outline of the Problem*, J. Valdová: *"Male Directedness" in Upbringing and Education from the Linguistic Point of View*, P. Frýdlová: *The Features of Women's Cinema*.

H. Havelková, M. Vodrážka (ed.): Žena a muž v médiích [Woman and Man in the Media]

Praha, Nadace Gender Studies 1998, 53 pp., ISBN 80-902367-2-3

This is a record of the seminar of the same name organised by the Gender Studies Foun-

ation and the Czech Helsinki Committee. In the introduction, Hana Havelková stresses that this was not an analysis of the position and role of women and men in our society today or of a feminist conception of how the Czech media treat these questions. Mirek Vodrážka reflects on women's art. A number of contributions concern printed media: Eva Kalivodová analyses feminist magazines from the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, Kateřina Jonášová analyses women's journalism in the 1920s, and Barbara Osvaldová looks at contemporary women's publications in this country. Jiřina Šmejkalová and Eva Hauserová show how hard it is to deal with the subject of feminism in the media and how this is possible – particularly in today's most powerful medium of television, Jan Jiráček looks at the roles of men and women as creators of news reports and as the viewers, Věra Veronika Tydlíatová considers the stereotypes created by these media, and Daniel Köpl analyses the roles of men and women in advertisements – including the developing Internet advertising, while Petra Jedličková looks at Cyberspace as an open challenge to women. The collection is complemented by a report on a survey of German and Austrian journalists by Eva Payerl, a report on the discussion at the seminar, and samples of Veronika Bromová's art.

Marie L. Neudorfflová, České ženy v 19. století. Úsilí a sny, úspěchy i zklamání na cestě k emancipaci [Czech women in the 19th century. Struggles and dreams, achievements and disappointments].

Praha, JANUA 1999, 460 pp.

The book is a lively story of several dozens of Czech women involved in a dramatic and gradually successful struggle to step outside the private sphere and to gain for all women more equal possibilities for their personal development as well as for a more equal position with men in the Czech society. The major spheres of their activities – education, social conditions, abuse, health, legal position in the family and society, political rights, etc., are systematically explored in fourteen chapters, which are based on rich sources. Hard and goal-seeking work was at the core of women's efforts but co-

operation with a few enlightened men was often indispensable to explore and slowly overcome traditional conservative and deeply rooted perceptions of women as inferior beings "meant only for the private sphere". The emancipation movement of Czech women is not dealt in isolation, many interesting references and contacts with other movements are included, especially in the last chapter.

One Eye Open, special issue – volume 1

Praha, Both Eyes Open 1998, 156 pp.,
ISSN: 1221-9148

This special issue of *One Eye Open* is an attempt to map gender through history and present it as a fully deserving subject of socio-historical analysis. This means showing how history has until now been seen as masculine, i.e. exclusively through male experience, which is moreover seen only as taking place in the public sphere, even if there is no doubt of the importance of women as subjects in history. This issue presents personal reflections on Czech History by H. Gordon Skilling, followed by an essay by Marci Shore on the trial of Milada Horáková, where she stresses how these events were viewed by the woman-actor herself. Petra Jedličková's contribution, "Women on the Wire or Czech Cyberfeminism" opens the new subject of cyberspace with a question as to how gender roles will be organised in this new world. This first issue also includes an "Oral History" section with members of three generations of the same family interviewed as part of the project of "*Women's Memory*", a review of the book *The Lives of Young Prague Women* and an excerpt from Eva Hauserová's book *You are a woman... (a small, slightly feminine advisor)*.

Theses:

M. Musilová: Vývoj politiky rovných příležitostí mužů a žen v České republice v kontextu evropské integrace [The Development of Policy of Equal Opportunities of Men and Women in the Czech Republic in the Context of European Integration]

Praha, Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University, Public and Social Policy 1999, 107 pp.

This work offers an overview of the development of political equal opportunities of men and women in the framework of the European Union and a comparison with developments in the Czech Republic. The theoretical section analyses the concept of equal opportunities, defines the basic concepts and looks at basic gender and feminist approaches. The section on European policy on equal opportunities for men and women, describes its development, its institutional and financial basis and programmes of European co-operation. A further section looks at the labour market, participation in decision-making processes, the family and education in the Czech Republic from the point of view of the position of men and women. In the final chapter the author offers general suggestions for the further development of equal opportunities policies in this country.

A. Křížková: Gender role v rodině [Gender Roles in the Family]

Praha, Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University, General Sociology 1999, 80 pp.

The work describes the stereotypical definition of the content of gender roles in the family in the context of the contemporary relation of the private and public spheres of society in the Czech Republic. It shows both the incompatibility of women's working and family roles, and the very compactly organised unity of all male roles as a result of the complementary delimitation of the public and private spheres, and of the boundaries of gender roles in society. The author defines three basic types of organisation of gender roles in the family and identifies the transitional form as the prevailing one in this country, i.e. where both partners

work but the man is dominant in the sphere of work and the woman in that of the family. The work includes a special study of families of university graduates, whose attitudes often come closer to an egalitarian division of roles in the family. The author presents the hypothesis that this type is the household of the future.

J. Nováčková: Proměny gender-rolí v důsledku radikálních změn období modernizace (Dualita mužské a ženské role, univerzalita a gender-identita) [Transformations of Gender-Roles as a Result of Radical Changes in the Period of Modernisation (The Duality of Male and Female Roles, Universality and Gender-Identity)]

Praha, Philosophical Faculty of Charles University, Department of Sociology 1997, 94 pp.

The duality of the male and female genders is a general cultural principle of the world and the interconnection of the two forms a whole which is the socio-cultural basis of each society. Universalism is based on this assumption and resolves the general ethical question of human equality and freedom. The author describes the process of modernisation as a crisis of gender roles and a crisis of identity which has not been resolved even in the present period of the transition to the post-modern. She traces female and male roles in the light and conflict of various paradigms. From the sociological point of view she outlines male and female roles, their conflicts, status and changes in contemporary society. She describes the conflict between sociology and biology on the origin of gender and sexual behaviour. She presents the basic works of social and cultural anthropologists (Bachoven, McLennan, Benedict, Opler, Mead, Linton), sociologists (Simmel, Ortega y Gasset, Scheler, Freud, Fromm), and other disciplines (sociology of the post-modern, Marxism, feminism) which relate to this issue.

Undergraduate Works:

B. Osvaldová (ed.): Žena - muž? Žena + muž!!! [Woman - Man? Woman + Man!!!]

Praha, Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University, Department of Journalism 1999, 72 pp.

A collection of three undergraduate works by journalism students on the subject of male-female relations, questions of gender and feminism, which were presented at the Faculty of Social Sciences in 1998 during a seminar of the same name.

T. Boehmová: Obraz ženy v českém tisku a jeho proměny pod vlivem feministických teorií [The Image of Woman in the Czech Press and its Transformation under the Influence of Feminist Theory]

This paper is based on an analysis of daily newspapers, periodicals and other publications, particularly just before and after 1989. The author shows how the image and behaviour and view of women in Czech society changed under the influence of new publications, lectures at universities and new types of periodicals inspired by feminism. The work includes an interview with Hana Havelková, who lectures on feminism at the Institute of the Fundamentals of Learning.

A. Knapová: Feminismus v zrcadle českých médií [Feminism in the Mirror of the Czech Media]

The paper shows both the high level of emancipation of women in Czech society (on the labour market) and the rejection of feminism that springs from a simple lack of understanding, which is largely due to the Czech media. The Czech media have chosen a simple and effective approach: not to ascertain the origins of this women's movement, not to deal with the question seriously, not to study it, but to tempt readers with the ageing but titillating "adventures of 'American' feminism".

J. Živná: Ideální muži podle měřítek první republiky [The Ideal Man in the Terms of the First Republic]

The author attempts to reconstruct the image of the ideal man in the period from 1918 to 1938 on the basis of an analysis of contemporary publications, particularly the magazine, *Gentleman*. She describes the ideal style of dress, behaviour and character of the man of that period and also identifies actual men who were considered to embody this ideal. She also shows how the type of the gentleman was gradually carried beyond the limits of the practicable and replaced by the democrat.

L. Průšová: Ostře sledované matky. Obraz mateřství, jak je prezentován v rozhovorech se ženami ve vybraných týdenících [Closely Observed Mothers. The Image of Motherhood as Presented in Interviews with Women in Selected Weeklies]

Praha, Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University 1999, 28 pp.

This is an excellent analysis of interviews with women of the post-1989 cultural, professional and political elite in four well-known weeklies (*Reflex*, *Týden*, *Magazín Lidových novin*, *Magazín MF Dnes*; from January 1998 to March 1999). A total of 114 interviews were examined from the point of view of the construction of an image of motherhood. The analysis preceding the theoretical part maps the role of the media in creating values and the media's influence in social change. Applied semiotics are used to reveal the process of the creation and transmission of meanings in the media and to understand motherhood and a code of meaning. The counterweight of the myths on which the weeklies' interviews are based is the feminist theory of motherhood.

Alena Křížková