

IPW LECTURES

How are Anti-Gender Movements in Central Eastern Europe and beyond challenging Democracies?

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Abstract:

This lecture addresses some of the challenges students and academics are facing when studying gender politics in a globalized world and especially in Eastern Europe. Both activists and scholars have discussed the current state of gender equality values globally through an analysis of anti-gender discourses and movements, especially in Europe (Kováts & Pöim 2015). While the success of religious movements globally is often pointed at as responsible for supporting gender-conservative values (e.g. Egypt, Turkey, India), other contexts of heightened nationalism and authoritarianism provide examples of a secular threat to present and aspired regimes of gender, sexuality and reproduction (e.g. Poland, Russia), together with an attack on higher educational institutions.

In this lecture we examine what anti-gender movements can tell us about global gender politics and the current international regimes promoting gender equality values. The focus lies on anti-gender movements in Central Eastern Europe and its possible interpretative and theoretical frameworks. The aim is to analyze the state of anti-gender movements in Europe and to assess the impacts of counter strategies by progressive actors. The lecture argues that anti-gender movements are a new phenomenon in European politics which requires new methods to study and different counter strategies from progressive forces.