

CALL FOR PAPERS

Social mobility and gender.

Today's (trans)national dynamics

Social mobility, i.e. the possibility of changing one's social position through individual commitment and by using institutional paths, has been a central promise of Western meritocracies, especially since the expansion of education from the 1960s onwards. While unequal access to and distribution of social opportunities and risks were identified early on – e.g. with Bourdieu's notion of the 'illusion of equal opportunities' – options in terms of class milieu, geographical location, gender and citizenship status seemed to vary at least in a calculable way. In the 21st century, the situation is in many respects more confusing. Socio-critical researchers of (gender) inequality state that expectations of social advancement are more often disappointed and that the paths of social mobility are sometimes difficult to anticipate. The uncertainty and precariousness of educational and employment constellations are increasing, as is the fear of social decline.

This is also reflected in current developments in literature. In contemporary literature, texts on social mobility, often from an autobiographical perspective, increasingly occur. At the same time, mobility experiences and metaphors lose little of their 'individual' and social attraction: the option of social advancement remains an important criterion of social equality. Experiences of social immobility and disadvantage are manifold, they show interferences and intersections of various categories of difference and hierarchization, but also the relevance of individualized strategies and time patterns.

We are looking for empirical and/or theoretical contributions to the debate from a broad range of intersectional gender and queer research on expectations of, experiences with and disappointments in 'social mobility'.

Possible questions/research topics in detail

- Social mobility in contemporary concepts of equality
- The role of institutions for social mobility
- (Auto)biographical strategies, practices, images and narratives of social mobility

- Representations of social mobility in literature, film, visual arts, scenic arts and others
- Intersectionality and social mobility
- The relationship between social mobility, educational mobility and/or employment
- Social mobility in the post-migrant context
- Transnational, feminized care work
- Concepts of social location and participation beyond and alternative to social mobility

Procedure and timetable

Please submit a one- to two-page abstract by **28 June 2020**. Non-German speakers are welcome to submit their articles in English. The Editorial Department works with the online editing system OJS. We would therefore like to ask you to register as an author of the journal GENDER at www.budrich-journals.de/index.php/gender and to submit and upload your abstract there. A guideline for the use of OJS is available at www.gender-zeitschrift.de/index.php?id=manuskripte.

Once your abstract has been assessed and judged suitable for this issue, you will receive an invitation to submit. Notifications of acceptance will be sent by **19 July 2020**. The deadline for submission of the final manuscript is **4 January 2021**. Manuscripts must not exceed 50,000 characters (including space characters). All submissions will be reviewed in our double-blind peer review process based on which the final selection of contributions to be published will be made. The editors may give instructions to revise the contribution, which is the rule rather than the exception. In case of a high number of positively peer-reviewed contributions, the Editorial Department reserves the right to make a final selection of articles and to publish some contributions in a later issue.

GENDER. Journal for Gender, Culture and Society

GENDER. Journal for Gender, Culture and Society was founded in 2009 as a journal on women and gender studies. It provides a forum for academic debate and discourse between academics and practitioners. The journal covers a broad range of social and cultural topics, addressing both socio-political issues on equality and justice as well as issues regarding the staging and cultural interpretation of gender.

The journal aims to cover a wide range of topics and academic disciplines in which women, men and gender issues are reflected. Given the journal's multi-disciplinary setting, we welcome analyses from, for instance, sociology, educational science, political science, cultural science and history which correspond to the interdisciplinary nature of gender studies. Analyses of local, regional and global influences on gender relations are also of interest. GENDER is published in three issues a year and some 480 pages per annum. Contributions to the free section are always welcome, irrespective of the focus of the special issue.

Do you have any questions?

For further information please contact the editorial team of the special issue: **Dr. des. Linda Leskau** (linda.leskau@tu-dortmund.de), **Prof. Dr. Anne Schlüter** (anne.schlueter@uni-due.de), **PD Dr. Stephan Trinkaus** (s.trinkausgmx.net), and **Prof. Dr. Susanne Völker** (susanne.voelker@uni-koeln.de), or the editorial team of GENDER (redaktion@gender-zeitschrift.de).

A style sheet for authors is available at <http://www.gender-zeitschrift.de/en/manuskripte/>.