

CALL FOR PAPERS

The “Good Life” in Times of Crisis – Gender Relations Put to the Test

The issue of the “good life” has been discussed in philosophy for more than 2000 years and is currently the subject of vivid debate. Recently, it has reached a new level of virulence. In the spring of 2020, the global crisis caused by the spread of COVID-19 and the measures taken to contain it are challenging many people’s concepts of a good life. Possible developments emerge that indicate a relapse into conventional gender patterns, for example in the care of children and others in need of care, as well as with regard to increasing problems such as the escalation of domestic violence or rising difficulties in the access to abortion.

The central question is how a good life is possible for everyone, not only for the privileged, especially after severe crises. A crisis may result in new ideas and redistribution, but also might widen of the gap between rich and poor as well as between genders, as recent history shows. Inter- and post-disciplinary approaches are therefore increasingly taking up the topic. Perspectives of New Materialism are particularly prominent, but the “good life” also plays a role in sociological research on post-growth societies. It is striking that aspects of the general interdependency and connectedness among people are in the focus, i.e. the manifold ways of being in this world together. This perspective brings into play how gender differences are embedded in various power structures. Media and cultural studies also take up these considerations focusing on the artistic and media production of utopian and dystopian future scenarios. Thus, the “good life” is always a question of one’s own happiness and the happiness of others.

This special issue of GENDER on the “good life” in times of crisis is intended to address relevant questions and to put them into a wider, cross-disciplinary context.

Possible questions/research topics in detail

- A social and political science approach might discuss the question of who has the power and resources to implement their own ideas of a good life against the background of gendered power relations and other dimensions of social inequality.
- From a communication and media studies perspective, it might be worth discussing which voices are likely to be heard in shaping the conditions for a good life and which appear only as “noise”.
- What do different concepts of the “good life” of people mean for the environment, for flora and fauna and, especially with regard to climate change, for the earth as such?
- Can the “good life” be limited to humanity? Do animals, nature or even the earth as such have a right for a good life as well?

Procedure and timetable

Please submit a one- to two-page abstract by **7 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 **21 June 2020**. The deadline for submission of the final manuscript is **15 November 2020**. 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: **Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Holzleithner**, University of Vienna (elisabeth.holzleithner@univie.ac.at) and **Prof. Dr. Diana Lengersdorf**, Bielefeld University (diana.lengersdorf@uni-bielefeld.de) or the editorial team (redaktion@gender-zeitschrift.de). A style sheet for authors is available at <http://www.gender-zeitschrift.de/en/manuskripte/>.