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SUMMARIES IN ENGLISH

Lise Busk-Jensen: The woman, women, femininity – considerations to the fundamental concepts of women’s studies.

On the background of the considerable development in women’s studies during the last 15 years, this paper discuss the concepts of women and femininity in this discipline. The paper outlines some principal ideas in philosophy and science concerning sexual difference from 19. century until today. It shows how women writers have presented their ideas of freedom within this traditional framework. The essential assumption is, that women’s studies must replace the romantic idea of ‘the Woman’ with the conception of both ‘women’, that is concrete, real biological women at all times, and ‘femininity’, that is the ideological imagination of ‘the Woman’, which has had a normative influence.

Libby Arcel Tata: Shame and suicide attempt in an adolescent girl.

The article has two purposes: to define the concept of shame, both as a human feeling and as a means of social control of the woman through the central position of shame in sexual morality.

Furthermore the article tries to prove the probability of a connection between the feeling of shame and suicide attempts of women. Attempted suicide is seen as an act of protest, by which the woman refuses to live up to the set of demands made on her. The demands find their clearest expression in the ruling sexual morality in a given society in a given historical period and its implicit conception of women.

Through a qualitative analysis of a Greek girl’s suicide attempt the article examines how the conception of women in the morality of honour – the ruling sexual morality in Greece – is expressed in the girl’s self-understanding and the the family’s understanding of her actions prior to the suicide attempt.
Jette Fog: About the sensitive rationality and the rational sensitivity. Psychotherapy as paradigm of knowledge

My point of departure is the specificity of the relation between researcher subject and research object. The necessity of examining the culture and psychology of the researcher is emphasized as a methodological point and the implication for this of the sex differentiation of the culture is stressed.

Next I write about the tenacious dichotomy between feeling and reason. This dichotomy bears the impress of sex. Up against the dichotomy I write about the faculty of knowledge evolved in psychotherapy as paradigmatic: Here the incompatibility of cognition and feeling is overcome, both are necessary and different channels of knowledge-getting. I complicate the concept of knowledge, and point out intuitive and empathic ways of getting knowledge as valid.

I stress the necessity of identificatorical knowledge in psychological concepts used about the person. In looking at his object as an object the researcher has taken the outlook of the psychopath as a paradigm of knowledge, and has mistaken objetivism for objectivity. I return back to the researcher considered in the light of sex differentiation and look at the implications connected to the notion, that psychological concepts to a wide degree has identificatorical knowledge as an (implicit) premise.

Frigga Haug: Memory-Work

Memory work is a method for feminist social research. It combines the advantages of consciousness raising groups with the strength of theoretical analysis. It is in fact work with one's own memory guided by theory. Thus it is a challenge for the personalities involved. It allows to overcome the gap between researchers and their objects of research and in the same time gives a history and a language, a scientific concern to all those lives and experiences of numerous women, for their everyday lives. The article of memory work, which by now is used by a number of female research groups in Germany, deals with the problem of language, of single case studies and the right of generalization; the problem of subjectivity, identity and ideology etc. It is a call for working in collectives and gives some hints how everybody could start working with her own memory. Memory work is a method which has to be improved while in practice. Thus it is a challenge for all of us: for researchers, women in the movement, psychologists or those who are interested in therapeutical advice.

Lone Karpatcho: Victims of Love – on the Study of Wife Abuse

This article is treating a particular field of woman's studies, the study of Wife Abuse. Preliminarily the legal and social status of wife abuse is described, through history and today. Next is shown the interconnection between the study of wife abuse and woman's lib., and the two dominant schools, one attached to radical feminism and one to the sociology of the family. The author's study of abused wives in a major shelter of Copenhagen is then described, the method as well as the main results of the study. The various attempts in the litterature to explain wife abuse is critically examined in the following part, theories about the causes of the husbands violence as well as about the staying of the wife. Based partly on this criticism, partly on the author's own study and partly on the author's general theoretical frame of reference, inspired by Leontjew, a more comprehensive analysis is made about the phenomenon of wife abuse.

Based on this analysis as well as the author's model of personality the development in personality during the stay in the shelter is described, and for the women not helped through this stay alone a program for a family therapy is sketched.

The article is terminated by an attempt to describe the study of wife abuse as a characteristic example of woman's studies in general.
Jette Sandahl: A common whore

The first part of the article deals with the transition from a predominantly organic frame of reference for nature and society to the mechanistic epistemology and methods of the scientific revolution of the 17th century. The split between active masculine form and spirit over passive feminine matter comes to provide moral sanction for control and mastery over nature — and women.

The second part is concerned with developmental issues of differentiation and gender-formation, through which basic genderdichotomies and subject-objectdichotomies are formed. These affective dichotomies will serve as filters for oppositional and hierarchical cognitive processes.

While the article composes dialogue between the logical and the psychological realms, I never deal on a level af causality.

Eva Ethelberg: Personality strategies in women against male dominance

The major part of this paper is an outline of a model of three personality strategies in women against male dominance. The model suggests that the three personality strategies are universal personality reactions to societal oppression with a feminine content and course. Male dominance is regarded as a major interpersonal factor in transmitting societal oppression of women to the personalities of girls and women. The model is advanced as a result of a theoretical study of six theories of personality in which the three personality strategies are found in similar forms, but with different assessment of desirability. The basic assumptions and the scientific method of the theoretical study are based on the theory of activity (Benny Karpatschof, University of Copenhagen) as described in the paper.

Judy Gammelgaard: The female thought

Taking Simone de Beauvoir's classic work of women's situation, "The Other Sex", as her starting point the author emphasizes some basic philosophic assumptions, which do not differ from those of the traditional antifeminist philosophy. As representatives of the latter, Otto Weininger's and George Simmel's conceptions of women are reviewed. The author points out the limitations of a radical feminist emancipation strategy emerging from this dualistic concept of primarily rational and intuitive knowledge, and she takes psychoanalysis as an example of a cognition contributing to a differentiation of the above mentioned dualistic concept.

Birthe Knizek: The French Way

A short introduction to feministic research in the light of Lacanian psychoanalysis. By means of Lacan's making war on "institutions" it is tried to show, why this particular form of psychoanalysis forms the basis for a fertile and prosperous research on femininity.

As an instance of this feministic research are chosen three women, who each practise a special kind of this research. These women are M. Montrelay, L. Irigaray, and J. Gallop.

Their methodical differences are discussed with reference to their theoretical implications, — as work with the form of research must be seen as an absolutely necessary and unavoidable part of feministic research.

Finally men's and women's relationship to a feminine way to do research is discussed by the Lacanian example.