

THE FRAGEN PROJECT

SHARING CORE EUROPEAN FEMINIST TEXTS ONLINE

For the first time, core feminist texts from the second wave of feminism in Europe have been made available to researchers in an easily accessible online database.

The Fragen project, co-ordinated by Aletta, the Amsterdam-based Institute for Women's History, brings together books, articles and pamphlets that were influential in the development of feminist ideas in EU member states, Turkey, and Croatia during the second half of the 20th century. The aim of the project is to facilitate comparative research into the history of feminist thinking in different European countries. The database is launched to the international research community in 2011.

FRAGEN website and database www.fragen.nu launched in 2011



Partners from 29 countries attended a workshop in Amsterdam in 2009

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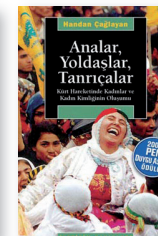
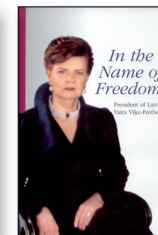
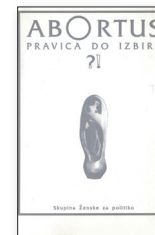
29 COUNTRIES, 29 PARTNERS SELECT CORE FEMINIST TEXTS IN EUROPE

Aletta (formerly IIAV, the International Information Centre and Archives for the Women's Movement) started work on this project in January 2009, drawing on its extensive international network to find partners in each country; most of these were gender information centres or universities' gender departments. In November 2009, partners from 29 countries attended a workshop in Amsterdam. Topics on the agenda included the criteria for selecting the most relevant texts, how to address copyright issues and technical matters such as digitisation and the uploading of texts. The Fragen partners approached prominent national experts on the feminist movement, representing different feminist strands to suggest suitable texts for a shortlist.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The texts were evaluated according to the following criteria:

- The texts should preferably originate in the country of submission (a few exceptions were made for important texts that had been 'imported' and translated).
- The texts should be from the late Sixties onwards.
- They should preferably have functioned as a feminist manifesto, or have come to be regarded as one later.
- They must have had some historical relevance in the country of origin e.g. impacting the success of feminist movements or gender relations in that country.
- The texts should reflect the diversity of ideas that prevailed in each country at the time, including the most radical.



The project aims to facilitate comparative research into the history of feminist thinking in different European countries

METHODOLOGY

The Fragen project (**F**rames on **G**ender) is part of the QUING project. (Quality in Gender and Equality Politics) which aims to research gender equality policies in Europe (www.quing.eu). The methodology used in QUING was adapted for a coding system for the final Fragen texts. This coding system results in analytical descriptions of the texts, which make it easier to compare and contrast the selected texts from the different countries.

The Fragen website, which provides access to the selected texts per country, can be seen as the first step towards a fulltext European Feminist collection. It includes a bibliographical description of each text (author, title, publisher etc.), a synopsis in English, keywords and the facility to view the entire document in its original language.



The Fragen project (Frames on Gender) is part of the FP6-funded research project QUING

(Quality in Gender and Equality Politics). www.quing.eu

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