

Editor's Preface

The main binary opposition in gender studies refers to the concept of femininity and masculinity. The second important one is, in my opinion, the concern of dichotomy: subordination/domination. In the most recent past this dichotomy has been rather clear. Subordination has been attributed to women and domination has always belonged to men. But in the fragmented world with the increasing fragmentation of identity this dichotomy is not so simple. There are various, often contradictory and sometimes strange trends and tendencies in the emerging trajectories of subordination and domination. This same one which in one social order can be simple tracked as a being deprived of empowerment in other social order can be seen as a source of emancipation. And this one which in one social order is obviously full of power can in the second one be relativized into various battles of meanings. Another dimension can be traced in the context of the relationship between individual and structure. We can explain the gender differences and inequalities by the social structures which inevitably create the practical and symbolic reality or can we assume that just individual or individuals can reverse or at least decrease the power of structured reality? The meta-concept in this discussion could be described as a freedom. Freedom of thought, and giving meanings, the freedom of altering the power inscribed in social dimensions, freedom of reading and writing, freedom of creating one's identity which reverse the surrounding circumstances. This is not essential freedom. It is again fragmented, but it has the power of being a human in the world in which femininity and masculinity are intertwined with themselves as well as many other of social phenomena. All these problems and question are considered in various ways in articles include in this issue of the Journal of Gender and Power.

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