ABSTRACT

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE WELFARE. HISTORICAL AND COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES ON THE SWEDISH PUBLIC SECTOR FROM A FEMINIST POINT OF VIEW 1900-2000

Ann-Katrin Hatje, Department of Historical Studies, Umeå University

Presented at Gender and Power in the New Europe, the 5th European Feminist Research Conference
August 20-24, 2003 Lund University, Sweden

Themes: Changes of women’s work, especially caring work, family policies - comparison especially between Sweden and Germany (both former West and East Germany); analysis of the concepts social citizenship, relational and state feminism, and gender equality. Feminist claims and activities will be analysed in a context with reference to broader economic and social structural changes in order to point to different phases, especially in women’s work during the 20th century.

In this paper general questions will be put, such as: To what extent is a big public sector a guarantee for gender equality? To what extent does it promote women’s social citizenship? To what extent was the expansion and feminization of the Swedish public sector in the 1960s and 1970’s in line with feminist claims? To what degree does or can a large feminized public sector decrease social and economic inequalities between classes and sexes? What about the heavy reduction of government means to the public sector in Sweden in the 1990’s and feminist claims today?