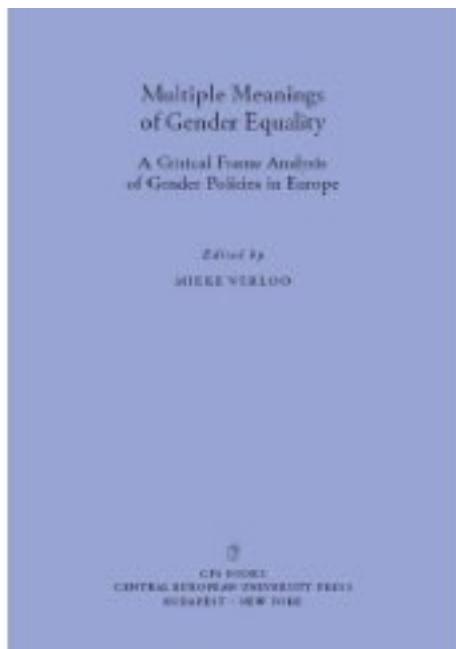


# Multiple Meaning of Gender Equality



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Multiple Meanings of Gender Equality -  
A Critical Frame Analysis of Gender Policies in Europe  
Background

The 1997 Treaty of Amsterdam places equality between women and men among the explicit tasks of the European Union and obliges the EU to promote gender equality in all its tasks and activities. In the strategy of Gender Mainstreaming it is recognised that

gender should be an essential part of policies on science, labour market and employment, development co-operation and education. The Gender Mainstreaming approach that has been legitimated by this Treaty is backed by legislation and by positive action in favour of women (or the "under-represented sex"). With regard to gender inequality, the EU has both a formal EU problem definition at the present time, and a formalised set of EU strategies.

Read more...

Why gender inequality as a research case?

Gender inequality is not a simple problem, but a highly political problem, meaning that there is no real consensus about what the problem is exactly, about why and for whom it is a problem, about who is responsible for the existence of the problem, who is responsible for solving it. This means that there is an ongoing political power struggle over these definitions. The words that are used in the context of gender mainstreaming habitually suggest consensus, but more often than not these words - inequality between men and women, differences between men and women, equal opportunities for men and women - function as buzz words: they allow the illusion of consensus, until a hidden difference of opinion can no longer be concealed.

作者介绍:

Mieke Verloo has a B.A. in Sociology, an M.A. in Urban Planning, and a Ph.D. in Policy Sciences. She worked for IVA, the Institute for Social Science Research at Tilburg University, for the SCP (as free-lance researcher), for several departments at the University of Nijmegen, and at the University of Utrecht. She worked as staff member for two committees to stimulate women's studies at the national level (VBEO 1980-1982 and STEO 1988-1989). She was Visiting lecturer or Fellow at the University of Hamburg-Harburg and at the IWM, Institute for Human Sciences, in Vienna. At the IWM she also was Research Director for MAGEEQ (MAinstreaming GEnder EQuality) a 5th Framework project (2003-2005), see [www.mageeq.net](http://www.mageeq.net).

Her recent consultancy work includes work for the European Parliament (2006): Training on gender mainstreaming for the Committees of the European Parliament (with Sylvia Walby), for the Luxembourg Presidency (on the Beijing +10 report, with Sylvia Walby). In 2003 she organised two seminars for DG Justice and Home Affairs (European Commission) on gender mainstreaming and gender impact assessment in co-operation with Suzanne Baer, professor of Gender and Public Law Humboldt University zu Berlin. In 2002-2003 she was coach and trainer for the Observatoria project, an EU funded initiative on gender mainstreaming and NGO's concerning equal pay. Countries involved were Austria, Italy, Spain and France.

Currently, she combines working as Professor at Radboud University Nijmegen with being the Scientific Director of QUING, a 6th Framework Project, at the IWM in Vienna, see [www.quing.eu](http://www.quing.eu).

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