



# As Women, as a Country. Gendered Participation in Nationalist Movements

Johannes Heß, M.A.

[j.hess@fu-berlin.de](mailto:j.hess@fu-berlin.de)

FU Berlin/SCRIPTS

How do understandings of gender and gender relations explain the participation of feminists in nationalist movements?

## Feminist Nationalism?

Feminism? Nationalism? The two seem incompatible. Feminism, which champions women's liberation, cannot be reconciled with nationalism, which privileges men and masculinity. Nevertheless, feminists participate in nationalist movements.

## Gender in Inclusive and Exclusive Nationalisms



vs.



### Exclusive Nationalisms

- Strict border
- Nation = family
- Gendered images

### Inclusive Nationalisms

- Mobilise broadly
- Fewer/open membership criteria
- Gender as an ordering principle

→ Where women and the nation experience the same oppression, they can be liberated by the same means.

## Three questions for the nationalist movement

### Who is one of us?

Someone who...

- ... was born to Catalan parents
- ... was born in Catalonia
- ... speaks Catalan
- ... lives and works in Catalonia
- ... is registered in Catalonia
- ... defends Catalonia

exclusive

inclusive

### Who are we?

#### Typical Catalan Attributes

- Aggressiveness
- Hard-heartedness
- Egotism

- Loving children ←
- Soft-heartedness ←
- Understanding ←
- Compassion ←
- Sensitivity ←
- Warmth ←
- Affection ←

## What are we fighting?

Catalonia experiences cultural imperialism from Spain. Women experience cultural imperialism through the patriarchy.



Independence can achieve a transformation of society that breaks both cultural oppressions.



## Data and Methods

1. (Historical) documents
2. Online survey
3. Semi-structured face to face interviews

## References

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“The problem is this. Being aware that you’re in a country [...] that does not work, and so, as a feminist, you believe that these are the solutions, and as *independentista* you believe that we would be much better off if we could carry them out.”  
—Catalan pro-independence feminist