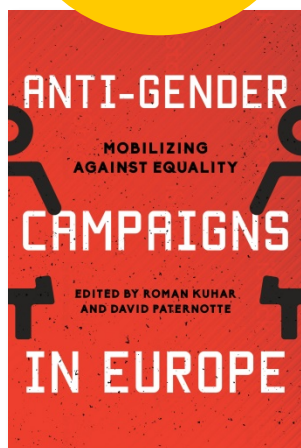


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Anti-Gender Campaigns in Europe Mobilizing against Equality

Edited by Roman Kuhar and David Paternotte

“In this well-documented comparative study, the authors offer country by country analyses and evidence of international collaborations in campaigns against gender equality. They provide striking new insight into the way the epithet “gender ideology” has become a powerful instrument on the European political scene, wielded by coalitions of right-wing Catholics, Protestant evangelicals, and populists to protect “traditional” sex roles and to challenge the institutions of democracy.” – *Joan W. Scott, Institute for Advanced Study*

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After decades of steady progress in terms of gender and sexual rights, several parts of Europe are facing new waves of resistance to a so-called ‘gender ideology’ or ‘gender theory’. Opposition to progressive gender equality is manifested in challenges to marriage equality, abortion, reproductive technologies, gender mainstreaming, sex education, sexual liberalism, transgender rights, antidiscrimination policies and even to the notion of gender itself. This book examines how an academic concept of gender, when translated by religious organizations such as the Roman Catholic Church, can become a mobilizing tool for, and the target of, social movements. How can we explain religious discourses about sex difference turning into massive street demonstrations? How do forms of organization and protest travel across borders? Who are the actors behind these movements? This collection is a transnational and comparative attempt to better understand anti-gender mobilizations in Europe. It focuses on national manifestations in eleven European countries, including Russia, from massive street protests to forms of resistance such as email bombarding and street vigils. It examines the intersection of religious politics with rising populism and nationalistic anxieties in contemporary Europe.

“An essential reading to better understand the widespread reactionary backlash in today’s Europe. This book is a much-needed wake-up call. While anti-gay marriage movements have long been regarded as anecdotal, the authors show how deep their cultural and religious roots are. This meticulous account is an important step towards reinventing minority rights across European borders.”

– *Bruno Perreau, Cynthia L. Reed Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

Table of Contents

1. “Gender Ideology” in Movement: Introduction, Roman Kuhar and David Paternotte / 2. “Gender Ideology” in Austria – Coalitions around an Empty Signifier, Stefanie Mayer and Birgit Sauer / 3. “No Prophet is Accepted in His Own Country”: Catholic Anti-Gender Activism in Belgium, Sarah Bracke, Wannes Dupont and David Paternotte / 4. Embryo, Teddy Bear-Centaur and the Constitution: Mobilizations against “Gender Ideology” and Sexual Permissiveness in Croatia, Amir Hodžić and Aleksandar Štulhofer / 5. Resisting “Gender Theory” in France: A Fulcrum for Religious Action in a Secular Society, Michael Stambolis-Ruhstorfer and Josselin Tricou / 6. “Anti-Genderismus”: German Angst? Paula-Irene Villa / 7. Anti-Gender Discourse in Hungary: A Discourse without a Movement? Eszter Kováts and Andrea Pető / 8. Defending Catholic Ireland, Mary McAuliffe and Sinead Kennedy / 9. Italy as a Lighthouse: Anti-Gender Protests Between the “Anthropological Question” and National Identity, Sara Garbagnoli / 10. “Worse than Communism and Nazism Put Together”: War on Gender in Poland, Agnieszka Graff and Elżbieta Korolczuk / 11. Russia as the Savior of European Civilization: Gender and the Geopolitics of Traditional Values, Kevin Moss / 12. Changing Gender Several Times a Day: The Anti-Gender Movement in Slovenia, Roman Kuhar / 13. From the Pulpit to the Streets: Ultra-Conservative Religious Positions against Gender in Spain, Monica Cornejo and J. Ignacio Pichardo / 14. The Anti-Gender Movement in Comparative Perspective, David Paternotte and Roman Kuhar

Roman Kuhar is Professor at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

David Paternotte is Associate Professor at the Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium.

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