GenParlNet and IPSA RC19: Gendered working conditions in governing bodies

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Chair: Tânia Verge, Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Discussants: Sarah Childs, Birkbeck College, University of London and Lenita Freidenvall, Stockholm University

Panel abstract:
With the gradual and worldwide increase in the proportion of women in governing bodies (i.e. parliaments, cabinets), a related question for feminist researchers has arisen concerning the gendered working conditions of those bodies. Do these governing bodies present men and women political leaders with equal opportunities to conduct their political duties? This panel’s point of departure is that an ‘equality of opportunity’ for men and women politicians to operate is significantly mitigated by gendered aspects of the workplace that are structured by disproportionate power relations, inconsistently applied rules, and gendered scripts. Papers in the panel explore the gendered inner workings of governing bodies, including perpetuating sexist and discriminatory workplace cultures and how workplace norms and conditions influence the performance of men and women political leaders’, addressing conceptual and theoretical issues in governing bodies and case studies in global north and south.

Participants:
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