

A Snake in Paradise? Women's situation in Denmark – the State and Market

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Paradise

- Nordic Welfare States seen as world champions in gender equality
- Combining paid work with motherhood – and daughterhood
 - Enabled by extensive social services
 - available and affordable (free or less than 1/3 of costs)
 - Right to receive care (mainly services)

Women friendly welfare State

- Extensive social services: children, elderly and handicapped (rights to receive care)
- Participation rates: 74 % (2009)
- Representation of Women in Parliament : 38% (2007)
- Women's fertility: 1.89 (2008)
- Life expectancy: 81 women, 77 men(2009)

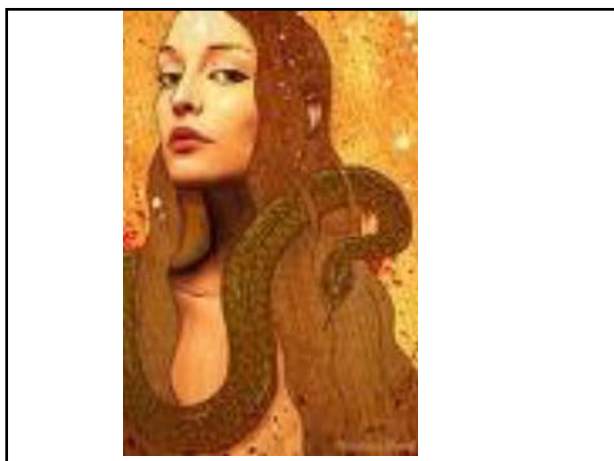
The State

- Political Representation
 - Parliament: 32 % ---38 % (2007)
 - Municipalities: 30 %---27 % (2005)
 - EU: 38 % ---46% (2009)
- Care Services going public:
 - Commodification
 - state responsibility
 - Elderly care: most universal in the world
 - 98% of home helpers women



The Market

- Participation rates: 74,4 % women, 79,2 % men
- Full time rather than part time
- Division of Labour: strong segmentation
- Vertically (2007): CEO's 5,4 %



Is there a Snake at all?

- Insider/Outsider View
- An incomplete Revolution?
- Struggles around old/new feminist issues
- State employed care workers protest: pay, organization of work and status
- Care in the home: live-in au pairs



Protesting Care Workers

- Health and Social Services
- Issues of redistribution and recognition
- a) Redistribution: Pay (equal pay for work of equal value, Structural imbalances)
- b) Recognition:
 - Definition: status equality, which is achieved when institutionalized patterns of cultural value constitute social actors as peers, capable of participating on a par with one another in social life (Fraser 2003: 29)
 - Misrecognition: re-organization of work by NPM (standardization)

Protesting Care Workers (II)

- Misrecognition:
 - Not listened to
 - Standardization (Translation of New Public Management in Nordic countries) results in a priori defined needs, splitting up of care, de-professionalization and bureaucracy
 - Paradox: Tyranny of time (less time to care)
 - Slogans: 'Enough is enough', 'Time to Care' and 'Union of Disregarded workers'

Au-pairs

- Two career families and stalled revolution
- Globalization and Europeanization
- Outsourcing of gender equality problems?
 - Gender inequality in the family
 - Care chains
 - Cheap labor?
- Political agenda of European Parliament

The Snake: A gender insensitive universalism?

Care workers (Elderly Care)

- a) Distributive issues:
 - 'Burden of care': work injuries, early retirement
 - pay
- a) Issues of Recognition
 - Misrecognition by state: reducing autonomy and not listening to their experiences

Au- pairs

- In between market, state and civil society (cultural exchange)
- Issues of recognition (respect) and redistribution (time off, pay instead of pocket money)

The model

- rights to receive care and services
- a gender insensitive universalism (gender system + universalism)
- the blind eye and privileged irresponsibility (Toronto, 1994)
- Outsourcing