

Grassroots Feminism in the Transformation and Post-transformation Poland. An Analysis of Discourses, Practices and Identities Represented in the Polish Feminist Zines After 1989

Feminist zines are, by common definition, non-commercial and irregular or spontaneous low volume editions, published by individual authors or feminist groups, associations and social organisations. Their circulation plays a significant role in the dissemination of feminist narratives, biographies and ideas, both in the individual and collective dimension, and works to reinforce the spirit of community and solidarity among women. Nowadays, many prestigious libraries as well as academic, municipal and state archives treasure feminist zines (e.g. The British Library, The New York Public Library, UCLA Library). In Poland, the research and archive tasks with regards to feminist zines are performed mainly by female associations and organisations, such as the *Feminoteka* Foundation or the *eFKa* Women's Foundation.

The goal of my project is to analyse the changes in the grassroots feminism in Poland during the transformation period and the following decades on the example of the Polish feminist zines published after 1989. My research will rely on archive queries, participant observation and interviews with the representatives of the communities where the Polish women's zines were being created and distributed since the early 1990s. Owing to the application of the ethnographic-historical method, the project will become a contribution to fill a research gap, evident in the existing subject literature in both Poland and abroad, as until now, there is no published work that would provide an in-depth and exclusive, analytical study of the emancipatory dimension of the social processes which coincided with the practice of collective creation of the Polish feminist zines.

The key research questions within this project are as follows: What is the exact meaning and role of the zine-creation practices in the construction of post-1989 feminism in Poland? What was the influence of the marginalised grassroots feminist groups on the mainstream, neoliberal feminism in Poland after 1989? In what way does the feminism in Poland relate to the processes and transformations which were shaping the global feminism, based conceptually on the Anglo-American feminism movements? What form does the contemporary feminist zine culture in Poland take; what are the practices of production and distribution? Finally, do the informal groups and associations, which had been actively focused on the creation of the Polish feminist zine culture throughout the 1990s, still play any significant social role in the construction of feminism in Poland? Finding the answers to the above questions will bring about, aside from the meaningful academic development, a favourable influence on the researched social groups, owing to the dissemination of knowledge on the herstories and cultural activities of women.