

Everyday life as a factor modeling academic careers of women in the Poznań community in the first two decades after the end of World War II

Research objectives and why this topic was undertaken:

The goal of the project is to determine whether the belief that women's strong involvement in everyday life is an important factor influencing their academic careers is borne out in reality.

The choice of women's academic careers stems from the special role given to science in the social hierarchy and the understanding of research practice as quite different from "ordinary lives". Women, on the other hand, have traditionally been seen as assigned to the everyday and the ordinary.

The chosen period of two post-war decades is special in terms of limited opportunities to meet the basic material needs of everyday life. This situation makes it possible to capture the features of the phenomenon of interest in high intensity.

An additional reason for undertaking the projected research is the desire to capture the power relations constituting the gender order in the Poznań scientific community and their interaction with other power relations in which this community was entangled. Its traditionally high position in the social hierarchy is linked to both its expectations of a certain status in relation to the rest of society and society's expectations of the signs of that status in relation to this group. How were these expectations realized in the face of the material deprivations of the post-war time? Were there gender differences here? How did networks of solidarity and material community support compare to other forms of assistance? How did formal and informal material support networks affect career progression and was there gender variation? Did material status translate into status in the community?

Description of research and significance of the project:

The research is part of a vibrantly developing strand of women's history and gender relations. It also takes up themes of social history in conjunction with the study of the fate of individuals. Historical biographical research is of continuing interest. When they concern people of science they often overlook aspects of the heroines'/heroes' being in their everyday life. This is because they focus on the unusual, extraordinary aspects of their lives. The very ones that make their biographies written.

The projected research proposes a holistic view of man in history. They aim to develop a perspective in which everyday life and academic career are not separated, but treated together. Additionally, looking at a group of women in this context will answer the question of whether gender influences both the degree of engagement in daily life and the opportunities for academic careers. Does academia detach women as much as men from everyday life issues?

The research will use a diverse source base to reveal the objective dimension of the material conditions of everyday life and the subjective dimension of experiencing them.

Substantial results expected:

The most important of the results expected is to determine whether in the first two decades after the end of World War II, the need to ensure daily functioning influenced the careers of women from the Poznań academic community.

In addition to this primary objective, the research will also yield new perspectives and tools for historical research. It will also contribute, thanks to the knowledge gained, to enriching the discussion on the situation of women, gender relations and possible postulates for changes in this area.

The results of the research work will be presented in the dissertation. Partial results will be discussed in subsequent stages of the dissertation. Both the findings on the objective material conditions of post-war everyday life, as well as the presentation of women's subjective experiences of their everyday life in the context of their academic careers will yield hitherto unknown information