

Does knowledge production contribute to the development of gender equality activism? What knowledge about women's problems in labor, housework, and health was created by women experts in post-war Central and Eastern Europe? How did their research uncover existing gender inequalities and stereotypes about women's roles? Which solutions did female experts propose to improve the situation of women in society? Did the knowledge they created prompt them to participate in the public debate on women's issues? Did they become advocates for gender equality? How did the knowledge circulate among female experts from different countries? Who were the women who devoted their research careers to women's issues? Under the conditions of the communist state, which restricted the possibility of association, did networks of women experts play a role in feminist activism?

We want to seek answers to these questions by conducting historical research on the biographies and expertise of selected female experts in three communist countries of East Central Europe: Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Hungary. We are interested in those female experts whose research raised issues related to women's work, for example, wage inequality or discrimination in managerial positions, housework, and the so-called double burden. We will also look at health, for example, issues related to maternal mortality. Our research will focus on fields such as medicine, sociology, psychology, and law.

Our research will focus on three threads: 1. **Knowledge (expertise) about women**, where we will analyze scientific and expert publications (including communicating scientific research to a broader audience). We will look for threads and analyze experts' arguments about women. 2. **Women experts' biographies and international and transnational contacts between female experts**. Based on archival materials, including those from the archives of international organizations and associations, we want to trace the careers of women experts, looking at the academic and research paths in scientific and expert communities and their participation in the international circulation of knowledge. 3. **Knowledge dissemination and activism**. By examining the involvement of women experts in public debate, knowledge communication, and participation in institutions and organizations, we want to reconstruct their role in gender equality activism. We will supplement archival and library research with oral history interviews with female experts or their colleagues and associates.

Our research offers new insights into the history of feminism in post-war Central and Eastern Europe. Previous research shows that women from these countries were active in national and international structures working for gender equality. However, these studies have focused on official women's organizations and their leaders; less is known about the expert base. We also know that expert knowledge created in medicine and the social sciences has co-created both conservative and progressive ideas about gender. To date, however, no systematic studies have put experts who studied women's issues at the center. These researchers are mostly forgotten or little-known today. Based on preliminary research, we can conclude that women experts from Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary conducted essential and often pioneering research and spoke out in debates on women's rights and issues.

As a result, the project will contribute significantly to the knowledge of women's roles in science in post-war East Central Europe, which, in contrast to Western countries, is still an understudied topic. The project will result in scientific articles and an online dictionary of female experts containing entries in English and national languages. We will also present our research on the website and on social media. An international team of experts on 20th-century social and cultural history of Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Hungary will conduct the research.