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## **Against the New Right Revolution? Ethnographic Perspectives on (Anti)Feminist Abortion Discourses in Eastern and Western Europe**

Political struggles over conception, contraception, and pregnancy termination are longstanding in Europe. Since the rise of right-wing parties and movements in Europe in the last two decades, their agenda centres around the Catholic Church, the protection of “traditional values”, and “restoration of the natural order”, pushing a populist cocktail of anti-EU, anti-immigration, anti-LGBT+, and anti-abortion rhetoric. Against this background, the research project focuses on (anti)feminist abortion discourses in Eastern and Western Europe and takes four EU countries – Germany, Ireland, Croatia and Poland – with different levels of liberalization, position of the Catholic Church and national coding of the abortion issue into account. The project at the intersection of Gender, Protest, Affect and Right-Wing Studies aims to contribute on the basis of comparative ethnographic case studies to the exploration of logics, practices and narratives of the European pro-life and pro-choice movements. With the „cultural backlash” (Norris/Inglehart), the increasing Catholic rigidity and the controversial penalization of abortion in view, the symbolic-habitual, sensual-aesthetic and emotive legitimation and protest strategies on both sides become the immediate focus of this analysis. Following the poststructuralist logics of (de)construction, (re)presentation and negotiation of gender and reproductive autonomy, the abortion discourse becomes here an important seismograph for pan-European tendencies. As a reflection of the national and European struggles for political and cultural hegemony (Hall), the abortion issue reflects the content of discourses on mother role and family policy, equality and sexual policy, secularization of public life, human rights and women’s autonomy.

In accordance with the actor- and subject-centred approach of the European Ethnology, the perspective of the pro-life activists and their opponents, their antagonistic logics, practices and motives are addressed by paying particular attention to practical and theoretical approaches to protest as a form of „doing emotion” (Scheer). The project intends to examine both, the micro-perspectives of everyday action and protest spaces, for example during demonstrations, as part of cyber events or in the form of visual resistance via poster campaigns, and the macro-perspective interweaving historical path dependencies and contemporary „cultural struggles” in the nexus of state, civil society and Catholic Church. The study addresses imageries, symbols, and codes of the pro-life and pro-choice protests with regard to practical-theoretical approaches to the mechanisms of visualisation and emotionalization as cultural practices in terms of an iconic and emotional turn. Finally, the research project – understood as a contribution not only to the ethnographic gender and protest research, but also to notions related to visual and popular culture, nationalism, religiosity, and post-communist transformation – aims at a critical discussion of the (trans)national (anti)feminist protest and its political power(lessness) to create transformative social change in a time of rising right-wing populism, anti-genderism and religious fundamentalism in Europe.