

JOURNAL ex æquo

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Call for papers: **Democratic transitions, women's rights and gender equality** - where we've come from and where we are

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ex æquo

is a scientific, interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary peer reviewed journal open to contributions of multiple disciplines and currents of thought. Published since 1999 as a bi-annual interdisciplinary journal in the area of Women's, Gender and Feminist Studies (<http://exaequo.apem-estudos.org/page/apresentacao-da-revista?lingua=en>)

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Democratic transitions, women's rights and gender equality

- where we've come from and where we are

While until the early 2000s, as Georgina Waylen (2003; 2007) pointed out, the literature on democratisation was blind to discrimination against women and their role in democratic transitions and consolidations, since then feminist interest and work on the gender dimension of these foundational social and political processes has gradually grown. There is already a considerable body of literature on gender, politics, freedom, democracy and women, and this gender dimension is increasingly considered to be the cornerstone of these processes, also due to the action of international organisations' regulations to promote women's rights and anti-discrimination in transitional processes. In fact, the moments of transition to democracy are critical turning points that mould gender regimes (Alonso, Ciccía, & Lombardo, 2023), although in many contexts such as Portugal, the political space for women and their demands has yet to be conquered (Monteiro, 2011; 2013). On the flip side, today we see the contestation of gender regimes at the centre of the conservative reaction to democratic regimes, with the growth of authoritarianism and anti-liberal populism (Biroli and Caminotti, 2020).

In the year that marks the 50th anniversary of the Portuguese Revolution of 25 April 1974, the journal *ex æquo* celebrates its 25th anniversary and publishes its 50th issue. Taking advantage of the happy coincidence

of 50-25-50, which symbolically links this vehicle for women's, feminist and gender studies in Portugal to the democratisation process and its impact on gender inequality regimes, as well as feminist movements, agendas and public equality policies, this thematic dossier aims to highlight the relationship between democracy, politics and women's and gender rights. The aim is to publish papers on democratic transitions, inequalities, agents and agendas, included and excluded voices, and feminist political mobilisations in these critical moments.

Having in common the fact that they are focusing events for the demand, protagonism and advancement of women's civil liberties and the fight against gender discrimination in the face of dictatorial or totalitarian regimes, the processes of democratic transition are marked by historical, local, politico-religious and geographical specificities. It is therefore important to interrogate and compare the diversity of experiences of oppression and the role and space of women's movements before, during and after the fall of dictatorships, in Southern European countries in the 1970s, then in Ibero-American transitions in the 1980s, in Central and Eastern European countries in the following decade with the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the Soviet Union, or in the Arab Springs in the 2010s.

It is also important to understand the transformation of socio-economic, socio-political and cultural environments in the decades after 1980, with the deepening of globalisation and the socio-economic restructuring resulting from the neoliberalisation of societies (Alcañiz y Monteiro, 2016).

The following list includes some of the topics that fall within these objectives:

- Feminisms and democratic transitions: dynamics of participation and institutionalisation.
- Feminist mobilisations and resistance in autocratic and anti-feminist contexts.
- Women's rights, democratic transitions and consolidation.
- Intersectionalities: gender, race and class, rights and the struggle for freedom and social justice.
- LGBTQI+ rights.
- Academia, the social sciences, women's, feminist and gender studies in the critical feminist debate in and on democratisation processes.
- Women's literature, writing, and artistic activity as sites of democratic resistance.
- Actors, networks and international organisations in the processes of political transformation.
- Political parties, feminisms and disputes over the rights agenda.
- Transitions, public policies and the impact on women's paid and unpaid labour
- Women's organisations, interventions and positions: movements, NGOs, "collectives" and the diversity of networks and strategies.
- Positions and transitional justice in the face of the legacy of human rights violations committed in the past by authoritarian and repressive regimes, particularly the human rights of women and other vulnerable groups.
- Constitutional processes and the construction of democracies in terms of women's rights.
- Nationalisms, the new right and social gender relations.
- The legacy of transitions: actors and agendas in the current context of gender disputes and the crisis of democracies.
- The construction of democratic states and societies in neoliberal contexts.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive. We encourage the submission of proposals that fit the theme of the dossier. Texts are accepted in Portuguese, English, Spanish and French.

References

- Alcañiz, Mercedes, & Rosa Monteiro. 2016. "She-austerity. Precariedad y desigualdad laboral de las mujeres em el sur de Europa." *Convergencia. Revista de Ciencias Sociales* 72: 39-68. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.29101/crcs.v0i72.4089>
- Alonso, Alba, Rossella Ciccica, & Emanuela Lombardo. 2023. "A Southern European model? Gender regime change in Italy and Spain." *Women's Studies International Forum* 98: 102737. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2023.102737>

- Biroli, Flávia, & Mariana Caminotti. 2020. "The Conservative Backlash against Gender in Latin America." *Politics & Gender* 16 (1: Special Symposium on Women's Parties). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1743923X20000045>
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- Monteiro, Rosa. 2013. "Feminismo de Estado Emergente na Transição Democrática em Portugal na Década de 1970." *Dados – Revista de Ciências Sociais* 56(4): 841-866. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1590/S0011-52582013000400004>
- Waylen, Georgina. 2003. "Gender and Transitions: What do we know?" *Democratization* 10(1): 157-178. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/714000112>
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IMPORTANT DATES

Submission deadline: **June 2, 2024**

Notification of acceptance decisions: **September 9, 2024**

Deadline for submission of the revised version by the authors: **September 29, 2024**

Publication date: **December, 2024**

SUBMISSION

The two computer files (in Word) must be submitted via the OJS platform, available at <https://apem-estudos.org/ojs> . To do this, simply create an account on this platform by clicking on "Register" (top right corner) and follow the steps indicated. If you already have an account on the platform, click on "Access" (top right corner) and authenticate yourself with your username and password.

On the platform, at the time of submission, you will be asked to **indicate, in the field entitled "Comments to the editorial team", at least 4 specialists, and their respective institutional e-mail addresses**, who have in their curriculum works/publications on the theme treated in the article, with the intention of being contacted to evaluate the text, should it pass the first screening. If you are a reviewer, please validate this element in order to proceed, but without having to indicate specialists.

All articles submitted must be formatted according to the available template: [here](#).

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ex æquo invites submissions of original papers, both to the thematic dossiers and the studies and essays caption, and book reviews.

The Journal is edited by the Portuguese Association of Women's Studies (APEM) and is directed to an international audience, accepting manuscripts submitted in Portuguese, English, French and Spanish, from various countries. It aims to ensure that the articles published make a significant contribution to the advance of knowledge. Articles submitted for publication undergo a blind independent review by at least two recognised specialists drawn from a range of countries.



