

Resumos
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LOOK WHO'S TALKING – A CASE STUDY OF MEDIA REPRESENTATION AND FRAMING ON THE ABORTION ISSUE BY PORTUGUESE MPS (1996-1998)

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Abstract

The media representation of Members of Parliament on an issue as gendered and as controversial as abortion liberalization allows us a window into the degree to which the print media represents female MPs vis-à-vis their male counterparts. I analyze both the standing and framing of political and civil society actors over the 1997-1998 parliamentary abortion debate. The print media discourse on abortion provides standing mostly to state and political party actors. Parliamentary members and political leaders account for roughly three-quarters of all standing, and the only civil society actors with some representation in the media discourse are the Catholic Church and Pro-Life organizations. Women's movement organizations are almost invisible in the print media, demonstrating that the public media discourse excludes a plurality of points of view and it is clearly tilted towards the pro-life side. In terms of the gender representativeness, the findings show that women MPs tend to have less standing compared to male MPs.

Keywords

Media Representation, Framing, Parliamentary Members, Gender

WOMEN AS “INTRUDERS” ON POLITICS: AN ANALYSIS OF THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND THE PHOTOJOURNALISTIC REPRESENTATION OF PORTUGUESE WOMEN MPS AT THE PARITARY PARLIAMENT AND PARITY LAWS’ DISCUSSIONS

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Summary

In the first part of this article we analyse, from an historical point of view, the key moments of the international and national agendas on women empowerment and the political paths of the discussions on quotas and parity. We also present an outline of the social situation of portuguese women during the 90’s, as well as the ideological positions of the several political majorities, enabling to understand the context in which these questions emerged.

In the second part of the article, we center our attention on the photojournalistic coverage of the three parliamentary debates about parity - the “Paritary Parliament” (1994) and the discussion and voting of the laws of Quotas (1991) and Parity (2001). We discuss the way how five general newspapers use images to invest some values on the construction of gender, namely through a comparative study on the differences and ressemblances of the representation of men and women MPs, in each one of these moments.

Some quantitative results obtained from an image database created specifically for this study, are presented and discussed. We also present a qualitative multimodal analysis on the photojournalistic coverage of “Paritary Parliament” by the newspaper O Independente and of the debates on the Law of Quotas by the newspaper Diário de Notícias. Conclusions indicate that journalistic discourse, both visual and textual, adequates itself to the traditional patriarchal ways of representing gender, dissociating women from power and leadership, shaping women as “intruders” in politics and not as partners of plain rights. This “conformism” of the media does not facilitate the change of values that is required to the increment of women political participation.

Keywords

Parity, International Political Agenda, Gender, Photojournalism

THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, THE WOMEN DEPUTIES AND THE JOURNALISM – JOURNALISTIC PARLIAMENTARY COVERAGE TENDENCIES BETWEEN 1975-76

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Abstract

This article aims to characterize the main journalistic coverage tendencies of the Constituent Assembly, held in Portugal between 1975-1976. We contextualize and analyse the press coverage of one of the historical moments selected by the research project *Feminine Politics – Gender Policies and Visibility Strategies of the Portuguese Women Deputies*: the discussion that took place in August 1975, around the *Fundamental Rights* that should be included in the first Portuguese Democratic Constitution. Our goal is to identify the evolutions and continuities of parliamentary journalism, to understand how parliamentary journalists select their stories and picture their protagonists and to explain, with historical and sociological arguments, why the initiatives and activism of the women deputies remained so invisible on the press narratives regarding that period.

Keywords

Parliamentary Journalism, Women Deputies, Constituinte Assembly

GENDER AT THE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC IN 36 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY: A MORE EQUAL PARLIAMENT, BUT STILL A "MEN'S CLUB"

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Abstract

In this article, we present a broad outline of the conclusions of the longitudinal analysis of female representation in Parliament since the Constituent Assembly from 1975 until the beginning of the XII legislative term (2011), by opposing two analytical dimensions: the one that results from election results (elective representation) and the one resulting from dynamics within the Assembly, with the rotation of seat holders in Parliament (effective representation). The increased presence of women in Parliament coincided with three historical periods in which the lack of women in political decision-making posts was introduced into the political agenda as an issue of citizenship, namely, in the first free elections, in 1975; during the Socialist political cycle of 1995-2002; in 2009, with the application of the mechanisms provided in the Law of Parity approved three years earlier.

We also describe the female members of Parliament in a sociographic and political perspective. The analysis of academic and professional profiles of the female parliamentary mandate holders over 36 years reveals an increase in their qualifications. On the other hand, the data confirm that, prior to their parliamentary debut, most of the female members of Parliament had already had some contact with some type of political activity, including political party positions. This finding challenges the thesis according to which the recruitment of women is based predominantly on their technical expertise rather than on political experience, unlike the recruitment of men. It thus proves that political experience is also a determining factor in the selection of women for electoral lists.

Keywords

Gender, Parliament, Politics, Representation

FEMALE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND SOCIAL NETWORKS - THE MYTH OF NETWORKS AS FACILITATORS OF PROXIMITY BETWEEN THE POLITICIANS AND THE CITIZENS¹

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Abstract

This article studies how portuguese female Members of Parliament use social networks, during the XII legislative term (beginning in 2011), while attempting to identify whether this use correspond to communication strategies aimed at enhancing their visibility. Our research questions consider some of the main theoretical contributions about the social and political functions of social digital networks (Pippa Norris (2000), Manuel Castells (2007), Sara Bentivega (2012), Matthew Hinddman (2009), António Cardoso (2006) and Gustavo Cardoso (2006), namely: Are social networks a driving tool for greater digital democracy? Do they play a mobilizing role, encouraging a more active participation in politics? How do female Members of Parliament use these tools and are they aware of its power and potential?

We structured our study based on the articulation of three fundamental axes: the characterization of the sociographic profile of female Members of Parliament; the problem of digital democracy and the participation in social networks. The results obtained through a survey conducted with 63 female Members of Parliament, suggest an increased use of Facebook, perceived as an instrument of power. The use of social networks is modeled after the traditional means of communication, which are based on one-sided broadcast, which partially weakens its efficiency, in particular regarding the ability to leverage the visibility of female Members of Parliament and strengthen the interaction with citizens.

Keywords

Female Members of Parliament, Social Networks, Digital Democracy

1 The research is part of a master's thesis in New Media and Web Practices, discussed in March 2012 at FCSH-UNL

2 Master in New Media and Web Practices at FCSH-UNL and fellow of the project *Feminine Politics* (PTDC/CCI-COM/102393/2008)