ABSTRACT

My thesis is focused on critical analysis of political thought of American philosopher Judith Butler. Butler is concerned with the relationship between individual identity and collective subjectivity, and her works – which caused many critical reactions – represent one of the most interesting discussion in the field of feminist political philosophy. Butler is mainly concerned with the question, how various political strategies (e.g. feminism) could be based on common interests of various agents, and not on their supposedly stable identity (e.g. sex and gender). Her criticism of unproblematized „natural“ identities is important not only to the constitution of any individual identity, but also for the notion of the political dimension of a collective subject. The introductory chapters of my thesis are concerned with early thought of Butler, mainly with her critical relationship to the „second wave“ feminism, and with her notion of the performatively constitution of gender identity. Next chapters explore the shift in her thinking from analysis of gender and sex towards more general themes of political thought: nation, race, class, universalism, state censorship, possibility of resistance or emergence of a collective subject without stable unifying principle. I also try to analyze selected critical reactions to Butler's work (S. Benhabib, M. Nussbaum, S. Žižek, L. Edelman, K. Kolozova) and – especially in the last two chapters – try to point out some possible limitations of her political thought.

KEYWORDS

Gender, Sex, Performativity, Feminism, Precariousness, Realism, Materialism