

# **Right and good : Argumentation and Discourse of Czech Activists for Women's Suffrage**

Jitka Gelnarová

## **Abstract**

The dissertation deals with the concept of suffrage within the discourse of Czech women's suffrage activists between 1897 and 1914. The aim is to define how the concept of suffrage was constructed by Czech suffragists within the context they lived in, how their notion of the suffrage was influenced by the fact that different women were positioned differently within the system of hierarchies based on *gender*, *class* and *nation*. The dissertation focuses on the hierarchies present in the discourse; the relation of "public" and "private" in the discourse; the notion of "political representation" in the discourse; positions the suffragists spoke from and their representation of the enemy ("us/them"); the functions the concept of "Czechness" fulfilled in relation to the demand of female suffrage in the discourse; and the relation of "universality" and "particularity" to the demand of female suffrage in the discourse.