

Abstract

Women in Local Politics: The Reflection of Master Suppression Techniques

The causes of the low political participation of women in the Czech local politics have to be viewed as a complex and interdisciplinary problem. This thesis sums up basic findings about the political participation of women on local level as well as the newest data and examples from the Czech context. Special attention is paid to specific gender barriers faced by local politicians during their public agency. The theory of master suppression techniques by Norwegian social psychologist Berit Ås forms the base of the thesis and is interpreted through Nancy Fraser's and Iris Marion Young's concepts. The theory of master suppression techniques is further examined in the Czech context and confronted with the experience of local female politicians. The particular aim of the thesis is to outline the actual strategies used by local female politicians to cope with gender specific barriers.

Keywords: women, local politics, barriers, master suppression techniques, making invisible, ridiculing, withholding information, damned if you do and damned if you don't, heaping blame and putting to shame