

Climate Change, Gender, and Authoritarianism: Entanglements of Anti-Feminism and Anti-Environmentalism in the Far-Right

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From the Trump administration's decision to leave the Paris climate accord and to roll back environmental regulations to Jair Bolsonaro's fight against environmental and indigeneity activists, far-right leaders around the world not only fail to address climate change as a serious threat but also embrace different forms of anti-environmentalism which seem to be intimately connected with white nationalist ideologies, racism, gender essentialism, and an aggressive anti-feminism. Manifesting, for example, in the passing of policies and laws against grassroots groups and environmental organizations as well as in the rise of an anti-science rhetoric in the US and in Europe, these ideologies and beliefs also culminate in violence against climate scientists, journalists, and activists. The recent orchestrated attacks against Katharine Hayhoe, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, and Greta Thunberg, to name but a few prominent global faces of climate science and activism, suggest that far-right authoritarianism and anti-feminism are informing one another in multiple ways when it comes to climate change denialism and anti-environmentalism today.

This special issue explores how far-right authoritarianism, anti-environmentalism, and anti-feminism have co-emerged as such salient forces in our current socio-political moment. The designation 'far-right authoritarianism' is understood as an umbrella term for different forms of right-wing ideologies, identities, subjectivities, and politics ranging from anti-liberal to anti-democratic and openly fascist. While far-right authoritarianism and anti-feminism have been explored extensively on their own, (see, for example, Lockwood 2018; Forchtner 2020) the intersection of far-right authoritarianism, anti-environmentalism, and 'anti-genderism' (Hark and Villa 2015) is still a little researched topic. Even less researched is how far-right authoritarianisms and anti-genderisms are informing discourses on climate change denialism.

In the past few years, feminist responses to climate change and its socio-political, ecological, and economic consequences have shifted attentiveness to questions of responsibility, inequality, and justice, emphasizing how climate change and environmental catastrophes affect those who are already marginalized in multiple intersecting ways more harshly (see, for example, Alaimo 2009; Dankelman 2002; Israel and Sachs 2019; MacGregor 2009; Terry 2009). Despite a number of highly insightful and important calls to critically engage with the gendered and racialized socio-political and economic effects of climate change (Boyce et al. 2019), the production of gendered climate knowledge (Tuana 2013), and the philosophical implications of climate change from an explicitly feminist perspective, (Tuana and Cuomo 2014), little attention has been paid so far to the complex way in which hegemonic conceptions of gender identities are hailed and performed in the context of climate change denialism and anti-environmentalism that go beyond policy-oriented analyses or environmental communication.

Against this backdrop, we argue that a perspective is still missing that explores how exactly far-right extremisms, anti-environmentalisms, and anti-feminisms are informing one another epistemologically, semiotically, and politically in the context of environmental catastrophes, climate change, and its denial. In order to understand the role of anti-feminisms and anti-

genderisms in far-right responses to climate change and environmentalism, there is an urgent need for better understandings of the relationship between escalating environmental crises and resurgent far-right authoritarian movements in our current conjuncture that takes into account how gender categories, identities, and ideologies are imbricated within scientific, political, and activist discourses on climate change and its denial.

Therefore, we are seeking article proposals for a planned special issue of the journal **Feminist Review**. We invite innovative theoretical and empirical contributions based on original research and a strong feminist perspective that explore the relationship between far-right authoritarianism, anti-feminism, and anti-environmentalism against the backdrop of climate change and pressing environmental crises. How are gender reactionaries and anti-environmentalism linked with one another? How are far-right concepts such as, for instance, the notion of 'gender ideology' positioned in the dismissal of anthropogenic climate change? How is environmentalism understood as a threat to hegemonic masculine identities by different social actors and in different geographic and historical contexts? How are gendered understandings and concepts shaping the discourses and politics on climate change and its denial? What is the role of different (non-)party actors from anti-liberals to far-right extremists in the articulation of the phenomenon of climate change? What are the epistemic, political, psychological, and socio-cultural foundations of climate change denialism, and how are they fueling anti-feminist and misogynistic politics and hostilities? How is climate change denialism, the rejection of scientific method, and anti-feminism informing one another? How are objectivity, facts, truth, and critique being hijacked in this discourse? And how do gendered and racialized specificities of location, not only produce different knowledges but also different forms of epistemic ignorance?

Submissions from members of excluded or underrepresented groups and communities are especially encouraged.

We welcome original papers that deal with one or more of, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- the mobilization of anti-genderisms for the dismissal of environmental urgencies
- the role of anti-feminism in the context of environmental racism and anti-indigeneity
- the production of naturalized gender images in white supremacist ideologies
- the entanglements of climate change denialism and far-right conspiracy theories
- feminist climate sciences as situated knowledges
- toxic masculinities, online propaganda, and digital hate
- online communities' production of truth
- critical analyses of the far-right's 'counter narratives' to climate change
- the role of truth, objectivity, and epistemic relativism in climate change denialism
- gender and environment in evangelicalism and environmental apocalypticism

Please submit an **abstract** of no more than **500 words** by **June 15, 2020** to barla@soz.uni-frankfurt.de and sophie.bjork-james@vanderbilt.edu. Abstracts will be reviewed by the special issue editors and notifications sent out by **July 15, 2020**.

The special issue proposal including six to eight abstracts will be sent to **Feminist Review** by the end of July 2020. In the case the journal editors decide against acceptance, the editors of this special issue will pursue publishing with similarly ranked and focused academic peer-reviewed journals such as *Feminist Theory*, *Signs*, *Hypatia*, or *Australian Feminist Studies*.

If the special issue proposal is accepted for publication, full manuscripts (**6000-8000 words**) will be due to the special issue editors for preliminary review around **spring 2021**. Manuscripts will then be submitted to **Feminist Review** for peer review.

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