

Proposed abstract for the Berlin conference :

Transnational gender activism in the European Union : A reconfiguration of "Exit", "Voice", and "Loyalty"?

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This paper explores the changing forms of democratic engagement with the EU institutions in a context where some political movements attempt to leverage constructive institutional interactions between national and EU levels. It focuses on gender movements and asks how feminist impulses, through social media campaigns, political activism and other forms of mobilisations, push to advance and protect gender rights and how they call for a more democratic representation of the EU citizenry. In this perspective, Albert Hirschman's paradigm, usually used to analyse dynamics of exit and voice in national public spheres, is applied to understand a form of transnational mobilisation at the scale of the EU political realm. In order to capture the changing configurations of "exit, voice and loyalty" we will look at the arenas where trans-European feminist movements deploy their political strategies in the different phases of the democratic process, both in the pre and post EU elections phases.