

Far-right blogging, migration and gender: discourses and aesthetics

Even though the main narrations concerning the economic crisis in Greece the last 6 years are evolving around financial aspects, we consider the socio-political dimensions as the womb that gave birth to its ‘outbreak’. In this paper we will focus on the far-right discourses on migration that arose since the left party, SYRIZA, was elected to lead the government coalition. Despite the fact that far-right discourses in Greece are noticed since the 80’s (when Golden Dawn was formed as a party), we perceive the entrance of the neo-nazi party in the parliament in 2012 as a “rupture” in recent Greek political history.

These discourses will be sourced from a variety of 18 far-right websites and the emphasis will be given on three interlocking systems of power that show us how social identities are constructed: nation, gender and sexuality. Moreover, we will focus on the aesthetics of these websites and the cultural politics that are articulated in them. The followed method will be critical discourse analysis, which recognizes that the relationship between discursive practices and the social world is dialectical, i.e. that discourse is both constituted by social practices, while it also constitutes them. Additionally, it aims to expose the role of discursive practices in the reproduction of unequal power relations, struggles for a radical social change and it is committed to the oppressed social groups.

The refugee crisis triggered a (re)production of posts concerning the phenomenon of migration and therefore the reinforcement of nationalist narratives addressing the ideal national identity and national construction, the social representations of gendered identities and the role of biological reproduction in the establishment of the nation. These discourses are bringing in the foreground narratives that draw both on notions of nation as blood and simultaneously of nation as culture. More specifically, the waves of immigrants arriving at the Greek borders are represented as soldiers attacking the Greek nation-state and endangering the employment of Greeks. Whereas, multiculturalism is represented as threatening Greek civilization, ethics, religion and traditions, therefore a new wave of anti-semitism and islamophobia is being revived.

Our proposed paper is part of an ongoing research project on civil society and online political participation conducted at the National Centre for Social Research.

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