

# Conservative Women: Politics and Gender from 19th century – 21th century

2 and 3 July 2026

University of Antwerp, Centre for Political History

## Thursday, 2 July 2026

Klooster Grauwzusters, Lange Sint-Annastraat 7, Antwerp

- 9:00 Registration
- 9:30 Welcome & introduction: **Henk de Smaele**, University of Antwerp, Belgium
- 9:30 **Opening keynote lecture: Lien Verpoest**, KULeuven, Belgium  
Introduction by Matthijs Lok, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
*Title TBA*
- 10:30 **PANEL 1: Early Modern & Nineteenth century**  
**Chair: Puck Limburg**, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 
- **Geertje Bol & Mary Jo MacDonald**, University of Gent, Belgium & University of Oxford, UK  
*Tory Women in Early Modern England*
  - **Lauren Lauret**, University of Leiden, The Netherlands  
*'Conservative colonial women in Dutch elite society, c. 1813-1913'*
  - **Charris De Smet**, University of Antwerp, Belgium  
*Between conservatism and feminocentrism: the political engagement of the Thiery women as periodical editors (Paris, 1821-1835)*
  - **Emma Post**, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
*Maria Cristina Giustiniani Bandini (1866-1959), aristocratisch antifeminisme*
- 13:00 Lunch break
- 14:00 **PANEL 2: Female perspectives: Interwar period and early twentieth century**  
**Chair: Marnix Beyen**, University of Antwerp, Belgium
- 
- **B. Förster**, University of Bielefeld, Germany  
*Contesting Orders of Gender and Democracy. Political Practices of Radical Nationalist Women During the Republic of Weimar*
  - **Aliena Guggenberger**, LMU Munich, Germany  
*German Dress: Verein für Verbesserung der Frauenkleidung*

- **Max Lokin**, Maynooth University, Ireland  
*Green Blouses for the Future: Gender Roles as a Temporal Strategy in Brazilian Integralism*
- **Julija Šuligoj**, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia  
*Slovene Home Guard (Slovensko domobranstvo) and its ideological construction of femininity*

15:45 Coffee break

16:00 **PANEL 3: Postwar (1950s-1980s)**

**Chair: Agnè Piepaliūtė**, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

---

- **M. Borri**, University of Siena, Italy  
*Movimento Italiano Femminile*
- **Winona Kamphausen**, University of Luxemburg, Luxemburg  
*Conservative Female MEPs and Gendered Representation in the European Parliament (1958–1963)*
- **Helena Tolvhed**, Stockholm University, Sweden  
*Between conservative ideology and the New Women's Movement. Conservative women in 1970s and 1980s Swedish politics*

17:45 End of panel 3

19:30 Conference dinner (speakers and chairs only)



## Friday, 3 July 2026

Klooster Grauwzusters, Chapel, Lange Sint-Annastraat 7, Antwerp

9:00 Welcome with coffee

9:30 **Keynote lecture: Clarisse Berthezine**, Université Paris Cité, France

*Title TBA*

Introduction by Josephine Hoegaerts, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

10:30 **PANEL 1: 1980s/ 1990s / early 2000s**

**Chair: Hanco Jürgens**, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

---

- **Antonia Wegner**, University of Freiburg, Germany  
*Conservatism through Gender: The US “Gender Gap” and Reagan’s Presidency*
- **Lisa Marie Freitag**, Helmut Kohl Stiftung, Germany  
*Merkel as a conservative leader*
- **Yan Bo**, Beijing Baptist University, PCR  
*From Mao’s Shadow to America’s Bulwark: Chinese Émigré Women*

12:00 Lunch break

13:30 **PANEL 2: Contemporary perspectives I**

**Chair: Annelien de Dijn**, University of Utrecht, The Netherlands

---

- **Agnieszka Balcerzak**, University of München, Germany  
*From Motherhood to Mobilization: Kaja Godek as the Conservative Female Face of Poland’s Anti-Abortion Movement*
- **Gwenaëlle Bauvois**, University of Helsinki, Finland  
*Far-right feminism in France*

15:00 Coffee break

15:15 **PANEL 3: Contemporary perspectives II**

**Chair: TBA**

---

- **Tushara Meleppattu**, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy  
*Women and Right-wing Mobilization in India in the Backdrop of the Sabarimala Judge*
- **Dominika Zajączkowska**, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland  
*Femininity and the Far Right: The Polish Tradwife Movement in Online Spaces*

16:00 Conclusions and farewell (Henk de Smaele, Matthijs Lok and Josephine Hoegaerts)

17:00 End of conference

