

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 & **Matthijs Lok**, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

10:00 **Keynote lecture: Lien Verpoest**, KULeuven, Belgium
Introduction by **Matthijs Lok**

Harbingers of reaction? Russian women at the center of conservative political discourse in the first half of the nineteenth century

11:00 Coffee break

11:15 **PANEL 1: Early Modern & Nineteenth century**

Chair: Puck Limburg, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

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- **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
The 'New German Dress': Nationalism in fashion at the beginning of the 20th century
- **Max Lokin**, Maynooth Univeristy, 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 Tea break

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

Chair: Marleen Rensen, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

- **Winona Kamphausen**, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg
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

17:30 End of panel 3

19:00 Conference dinner (speakers and chairs only)



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Friday, 3 July 2026

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

9:30 **Round table** with **Marleen Rensen**, **Hanco Jürgens** and **Annelien de Dijn** (chaired by Josephine Hoegaerts)

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 **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

12:30 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: The Case of the Némésis Collective

14:30 Tea break

15:00 **PANEL 3: Contemporary perspectives II**

Chair: Agnè Piepaliūtė, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

- **Tushara Meleppattu**, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy
Women and Right-wing Mobilization in India in the Backdrop of the Sabarimala Judge
- **Dominika Zająchkowska**, 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)

16:30 End of conference



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