

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
Radical Nationalist Women During the Republic of Weimar
- **Aliena Guggenberger**, LMU Munich, Germany
German Dress: Verein für Verbesserung der Frauenkleidung
- **Max Lokin**, Maynooth Univeristy, Ireland
Green Blouses for the Future: Gender Roles as a Temporal Strategy in Brazilian Integralism

- **Stefanie Steiner**, Affiliation TBC
Erased and marginalized: Women's political roles in history textbooks and the colonial legacy of political historiography
 - **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: TBA**
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- **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)
 - **Hedwig Richter**, Bündlerwehr München, Germany
The Housewife as a Natural Idyll in Times of Crisis and Transformation
 - **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
- **Annabel Daferner**, affiliation TBC
Girl Boss Nationalism: Women in leadership positions in Germany’s extreme right and anti-feminist party Alternative for Germany

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 Zajązkowska**, 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

