

**GLOBAL FEMINISMS
COMPARATIVE CASE STUDIES OF
WOMEN'S ACTIVISM AND SCHOLARSHIP**

SITE: Germany

**Transcript of Sigrid Metz-Goeckel
Interviewer: Sławomira Walczewska**

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Sigrid Metz-Goeckel was born in 1940 in Upper Silesia¹ and moved to West Germany in 1950. She is professor emerita² at the Center for Collegiate Teaching at the Technische Universität Dortmund³ [Technical University of Dortmund], where she spent her 40-year-career in higher education. She credits her widowed mother's recognition of the importance of education for her success in academia. Growing up in wartime Upper Silesia, postwar Poland and then Eastern Frisia in West Germany, Metz-Goeckel moved around frequently and attended both German and Polish schools. She studied sociology in Mainz⁴, Frankfurt⁵, and Gießen⁶, with Theodor Adorno⁷, Max Horkheimer⁸, and Helge Pross⁹ among her teachers. The latter, who was the second woman to become a sociology professor in West Germany, was her PhD advisor. Pross' encouragement was instrumental in convincing her to pursue an academic career. In 1976, Metz-Goeckel accepted a call to the Technical University of Dortmund, where she established the Center for Collegiate Teaching and the Women's Studies program. She has led multiple large research projects on gender, parenting, and academic success as well as migration to Germany, particularly on Polish migrants in care work, and has published widely. Another focus of her work has been establishing networks among female academics and building relationships with decision makers in politics, such as the education ministers of North Rhine-Westphalia¹⁰. Metz-Goeckel has held visiting professorships in Berkeley, Paris, Cracow, and Wellesley

¹ Upper Silesia is located in the southeastern region of Silesia, located in Poland and the Czech Republic. See "Upper Silesia" https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upper_Silesia (Accessed 29 June 2020).

² *Emerita* is the female equivalent of *Emeritus* which is an adjective designated to a respected professor who retired from his or her position in good standing. See "*Emeritus*" <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emeritus>. (Accessed 29 June 2020)

³ Technical University of Dortmund (*Technische Universität Dortmund*) is a highly ranked technical university located in Dortmund, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. See "Technical University of Dortmund" https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technical_University_of_Dortmund. (Accessed 29 June 2020)

⁴ Mainz is the capital city of Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany. See "Mainz" <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mainz>. (Accessed 29 June 2020)

⁵ Frankfurt (Frankfurt am Main) is the largest city of the German state Hesse and the fifth-largest city in Germany. See "Frankfurt" <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frankfurt>. (Accessed 29 June 2020)

⁶ Giessen (Gießen) is a town in the German federal state of Hesse and capital of the district of Giessen and administrative region of Giessen. See "Giessen" <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giessen>. (Accessed 29 June 2020)

⁷ Theodor W. Adorno (1903 – 1969) was a German sociologist, philosopher, psychologist and composer. He was a member of the Frankfurt School of critical theory. He strongly influenced the European New Left with his writings including *Dialect of Enlightenment* (1947) and *Negative Dialectics* (1966). See "Theodor W. Adorno" https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodor_W._Adorno. (Accessed 29 June 2020)

⁸ Max Horkheimer (1895 – 1973) was a philosopher, social scientist, and leading member of the "Frankfurt School" in Frankfurt am Main. He was the director of the Institute and Professor of Social Philosophy at the University of Frankfurt. He co-authored *Dialectic of Enlightenment* with Theodor W. Adorno and developed the epistemological and methodological orientation of critical theory at the Frankfurt School. See Berendzen, J.C. *Max Horkheimer*. Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 30 Aug. 2017, plato.stanford.edu/entries/horkheimer/. (Accessed 29 June 2020)

⁹ Helge Agnes Pross (1927 – 1984) was a professor of political sociology at the University of Siegen, Federal Republic of Germany. After World War II, Pross was the first woman to hold a chair in the social sciences. She worked with Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer in Frankfurt until 1965 when she was appointed to a chair at the University of Giessen. See Foster, Charles R. "Helge Pross." *PS: Political Science & Politics*, vol. 18, no. 1, 1985, pp. 113-114., doi:10.1017/S1049096500021454. (Accessed 29 June 2020)

¹⁰ North Rhine-Westphalia is located in western Germany and is the most-populous state. See "North Rhine-Westphalia" https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Rhine-Westphalia. (Accessed 29 June 2020)

College. Over the course of her career, she has advised almost seventy PhD students. In the interview, she describes this aspect of her work as “the most beautiful part of my academic work.”

Sławomira Walczewska, born 1960, feminist activist and philosopher (PhD). In 1999, Walczewska published *Ladies, Knights and Feminists: Feminist Discourse in Poland*, the first Polish book about the history of women’s emancipation in Poland from a cultural perspective. That book was nominated, as one of 20 books, for the most prestigious book award in Poland at that time, NIKE, in 2000. She is author of ca. 50 articles about feminism and history of the women’s movement. She was teaching history of philosophy at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow (1985-1990), history of feminist ideas at the Warsaw University (1997), at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow (2000) and the feminist critics of history at the Viadrina University in Frankfurt a/O (2019).

In 1991 she co-founded the eFKa- Women's Foundation, one of the first feminist organizations in post-socialist Poland. She edited the feminist magazine “Pełnym Głosem” (*In Full Voice*, 1993-1997) and was member of the editorial board of *Zadra*, the feminist quarterly (1999 - 2018). She is director of the Feminist Institute for Research and Education (www.efka.org.pl/fibe).

Transcriber's note:

[?] denotes incomprehensible passages. When I was not completely sure of having understood, I put the words in brackets and added a question mark [like this?] At times, but not consistently, I have marked stressed words by including the affect in brackets after the stressed word [stressed].

Sławomira Walczewska: I'm just saying officially, nazywam się Sławomira Walczewska¹¹, today is 8 October 2017. We are both sitting in the room with Professor Sigrid Metz-Goeckel from Dortmund¹², and I ask you about your feminist biography. Where did it come from that you were interested in feminism and also committed. Please tell me what you would like to.

Sigrid Metz-Goeckel: First of all, this may be a prologue, I am in Krakow¹³ for one time again. And my experience with Krakow is that even in my old age I have had the experience that you can always learn something new, even challenging. This is actually an important message for me. But my feminist attitude has two backgrounds or causes. One cause is rather subconscious and is connected with my childhood and my family situation. And the other is related to my scientific career or, if I may say so, my career. I start with what is actually the foundation of my life. And that is the experience I had with my siblings, with my mother, who went to escape with the three of us alone, in January 1945. My father, or our father, fell in March 1942, right after the invasion of Russia¹⁴, as they say in German, a strange expression. And my mother was actually not at all prepared for the life that she had to lead then. We then spent quite difficult years until 1950, in the now Polish Upper Silesia. And my mother's attitude, both to National Socialism¹⁵ and then to Poland, was always the same: she was the only one in her family who didn't Germanize her name, and she didn't opt for Poland either when we were forced to live in Poland. And that is a certain straightforwardness, and also an independence that comes from within. My mother did not study, but she had made the experience that education is the only thing you can take with you when you flee. It is really the only thing that can help you to integrate and gain a foothold in society, wherever you are. And that is why it was very, very important and

¹¹ [my name is Sławomira Walczewska]

¹² Dortmund is the third-largest city of the German federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia. See "Dortmund" <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dortmund>. (Accessed 29 June 2020)

¹³ Kraków is the second largest city in Poland, located in Lesser Poland Province. See "Kraków" <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kraków>. (Accessed 29 June 2020)

¹⁴ On June 22, 2941 the Soviet Union was invaded by Nazi Germany. This attack on the Soviet Union was known as Operation Barbarossa and was a turning point for World War II. See *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/invasion-of-the-soviet-union-june-1941. (Accessed 1 July 2020)

¹⁵ National Socialism refers to the ideology of the Nazi Party, Nazism, which was present in Germany between 1920 and 1945. See "National Socialism" [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Socialism_\(disambiguation\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Socialism_(disambiguation)) (Accessed 1 June 2020)

natural for her that all three children could get a higher education and also a university degree. So that, although we moved to a small village in East Frisia¹⁶ in 1950 as refugees, resettled, arrived there, I won't describe it further, I was able to go to a German secondary school very, very soon after a few months. And then I did my Abitur¹⁷, but then in Hanover¹⁸, in a larger city at a girls' school, and that explains why I became a relatively young, despite this somewhat crazy school and educational biography, I went to seven schools, in two languages, university teacher, a professor. I have always walked quite straight, always with my mother's support, and also always in the knowledge that I have to be efficient. So, that's one reason. Then I studied sociology in Frankfurt, where you lose your belief in an otherworldly God and somehow become more enlightened in relation to how you perceive the environment. When you study sociology, many things are relativized, but the Frankfurt School, where I studied, at the Institute for Social Research¹⁹ with remigrated Jewish, very well-known intellectuals, Adorno and Horkheimer, with whom I gained such a critical view. First of all, on society, including my own history, and very early on, actually at primary school in [Plodry?] in Poland, on the history of the Jews, but even more on the history of the Polish from the perspective of the Polish and not from the perspective of the occupying forces or the Germans, or my otherwise rather Nazi²⁰ family. So, also always the experience of being a little bit different than the environment in which I was moving. Or to get an insight into the fact that something is not only the way it presents itself, but can also be, or has been, different. When I became a professor, I must say that perhaps the third aspect of my so-called career was that I did my doctorate under Helge Pross. And Helge Pross was the second female professor of sociology in Germany. And she always supported me in a very specific way. Just like my mother. When I doubted whether I should do my doctorate, she said, "Of course you should." When I got the call to the University of Dortmund, a very young, unknown university, I doubted and went to her and said, "I have a call to Dortmund, but I don't know. I don't know the city, I don't know anyone there, should I really accept?" And there she said again, "Of course you'll accept the first call!" And another important sentence was that she said, "If you're a professor, you don't always have to do what others tell you to do. Then you can decide how you want to do it." And that was also a very important sentence. It fits in with the fact that I then had the experience in Dortmund at the university, I was the youngest professor and the third woman, and there were only men around me.

¹⁶ East Frisia is a coastal region in the German federal state of Lower Saxony. See "East Frisia" https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Frisia (Accessed 1 June 2020)

¹⁷ *Abitur* is a qualification granted to students by university-preparatory schools who pass their secondary education exams. See "*Abitur*" <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abitur> (Accessed 1 June 2020)

¹⁸ Hanover is the capital of the German state of Lower Saxony. See "Hanover" <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hanover> (Accessed 2 June 2020)

¹⁹ The Frankfurt Institute for Social Research is a regarded site of critical social theory, founded in 1923. See "INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH." *I/S*, www.ifs.uni-frankfurt.de/english/. (Accessed 2 June 2020)

²⁰ Nazi is a member of the German fascist party that Adolf Hitler controlled from 1933 to 1945. See "Nazism" <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nazism> (Accessed 2 June 2020)

And in the institute that I was supposed to build up there were already three men and then only secretaries and administrative assistants. It was very strange for me. It was quite funny for me, so that I actually summarized it in this sentence: I consciously became a feminist at the moment I started my career and realized that this cannot be taken for granted. In the context, at that time, that was something rather unusual. Then I said, "Well, just wandering around there alone [laughs], in science, that's not my thing," and started to form several different groups. I invited all the women who were scientists in a particular model experiment to a meeting. And then we found that the working conditions of these women in the mid-level group, there were only two female professors, the others were perhaps 50 female scientists, that they were all on fixed-term contracts and didn't know what to do next. Then we formed a working group, "Circle of Female Scientists of North Rhine-Westphalia," and systematically made science and higher education policy. Then we wrote many proposals and formed many more groups. Then it was somehow clear that the concentration on women and their life opportunities, which also included that the women, who were all women at an age when they normally have children, that if they have children it is even more difficult for them than if they don't have any. If they had fixed-term contracts, then the prohibitions of pregnancy employment and its duration were not acknowledged. In any case, we wrote many memoranda as a working group and sent them to the Ministry and other institutions. Very soon we had a regular meeting with our Ministry of Science²¹ at least once a semester, where we said that we wanted to change this and that. And within about ten years we have achieved quite a lot. 20 or 25 years later, when we had another meeting with the Minister of Science, who had been Minister of Science for ten years, we asked her why we were able to have such a continuous, steady conversation with her as Minister of Science and why she always tried to support us, at least within her framework. She said that this was so new that women as women came together and articulated what they wanted to do differently. From a political point of view, that was right and proper for her, not to say self-evident, but also from her political understanding. And so we actually became politically feminist conscious. As women, we can do politics in a decisive way. We can change our own conditions to some extent. But we can't do it alone. We have to join forces, and we also have to find forms with those who have the power and can decide to enter into discussions and decision-making processes. And that is actually what concerns my history of science as a woman in North Rhine-Westphalia. I later also applied away, got calls and was offered very good ministerial posts. But I always stayed in Dortmund. Once because I was then rooted there and I didn't want to commute again at an advanced age, after 20 years. I also commuted for a long time. And so the University of Dortmund actually became my university, because I negotiated a lot with all the rectorates and committees when I had my first appearances in the Senate. That is the decision-making body at the

²¹ Currently the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, but with various earlier names ("The Federal Ministry of Education and Research." *Wikipedia*. Accessed July 13, 2020. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Ministry_of_Education_and_Research_\(Germany\)\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Ministry_of_Education_and_Research_(Germany))))

university. I was really the only woman and I came and said I wanted to establish a focus on women's studies. And I would like the university to also make a program for women who don't have a high school diploma but still want to study, and how to help them get ahead. Then I very quickly had a very bad reputation. I really did. "There's no such thing as women's studies," or "the man-hater." They always thought I wanted to make men miserable. But I wanted to do something for women. That doesn't always have anything to do with negative feelings towards men. I guess it has to do with criticism of certain power struggles and decisions. I then experienced many defeats in the Senate, in the committee where I wanted or demanded something. But always also after several attempts I finally won through. And mostly with the help of the Rectorate²² and some open-minded men, with whom I then also had individual conversations and said, "Can't we have a talk? I'll tell you what I'm actually up to and why that's reasonable." And that then led to the question whether an institution like the university can learn how to change, and how that is possible. I think this is an interesting research question. But I can say that in the almost 40 years that I have been at the University of Dortmund, at least a lot has changed and become a matter of course. That has nothing to do with my activities, but also with the fact that women have become much more aware of how they can gain a foothold in science. We now have a female rector. We have women's representatives, equal opportunities representatives. We have the country's Equal Opportunities Act²³. We have women's studies priorities. We have professorships of women who have women's and gender studies as their focus, in the denomination, in literature, in sociology, four or five. We had one in spatial planning, but she's now emeritus. There are still enough problems, I'm not going to sugarcoat this. But my experience is that in the way we've done politics, it's been quite successful. But we did not change the system. There are still enough problems, and I won't try to gloss over them. But my experience is that in the way we've done politics, it's been quite successful. But we did not change the system. We have only created more space for women within the system and more coalitions between women, and some between men. And after forty years, now that I am leaving, I think this year for good, I have to say that it was, I do not want to say against expectation, but when I gave my farewell lecture, I gave a grand farewell lecture, there was so much positive that came back to me that I have to say it was a good life. It was a good life. And it was a good life as a feminist, too.

²² A rectorate or *rector* is a senior official in a university. See "Rector"
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rector_\(academia\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rector_(academia)) (Accessed 3 June 2020)

²³ The Equal Opportunity and Treatment Law set out to prevent and eliminate discrimination on the basis of race, ethnic origin, gender, religion, handicaps, age or sexual identity. The law went into effect on August 18, 2006 as the General Law of Equal Opportunity and Treatment. See Schaupp, Gretchen, and Joachim Graff. *New Employment Laws in Germany: "The General Law of Equal Opportunity and Treatment"*. 2007, www.german-business-etiquette.com/. (Accessed 3 June 2020)

SW: Don't you want to tell a little bit about your specific projects, about your research in the States, about your women's university? These are concrete examples of what you have otherwise been doing in the past.

[00:19:39.18] SM-G: Well, that was more the biography now. The projects I've done have been in several directions. I tried to change the institutions, I tried that a bit with the university. I was also an expert in a German Bundestag Enquete Commission²⁴ on future education policy, where we also tried to do that on a larger stage. And with the working group we were also active in changing the German Constitution, that Article 3²⁵, "Men and women are equal," got an addition, and that all the discriminations actively contribute to reducing discrimination. Well, then of course we tried, or I was very active there, through a network "Women's and Gender Studies within Science,²⁶" to change the contents and bring the gender perspective, the feminist perspective, into the contents. This included research priorities in the German Society, in the German Research Foundation,²⁷ and also programs of the ministries. And another, I have done various projects on coeducation, on the technical and scientific potential of women. There is also a project on migration, more precisely, on Polish women from Poland who do care and household work in German households. This was financed by the Volkswagen Foundation²⁸. Then I was the initiator and spokesperson of a research training group. There, together with several female professors from the surrounding universities, we also received well-funded support from the German Research Foundation, scholarships and habilitation grants, doctoral and postdoctoral grants for young female researchers. For women only. This was the first women's and gender studies, only by university teachers, only for young female scientists. That was for about ten years.

²⁴ In the 1980s the *Enquete-Kommission* was set up by the *Bundestag* to investigate the future of education policy in Germany. See Onestini, Cesare. *Federalism and the Lander Autonomy: The Higher Education Policy Network in the Federal ... Republic of Germany, 1948-1998*. Routledge, 2016. (Accessed 5 June 2020)

²⁵ Article 3 [Equality before the law] states that 1) All persons shall be equal before the law. 2) Men and women shall have equal rights. The state shall promote the actual implementation of equal rights for women and men and take steps to eliminate disadvantages that now exist. 3) No person shall be favored or disfavored because of sex, parentage, race, language, homeland and origin, faith, or religious or political opinions. No person shall be disfavored because of disability. See "Basic Law." *Home Page*, www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/chancellor/basic-law-470510. (Accessed 5 June 2020)

²⁶ The International Network of Women in Engineering and Sciences is a global initiative spanning more than 60 countries with the goal of connecting organization of women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) ("About INWES." International Network of Women in Engineering and Sciences. Accessed July 13, 2020. <http://www.inwes.org/about/>)

²⁷ The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation, DFG) is a central, independent, self-governing organization for science and research founded in 1951. Its membership includes German research universities, non-university research institutions, scientific associations and the Academics of Science and the Humanities. See "Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft." *DFG, German Research Foundation - Mission Statement*, www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/mission/index.html. (Accessed 5 July 2020)

²⁸ The Volkswagen Foundation is a private German nonprofit established in 1961 for the promotion of research and education in the social sciences, sciences and humanities. See "Volkswagen Foundation" https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volkswagen_Foundation (Accessed 5 July 2020)

And then I, but actually Ayla Neusel²⁹ was the initiator, created the international women's university³⁰ with Ayla Neusel. Of course I took also part and did the evaluation. Several books were written. And the last two, relatively large projects, one was based on large datasets, about the generational decisions of female scientists, whether they want to have children, and when and how many, and under what circumstances. That was a project that had a relatively large impact because the result was that women scientists have children much less than other academically educated women. Much less. [00:23:43.05] Because they have a precarious life situation. And the other project follows consistently from this. This was a project about why, how much and when women drop out. Women and men drop out. A drop-out study in science. This was now my last major project. And it will remain my last. And then I started a foundation. A foundation for women, too. When I turned 50, I had a relatively large amount of money, because I was quite well remunerated by the German Bundestag³¹ as an expert. So I had a big party, with 150 or so people, but I said, "I don't want any flowers, no presents. I want to set up a foundation, and I want a donation to my account". The account got the name - but out of the situation - "Insubordinate Women". Well, there were 30,000 DM collected. I also added a little extra to this, I must say. And my family gave a lot, too. Yes, and that was the basis to save and collect donations for another 10 years. And then in 2004 I founded the foundation which honors rebellious women³² who contribute to improving the situation of women and the common good. This is now my retirement work. It still needs a little sparkle, it's yet too small.

[00:25:39.24] SW: Well, you are always taking on new challenges. But can we talk a little bit about the past, you were in the States. You did some research. Did this stay in the United States somehow support you in a feminist way too?

²⁹ Aylâ Neusel is a German university researcher and science manager. She was the Vice President of the Kassel University of Applied Science from 1986 to 1990. See "Aylâ Neusel" https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aylâ_Neusel (Accessed 5 June 2020)

³⁰ The International Women's University (Internationale Frauenuniversität) is the first gender-specific university in Europe. In 1997 female German academics registered the Internationale Frauenuniversität which became a private company known as the International Women's University in 1999. The University is located in Hanover, Northern Germany. See Sabine Steghaus-Kovac Aug. 25, 2000, et al. "Let's Come Together: Germany Launches International Woman University." *Science*, 11 Dec. 2017, www.sciencemag.org/careers/2000/08/lets-come-together-germany-launches-international-woman-university. (Accessed 5 June 2020)

³¹ The Bundestag is the German federal parliament and is the body elected by the German people on the Federal level. Members of the Bundestag are representatives of people as a whole. See "Bundestag" <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bundestag> (Accessed 6 June 2020)

³² The Aufmüpfige Frauen Foundation supports courageous women and promotes a positive feminist perspective in German Society as a whole. The foundation has given out the "Revolt Women of the Year" Award since 2006. See "The Foundation" <https://www.stiftung-aufmuepfige-frauen.de/> (Accessed July 8, 2020)

[00:26:01.12] SM-G: Well, I spent an academic year at a women's college, called Wellesley³³, one of the Seven Sisters³⁴. And I went there because I was involved in coeducation. And unlike in Germany, where there were no women's universities - indeed, higher schools for girls, but they were usually not as well-respected - but these Seven Sisters in the USA, that's also a little underdog track of academic education. But they managed to get a pretty good reputation, and were especially successful in educating women, who then achieved good, respected positions in society. This is partly due to the fact that they had a longer tradition of women's education and that the majority of this generation was also educated at these women's colleges. This was different in Germany and the other European countries. And this Wellesley College, it was a very self-confident college that only had female presidents. Hillary Clinton³⁵, for example, is one of the graduates, and Albright³⁶ was one as well. And there are really a lot of people who were educated here and on the other Seven Sisters, who are very well known. So, "Expect the best from women and you will get it." It's a motto. They also have a slightly more elitist consciousness, I have to say critically. But Hillary Clinton, for example, made it because she was president of the College Government. The female students have a government. And the college administration is called administration. Here it's different, the management and administration are actually in the hands of the professors, and the Asta, the student representation, doesn't really play such a big role. But the Student Government was very important in this college. I found it very interesting and Hillary Clinton was president of that government. They also have a cabinet with the corresponding positions. The college was actually rather republican and then became democratic in the times of the student movement in the USA. So the Clintons became Democrats. And Bill Clinton³⁷ was also one who didn't go to the Vietnam War³⁸, but went to England to study, I think? In any case, he is one who refused to do military service, which also damaged him with Republicans. In their eyes he wasn't nationalistic enough. Well,

³³ Wellesley College is a private women's liberal arts college in Massachusetts, founded in 1870. See "Wellesley College" https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wellesley_College (Accessed 6 June 2020)

³⁴ The Seven Sisters are seven prestigious women's liberal arts colleges in Northeastern United States. The colleges include, Barnard College, Bryn Mawr College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, Wellesley College, Vassar College, and Radcliffe College. See "Seven Sisters" [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Sisters_\(colleges\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Sisters_(colleges)) (Accessed 6 June 2020)

³⁵ Hillary Clinton served as the 57th United States Secretary of State from 2009 to 2013, New York United States senator from 2001 to 2009, and First Lady of the United States from 1993 to 2001. See "Hillary Clinton" https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hillary_Clinton (Accessed 6 June 2020)

³⁶ Madeleine Albright is the first female United States Secretary of State in United States history, serving from 1997 to 2001 under the Bill Clinton administration. See "Madeleine Albright" https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madeleine_Albright (Accessed 6 June 2020)

³⁷ Bill Clinton served as the 42nd president of the United States from 1993 to 2001. He was also the governor of Arkansas and the attorney general of Arkansas. See "Bill Clinton" https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Clinton (Accessed 6 June 2020)

³⁸ The Vietnam War was a conflict in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos from November 1, 1955 to the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975. The Northern communist Vietnam government engaged in a long conflict against Southern Vietnam, with the United States as a primary ally. See "Vietnam War" https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War (Accessed 6 June 2020)

there I just did something like a sociological portrait of that college, with lots of interviews, and document analysis, history, and so on. It was a very nice project for me. I also spent a year in Paris. And there I got involved in how *narodowość*³⁹, how citizenship is constituted. I have dealt with this topic for a very long time, because Paris is an international city, with very many migrants. And one doesn't have the impression that, apart from the many young people who emigrated from North Africa, from Algeria and some people who emigrated from the colonies, they also have problems in the banlieues⁴⁰, because a certain separation of the others has also taken place. But on the cultural and intellectual level in France, the mixture has long been quite natural. But that is always a problem. The elites are much more international and open-minded than the other groups. You'd have to look at it differently than I have done so far. But I've studied the construction of citizenship. There are those by blood, there are those by birthplace. America has nationality by birthplace. Regardless of your parents, you are an American. That is the absolute contrast for Polish people, because for Polish people it is the blood, who once was Polish and was born in Poland, remains so forever. Even if he left for 20 years and is a US citizen, he remains Polish for the Polish people. This is a completely different way of thinking. And the Germans have more of the same blood attitude, but not as strong as the Polish. I can understand this for the Polish people, that they have a different self-confidence about their citizenship. They had to have it, that's clear. Well, that was a different topic, which is now also occupying me, concerning current migration and what it actually means to be internationally oriented. Or not to be narrowly nationalistically oriented. Which also belongs to feminism.

[00:33:11.09] SW: You had many students, PhDs, graduates, undergraduates. Did you also feel in any way like a female innovator, a mentor, a patron? Or rather, were you also annoyed by these crowds? A woman professor, she always attracts other women. And what was your collaboration, cooperation like with the other, less experienced women who studied with you?

[00:33:54.11] SM-G: [sighs] So a problem, I have really had a lot of female PhD students, almost seventy I think, which is a lot. That's a lot, but it is connected with the fact that a) I was a professor for 40 years and supervised a research college, and also a doctoral college from a foundation for 6 years, from the Hans Böckler Foundation⁴¹. So I always had a lot of female PhD students and also had a PhD colloquium, independent of the Research Training

³⁹ [Nationality]

⁴⁰ A banlieue is a French suburb of a large city. See "Banlieue" <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Banlieue> (Accessed 6 June 2020)

⁴¹ The Hans Böckler Foundation was established in 1977 by the German Confederation of Trade Unions. The foundation publishes a variety of journals and books, has several research institutes, and provides scholarships and student work placements with German government funding. See *About Us - Hans-Böckler-Stiftung*, www.boeckler.de/en/about-us-15050.htm. (Accessed 6 June 2020)

Group (Graduiertenkolleg)⁴². And it's really like this, it's a nice story, the first student I said to, "Oh, why don't you want to do a doctorate," because I noticed her, because she was so smart and good and committed, she said, "No no, I'm not doing it." And when I stopped accepting new ones, because once it had to end, she came and said, "I want to do a PhD." [laughs] And then she actually did her PhD and did a nice work and continued publishing. But in general I would like to say that at the beginning it was difficult for the women to dare to do a PhD. So, to become a scientist. That has also changed. The last few years I couldn't really save myself. Well, I always had so many, that it was already at the limit that I could supervise well. And the work that I coached the most was that of Patrizia Kniesga, who was formally no longer my PhD student, but whose texts I read again and again, and who I advised again and again, and so on. I couldn't have invested so much in each of the PhD students, with the other tasks I had. But for me, supervising the female PhD students was the best part of my scientific work. I can explain that quickly. Because the female PhD students - I also had a few male PhD students - they were actually my scientific further education. My further scientific training. Because the PhD candidate is actually quite soon at least on an equal level with the tutor in his or her field. If not actually at the end, the other one is the expert, and one is actually the one who only gives very general advice. And that is something very nice. It's really nice not to see this work as a one-sided relationship - I give something to the PhD candidate - but it's almost the other way round.

[00:37:22.24] SW: Do you have a message, a piece of advice for young women who are now starting to study? What would you tell them, after your experience?

[00:38:00.09] SM-G: [exhales audibly] I think advice is not good to give. No. I can say that the experience with the PhD students, that the relationship level is also very important. You have to accept the PhD candidates as others and learn by yourself. That seems important to me. I found it more difficult in the research projects. Problems often arose there, in which I was certainly involved, but which I still don't really understand to this day. That communication becomes difficult. But the doctor-mother-doctoral relationship, I would say now, is actually also a relationship of dependence. Perhaps it is easier for a doctoral mother than in a research team, where you are equal and more equal, because these are already independent women. So I'd have to think about that again, and about the problems and broken relationships.

⁴² Research Training Groups are funded by the DFG for a period of up to nine years and are established by universities to promote early career researchers. See "Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft." *DFG, German Research Foundation - Research Training Groups*, www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes/coordinated_programmes/research_training_groups/index.html. (Accessed 6 June 2020)

[00:40:06.19] SW: The relationship with the PhD students at eye level and at the same time a relationship of dependence. How does that work out?

[00:40:17.01] SM-G: I can say nothing conclusive about this, and certainly nothing as advice. You have to reflect on what you are doing. But I cannot say anything for others. But confidence in thinking for oneself. That's an important motive. But that's not advice. You can't advise someone if they don't want to.

[00:40:58.27] SW: Other feminists on your path, on your personal path of life? Any...?

[00:41:07.19] SM-G: It ties in with what I said earlier about experience in research projects. I have to say that feminists also have a lot of arguments and relational problems. There's a lot of competition and envy, so I can't say it's an ideal world. I can't say that. There's something in common, and that's when a group is newly constituted. Then there is usually a lot of mutual understanding, curiosity. But after a while problems arise. And communication becomes difficult, and competition becomes dominant. And then many groups also fail. And that is, I think, again very difficult. I'd like to do more research on it, and to think about it even more, to think about it in depth. Now we have a new headwind. So we have gained a little more influence, also understanding that the women want something different from what tradition has attributed to them, and above all that they are equally well educated and motivated, and really capable. Well, that's so obvious that very few still deny it. I started studying with the qualification deficit of women. That is gone. The young generation is just as educated, if not more educated, more motivated than the men. That means, of course, that the men have to give up too. There is a redistribution of resources, of posts. And also a change, if the men don't change, that's bad. And the headwind that is now coming, against gender research, against equality, or from certain parties and movements. This is of course connected with the fact that they are also threatened by the old hierarchy, which no longer functions.

[00:43:53.02] SW: Would you say that you have reached a personally satisfactory situation? That you are satisfied with your environment when it comes to male-female relationships?

[00:44:10.23] SM-G: Yes, of course. Definitely. Clearly. I have always had the privilege of having my mother, my family, my brother, my sister, [End of Recording]