



Research Project

**Between Politics and Spirituality. The Production and Institutionalisation of Body Knowledge in the West German Women's Health Movement (1970s-1980s)**

**Dr. Emeline Fourment**

Projekt Outline:

The project explores the recursivity of milieu, knowledge production and institutionalisation in a historical perspective using the example of the production of body knowledge in the German women's health movement. The period studied begins with the founding of the first German self-help groups and the publication of the first women's health manuals (early 1970s). The progressing institutionalisation of the movement in alternative health centres and at universities as well as its repercussions until the end of the 1980s will be then analysed. The project operates on the assumption that body knowledges are plural and that the movement is heterogeneous in this respect. It argues that the constituting phase of a "knowledge war", in which the movement formed itself through other forms of knowledge production on women's reproductive and sexual health against "legitimate knowledge", was followed by a phase of boundary work within the movement. Notably, this boundary work related to conceptions of knowledge that questioned the definition of science itself in its critique of androcentrism and sought to transcend it through alternative healing, spiritualism. The research will be based on extensive archival and journal research as well as a series of oral history interviews with activists. This project thus aims to contribute to research on the cognitive practices of social movements, gender studies and alternative medicine studies.

## Biographic note:

Emeline Fourment is Assistant Professor in political science at the University Rouen Normandy. She is specialized on Germany with a focus on feminist milieus in comparative social movement studies. Her research focuses on health and justice practices in social movements. She completed her dissertation at Science Po Paris on the appropriations of feminist theories in anti-authoritarian milieus in Berlin and Montreal (2010s) ("Théories en action. Appropriations des théories féministes en milieu libertaire à Berlin et Montréal," 2021). She has researched and taught at Sciences Po Paris, the University of Rouen Normandie, the Humboldt University, the University of Québec in Montreal, and the University of Geneva. She is a co-coordinator of the international French-speaking research network VisaGe which focuses on gender-based violence.

## Selected Publications:

Fourment, Emeline, Kwaschik Anne (ed.) : « Mobilisations de femmes et savoirs médicaux depuis les années 1970 », In : Critique internationale, n°. 99 (2023).

Fourment, Emeline, Kwaschik Anne : « Contestations, appropriations et productions de savoirs par les femmes. Réflexions sur les catégories d'analyse d'un champ de recherche émergent », In : Critique internationale, n° 99 (2023), p. 11-18.

Fourment, Emeline: « Les ambivalences du militantisme ouest-allemand pour la santé des femmes : entre appropriations et remises en cause des savoirs médicaux (1971-1975) », In : Critique internationale, n°99 (2023) p. 19-40.

Fourment, Emeline : Militantismes libertaire et féministe face aux violences sexuelles. Le cas de la gauche radicale de Göttingen. *Sociétés Contemporaines*, vol. 3 n°107 (2017),p.109-130.

Fourment, Emeline : Le clivage matérialisme vs *queer*: un conflit générationnel? La conciliation des approches féministes dans le militantisme féministe de Göttingen. *Nouvelles Questions Féministes*, n°36/1 (2017), p. 48-65.

Berger, Françoise/ Kwaschik, Anne (Hg.): La „condition féminine“. Feminismus und Frauenbewegung im 19. und 20. Jahrhundert = Feminismes et mouvements de femmes aux XIXe-XXe siècles (Schriftenreihe des Deutsch-französischen Historikerkomitees, Band 12), Franz Steiner Verlag: Stuttgart 2016.

## Source of the picture:

Erstes Frauengesundheitszentrum, *Courage: Berliner Frauenzeitung*, 11. Heft, 2. Jahrgang, November 1977, S.1. Von der Friedrich Ebert Stiftung digitalisiert: [http://library.fes.de/courage/pdf/1977\\_11.pdf](http://library.fes.de/courage/pdf/1977_11.pdf)