



Same Same But Different.

*Sex/Gender Differences in the Elite
Production of the Austrian Ministers.*

Research Question? Topic?

- Sex/gender differences in recruitment processes of the Austrian ministers from 1966 to 2006
- Austria: recruitment within the political parties -> **SPÖ, ÖVP, FPÖ/BZÖ**

Research Approach?

- different dimensions at play -> bundle first
- then analyse with respect to sex/gender only in a second step

1. **Main obstacles** for women's representation: **male-organized party-affiliated organizations.**
2. In contrast to the different ideological positions of the political parties, **parties do not differ much with respect to the representation of females.**
3. Concerning the attribution of positions, a **gendered hierarchy of the quality of representation** is discernable.
4. The **specific government constellations influence the representation of females.**

In all Parties:

- No formal procedures, very informal
- Decided within the party
- Many organizations/factions/party-affiliated organizations want to be represented in government by a person belonging to them
- The party leader is the central figure, he bundles the different interests and has the final say

Analytical model of Norris/Lovenduski (1995) – 4 levels:

1. Systemic factors (legal and party system)
2. Factors within political parties (organization, rules, ideology)
3. Individual recruitment processes
4. Personnel outcome

Analytical Concept II



in concept of Norris/Lovenduski: no **concept of power**

sexed/gendered power structures within the parties
one of the most important influencing factors

=> Norris/Lovenduski tied to **Bourdieu**

Bourdieu's concept of the 'political field':

- = field of forces with a structure of relations of forces
 - unequal distribution of capital
 - agents: specific positions in this field, endowed with specific capital
 - positions of agents relational to positions of other agents -
> **sexed/gendered structure**
 - power struggles between different agents for state powers
- > also for relations between party groups *within* the parties**

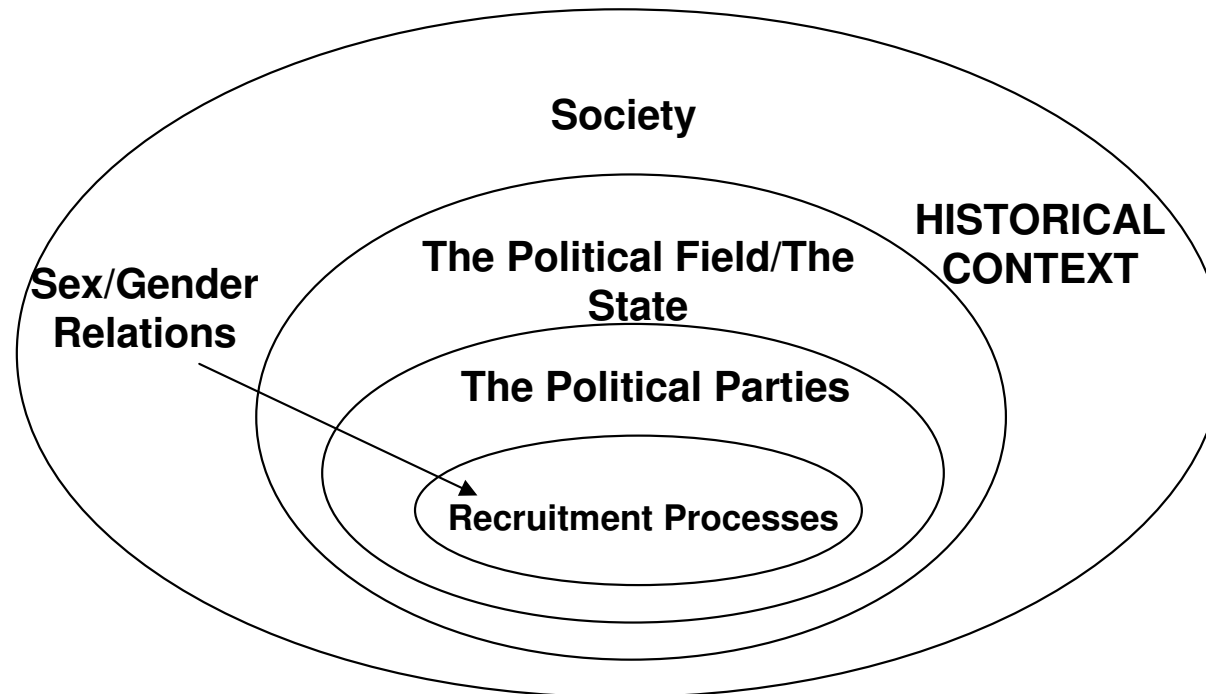
Recruitment processes as power struggles:

- between different party groups *within* the parties
- party groups' interest: to be represented in government by someone belonging to them
- power structure between party groups
sexed/gendered: pivotal party groups often male dominated (e.g. the unions) -> less chances for women

Context of Recruitment



- Contextualization of recruitment processes:



- Political field -> Bourdieu
- The state is masculinistic -> Sauer, Kreisky

Employed Methods



- 1. Literature Excerpts**
- 2. Expert Interviews**
- 3. Biographical Research**
- 4. Data and Statistics**

Expert Interviews



- **23 overall**
- **14 already conducted**
- **duration: 40 to 90 minutes**
- Experts selected **to cover all governmental periods** of the respective party **equally**
- **Interviewees:** party leaders, ex-ministers, snowballing
- **Contents:** power relations in parties and functioning of recruitment

- objective, biographical data of all 120 ministers
- male and female biographical data within the parties compared
- > typical recruitment channels
- > sexed/gendered structure of typical recruitment channels

A quick look at the researched criteria:

- date and place of birth
- political engagement of the family
- classification of the job of the father and the last job of minister before recruitment
- highest educational attainment, age at graduation, fields of study
- belonging to party-affiliated organizations
- political career: how many and which functions
- familial status (married? kids?)

Biographical information

- collected online (databases, webpages), in lexica, journals and books
- problem: always lacking information
- “deeper” biographical information hard to get
- > “middleway”

What have I done?

- drafts of party-specific chapters on recruitment out of excerpts
- chapter on quantitative and qualitative female representation in government of all three parties
- methodology chapter on interviews
- analysis of SPÖ-interviews
- biographical data of the ministers of the SPÖ (53) and the ÖVP (40)



Stage of Work II

What do I do right now?

- analysis of ÖVP-interviews
- biographical data of partyless and FPÖ-ministers (22)

What will be done?

- finish empirical analysis
- texts, interviews, biographical analysis intertwined to three party-specific chapters
- go back to theoretical part -> make first draft of PhD
- 9 interviews, further excerpts etc.



*Thank you
for your attention!*