Gender in social innovation analysis

Isabel André, CEG-UL
KATARSIS, Athens,
June 2008

Work in Progress: please do not quote or distribute without permission.
Gender as an analytical cross existential fields category

- The essence of gender
- Uni/multidimensional gender analytical frameworks
- Patriarchy and capitalism
- EU policies – equal opportunities and gender relations
The essence of gender

- And what will be their impact on gender-based identities? Are they declining?
2006
Filles
Single and multidimensional gender analytical frameworks

- **Unidimensional:**
  - Social reproduction/care
  - Heterosexuality
  - Identity - reason vs. emotion

- **Multidimensional (S. Walby, 2004):**
  - 1st level – social system
  - 2nd level – dynamics (degree of gender inequality; movement from domestic to public)
  - 3rd level – domains (economic, politics, culture, …)
  - 4th level – social practices
Consider the following questions, which have been debated in sociology and related subjects in the last twenty years:

– Do capitalism and patriarchy form a single system or two interacting systems? Is capitalism necessarily patriarchal or only contingently so? (Hartmann 1979; Walby 1986, 1990).

– Are bureaucratic organisations necessarily gendered or only contingently so? (Acker 1990; Savage and Witz 1992). Are such institutions, together with markets, neutral with respect to identities?
Patriarchy and Capitalism (a critical realism vision)

Andrew Sayer (2000)

- **Associational thinking** – the gendered character of capitalism based on evidence (cause-effect relations)

- **Counterfactual thinking** – there is a strong relation between capitalism and patriarchy, but...

  will capitalism survive in a non-patriarchal form?
Patriarchy and Capitalism
(a critical realism vision)

Inspired by Andrew Sayer (2000)

systems-world

- markets
- institutions
- social reproduction

lifeworld

- capitalism
- patriarchy
- identity
- norms & values
- emotions
EU policies – equal opportunities and gender relations


- Social inclusion and social cohesion are crucial dimensions of the European capitalist project - they are seen as essential for a globally competitive economy

- Human rights and equal rights frame the European political discourse
EU policies – equal opportunities and gender relations


Political pressures for the EU gender mainstreaming:

- feminist movements in civil society
- elected women representatives in parliaments
- the gender machinery (women’s units) in government administrative bureaucracies
- the active gender equality unit within the EU Commission
EU policies – equal opportunities and gender relations


1st stage directives (70’s and 80’s)
- Equal pay and equal treatment
  (sameness model)

2nd stage directives (from the 90’s onwards)
- Reconciliation of family and work
- Regulation of time
- Gender mainstreaming
  (plural and transformatory model)
EU policies – equal opportunities and gender relations

In the shadow of the EU gender mainstreaming:

- Family policy
- Fertility, contraception and abortion
- Sexual preference
- Violence against women

(justified by the subsidiarity principle...!)
Gender in KATARSIS existential fields

Gender cuts across all existential fields directly through:

- Emotions and affection
- Sexuality
- Parenthood
- Labour relations
- Citizenship
- …
## Labour market, employment strategies and social economy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social exclusion dynamics</th>
<th>Socially creative strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conciliation of work and family life</td>
<td>Creation of SME in “alternative” sectors in which the traditional knowledge and know-how of women are especially relevant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majority of women in vulnerable segments of the labour market</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulties in career advancement for women in certain professional trajectories</td>
<td>Growth of the social economy (employment generation and effect upon conciliation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erosion of social support systems</td>
<td>Development of local initiatives in the arts/culture domain facilitating access by women to those activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Education and training

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social exclusion dynamics</th>
<th>Socially creative strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The technical-scientific educational model widens the gender gap</td>
<td>Growth in supply and demand for education in creative fields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT-related cultures are highly gender-biased</td>
<td>Emergence of educational models based on participation and creativity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many school curricula and textbooks contribute strongly to gender stereotypes</td>
<td>Setting up of “proximity services” in universities and training centres (e.g. kindergartens)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Housing and neighbourhood

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social exclusion dynamics</th>
<th>Socially creative strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relocation of households to increasingly peripheral suburban areas</td>
<td>Access improvement – multi-circuit mobility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erosion of extended family ties and “primary” social networks</td>
<td>Rehabilitation of public spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease in opportunities for employment, training, leisure and civic participation</td>
<td>Regeneration of suburban spaces</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Health and environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social exclusion dynamics</th>
<th>Socially creative strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fragmentation of everyday life spheres</td>
<td>Holistic view of health and well-being</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual and reproductive health practices characterized by strong gender stereotypes</td>
<td>Active participation of women in decisions regarding procreation and contraception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthodox professional practices legitimized by the ‘scientific’ character of formal healthcare</td>
<td>Increasing visibility of sexual and reproductive issues in men’s health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inclusion of sexual and reproductive health issues in school programs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Governance and democracy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social exclusion dynamics</th>
<th>Socially creative strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Limited access to public goods</td>
<td>Combination of universalistic elements of the welfare state (human rights) with pluralist service delivery at the local level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tension between plurality of cultures (diversity) and a single market (homogenisation)</td>
<td>Bottom-up empowerment strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paternalist traits of hierarchical governance systems</td>
<td>Emergence of participatory methodologies in local projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary role of local authorities</td>
<td>Social experimentation with various forms of egalitarian governance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gender in KATARSIS

A further proof of the invisibility of gender?

...even among a socially innovative scientific community such as the Katarsians, gender (as addressed in the reports) is a very marginal concern!