

# Notes for analyzing the feminist political economy of public policies



Diana Milena Ávila-Moreno | Colombia | University of Valencia – Spain | Email: [dmavilam@unal.edu.co](mailto:dmavilam@unal.edu.co)

## 1. Motivation

- To enrich studies in public policy analysis from a feminist political economy perspective and promote a deeper understanding of institutional processes to move towards a fairer society that includes a perspective of class, race, and other sources of oppression.
- To progress in the doctoral research on "Analysis of the political economy of public policies: parental leaves in Colombia 1990-2023".

## 2. Poster's objective

- Bring into dialogue the contributions of **Marxist theorists of social reproduction, feminist political economy and public policy analysis approaches** to identify the elements for a framework of analysis of the political economy of public policy.

### Social reproduction crisis

## 3. Context

*Resurgence of Feminist political economy*

- As a response to growing inequality and the violent backlash against social and popular movements, particularly against feminisms.
- Due to the incapacity of liberal feminism or critical feminisms detached from economic analyses to provide a satisfactory explanation for this material context and the exercise of state power on behalf of capital [1].

*Revival of the theoretical-political dispute about social reproduction*

Political consequences in terms of:

- >> delimiting the territories of struggle against capital
- >> identifying those who should lead it, and the role of women in that scenario [2].

**Gaps in critical analysis of the public policy process** from a feminist political economy perspective.

## 4. Question

What **theoretical and methodological frameworks** would make it possible to answer the question:



**How do public policies stabilize or limit the conditions necessary for capital accumulation and social reproduction while simultaneously reinforcing patriarchal relations?**

... considering



- the **interdependence between the circuits of production and reproduction**
- the **different forms of exploitation** experienced by women and feminized bodies
- the **interrelationships between different oppressions** and, from this,
- the pressing need to **configure ethical-transformative political action** programs.

## 5. Theoretical framework



### Analysis axes

- 5.1. Production and social reproduction as part of the systemic totality of capitalism
- 5.2. Social reproduction, gender and other axes of domination
- 5.3. Capitalism and crisis of social reproduction

These imply that...

- Paid work and the accumulation process have conditioning effects on the system, including the reproductive sphere [3]. **What are the public policy implications of this?**
- Women workers play a crucial role due to their increasingly leading role in the labor market and their total protagonism in social reproduction → **"amphibious position"** [2]. **What could be the role of women in the fight against capital?**
- **Capitalism** → an order with **tendencies to crisis**, including the crisis of social reproduction. **Does the State play a regulatory role in these crises? How?**

## 6. Methodological framework: Public policies under which State?

- Capitalist state:** the state is not neutral, but inherently capitalist because it constitutes a mode of existence of capitalist social relations [4].
- Public policies:** are analyzed as **instituting processes** that unfold in a moment of global political struggle and in which power relations mediate between actors and interests
- Political policy process: a trial-and-error process?** It allows considering the problem of correspondence between policies and social reproduction in relation to the concept of political knowledge [4].

### Assumptions

- Crises and destabilization of gender norms and patriarchal structures as a mechanism for adjusting public policies to the requirements of capitalist reproduction [5].
- The dynamics of public policies as a response to internal and systemic limits [4].
- The contradictory nature of the state apparatus that manages public policies [4].
- The high degree of independence between public policies and government political-ideological orientations [4].

## 7. First explorations

- **Hypothesis:**
  - > Changes in the parental leave regulations responded to an intensification of the crisis of social reproduction, the destabilization of gender norms and patriarchal structures, and the political mobilization of the working classes.
  - > Changes in the parental leave regulations have stabilized the conditions for capital accumulation and social reproduction, while perpetuating patriarchal-capitalist relations.

## 8. Let's keep weaving!

- Feminist economics is conducting relational analyses of production and reproduction processes in both market and non-market contexts, exploring the following questions?: **1) Who owns what? 2) Who does what? 3) Who gets what? and 4) What do they do with it?** [1]

### References

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