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Discoursing Gender: The Contemporariness of Gender Relations in Russia

In the light of the silence Russia has been observing on the international platform regarding the hegemonic gender relations, this research explores the gender roles exercised and their overall impact on the gender relations in the contemporary Russia. This research also questions the power of the external factors, in this case the political ones, to condition gender roles and to make them look innate and fixed. A comparative analysis, is thus included, of the roles the Russian women performed in the Stalin's era and have been performing in the Putin's era. The case studies show that in the Stalin's era, the Russian women were actively participating in the society being the breadwinners. However, in the Putin's era, the Russian women's "divorced from the state" role marginalizes them to housewives. This marginalization not only wanes the individual identity of the Russian women, in fact, it shows the hypermasculine state of the contemporary Russia. Moreover, this example verifies gender roles as variables for if they had not been the variables, they would not have been vulnerable to change irrespective of the political eras. Recalling Judith Butler's words, gender is 'not a stable and single signifier' for it 'intersects with racial, class, ethnic, sexual (...) identities' to form multiple identities. Hence, this research, besides highlighting the relational nature of gender roles and external factors as well as pre-assumed fixity of gender roles, explores the hypermasculine state of gender relations in the contemporary Russia.