

Autonomous Women's Counseling Centers in Vienna (1980s & 1990s)

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1365	1922	AUF	1975	FbF	Peregrina	Dohnal	1991	Bosnian War	Beijing	VP Act
UNI VIE	IPV	1972	UOG + Abortion Law	1981	1984	1990	Scheffler	1992- 1995		1997

What can we learn in 2020?

GENERELL RESEARCH QUESTION

How and in which social fields have feminist-psychological knowledge and knowledge related practices developed in Vienna between 1972 and 2000?

METHODS

Semi-structured **Oral History interviews** (Wierling, 2003) with

- **Feminist activists**
 - **Psychosocial counselors**
 - **Lecturers** and Guest Professors of feminist psychology at the IPV
- Analysis with **reflexive grounded theory** (Breuer et.al.,2019)

Archival records for context on each social field

History of Modern Psychology in Context (Pickren & Rutherford, 2010)

AUSTRIA

Small welfare state in the global north with ~ 7.561.000 citizens in 1980 (STATISTIK AUSTRIA, 2020)

Gouverned by chancellor **Bruno Kreisky, Social Democratic Party of Austria (SPÖ)** between 1971 and 1983

ACADEMIA IN VIENNA

1975 – Triple parity is introduced at Austrian universities (UOG)

1984 – First women specific lectures at the IPV (Luckgei et al., 2020)

1991 – FbF supervisor Sabine Scheffler becomes guest professor for women's studies at IPV

WOMEN'S POLITICS IN AUSTRIA

1975 – Abortion limit becomes law and introduces family counselling centers

1990 – Johanna Dohnal is Austria's first Women's Minister

1997 – Protection against violence (PV) Act is established

SERVICE PROVISION

Psychologists engaged in social movements can **create new institutions** adjusted to declared needs
→ FbF and Peregrina were founded to support members of disadvantaged groups

INNOVATION

NGOs have to **react quickly** to changing circumstances and funding requirements
→ The horrors of the Bosnian war made funding for psychosocial counseling for migrant women available

ADVOCACY

Knowledge generated from practice can be used to foster **legal change**
→ Viennese NGOs actively contributed to VP Act

EXPRESSIVE FUNCTION

Publicly taking stance can **foster cooperations** with academia and politics
→ Students brought counselors into teaching positions
→ Dohnal invited one counselor to work in her office

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Knowledge from activism on CB can be transferred into psychosocial practice
→ Therapeutic **group settings** inspired by feminist consciousness raising groups can ease the recognition of **structural problems**

Functions of the third sector (Kendall, 2003)

RESEARCH FIELDS

WOMEN'S COUNSELING CENTERS in VIENNA

Frauen beraten Frauen (FbF)
[Women counsel Women]

1981

- Founded by psychotherapists in training
- Aims to provide affordable psychotherapy for women and interdisziplinär counseling
 - Proximity to SPÖ
 - Several lectures at the IPV

Peregrina - Center for Education, Counseling and Therapy of Immigrant Women

1984

- Located in an autonomous women's center until 2018
- Psychological counselling since Bosnian war in 1992

ADDITIONAL COUNSELLING CENTER CASE STUDIES

- LEFÖ
- Miteinander lernen
- Dachverband ausländischer Frauen
- Netzwerk Frauenberatungsstellen

FEMINIST ACTIVISM

1972 - AUF [independent women action] is founded
1980s - Professionalisation of feminist projects (Geiger, 2012)

ACADEMIA

1365 - University of Vienna
1922 - Institute of Psychology (IPV)
1975 – UOG democratized universities