

1. Women's Movements in Transition to Democracy – An assessment of the Italian, Portuguese and Spanish cases

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6. In this paper I am concerned with the interplay of citizens, social movements, political parties, the state and the international environment, as both contributors and competitors for the definition and establishment of the *new democratic political culture* in transition to democracy. This paper is therefore organized around the concepts that inform the major debates around political culture change and continuity.

In this paper I examine, in particular, the political responses of the state and of political parties to women's movements in the context of the Italian, Portuguese and Spanish transition to democracy. I also assess the impact of conjunctural conditions, on continued processes of collective identity formation of these movements, as well as, on the incorporation of these movements' agendas and grievances in the return to "democratic politics". Overall, this project tries to capture the interaction between women's political activities and the process of transition as whole. This implies considering not only the different types of women's movements, but also the very different processes of transition in the three countries. I am mostly concerned with the role of *women's movements in promoting political change, how "women's issues" enter the policy agendas and how women's movements, as a particular type of popular movements, can be seen as a microcosmos that help us understand how inclusive or exclusive the process of political change was in these three countries.*