

BOOKS RECOMMENDED

Dynamics of Gender Relations Process-Sociological Perspectives

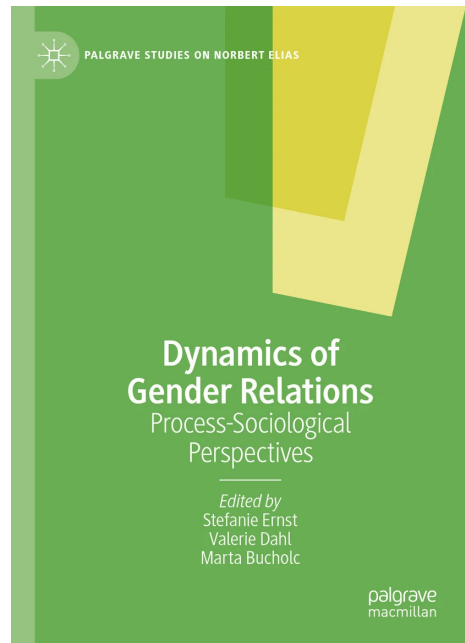
**Editors: Stefanie Ernst, Valerie Dahl,
Marta Bucholc**

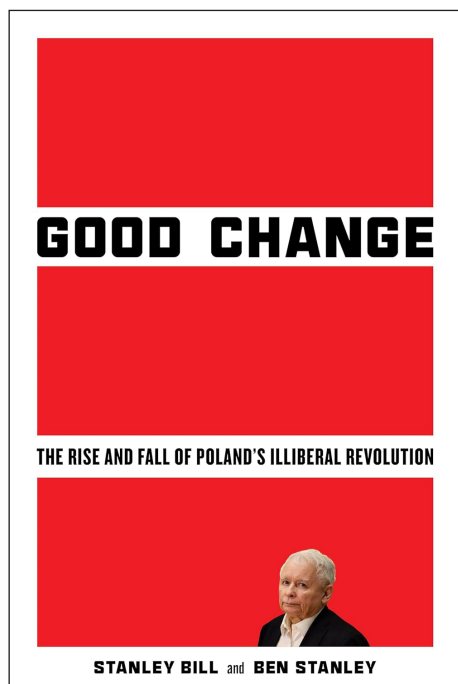
Springer/Palgrave Macmillan 2025, Pages XXIII, 507

ISBN 9783031803758

E-book 9783031803765

This edited volume brings together for the first time international research approaches from the field of figurational and processual sociology at the intersection of gender studies. It assembles current research on the change of gender relations in formal and informal structures. By using Norbert Elias's process-sociological oeuvre selected gender figurations in the western and non-western world are discussed. This book is anchored, on the one hand, in a socio-historical understanding of the trajectory of gendered societies over a wide area and range of centuries in the *Process of Civilization*. On the other hand, the immediate impulse for this volume is the critical discussion of Eliasian thinking concerning dynamic gender relations in different empirical case studies and process-theory. It will be crucial reading for sociologists interested in the Elias school, as well as sociologists of gender more broadly.





Good Change
The Rise and Fall
of Poland's Illiberal Revolution

By
Stanley Bill and Ben Stanley

Stanford University Press 2025, 360 Pages

Hardcover ISBN: 9781503634565

Paperback ISBN: 9781503643680

Ebook ISBN: 9781503643697

Few countries serve as a more useful case study for understanding the global tension between liberal and illiberal conceptions of democracy than Poland. Under the populist Law and Justice (PiS)-led government, a large part of the Polish electorate welcomed the party's "Good Change"—as it described its program—despite accusations of democratic backsliding. PiS offered voters neglected by previous governments a combination of economic redistributionism and cultural traditionalism, supplemented with narratives of bolstering Poland's national

prestige and sovereignty. Yet after eight years of success, it was defeated in the October 2023 elections by a "pro-democratic" coalition. The history of PiS shows both the strengths and weaknesses of democratic illiberalism as a challenge to liberal democracy.

Bill and Stanley analyze the course and causes of the party's successes and failures. The authors deftly outline PiS's assault on democratic institutions, its paradigm-changing redistributive programs, cultural backlash agenda, politics of history, and the reasons for its fall from power. Poland's democracy has proven resilient to the specter of autocratization, but its future development under a new government raises fresh questions. This essential book considers what the rise and fall of Poland's illiberal government reveals about the future of liberal democracy and its ongoing transformations in the twenty-first century.

Pathways to Agonism

Disputed Territories and Memory

By
Christina Horvath and Tomasz Rawski

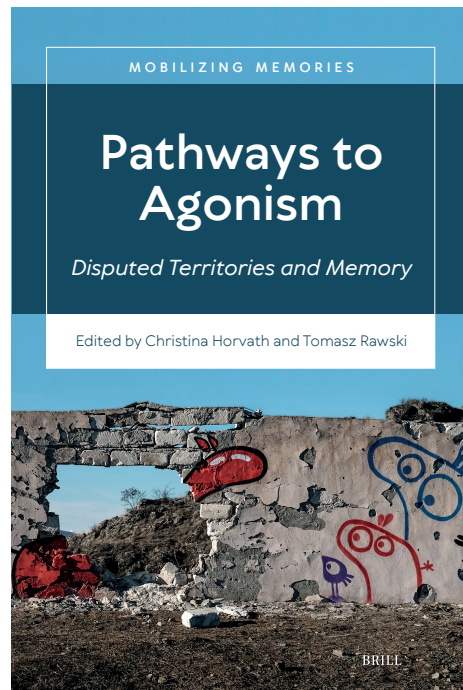
Brill 2025, 350 Pages

E-Book (PDF) ISBN: 978-90-04-73688-7

Paperback ISBN: 978-90-04-73682-5

Series: Mobilizing Memories, Volume: 6

This book focuses on managing competing memories of disputed territories in Eastern and Central Europe, the Caucasus and South Asia. Through an empirical, practice-oriented approach it explores memory work undertaken by institutions and social actors in different cultural and national settings. The book identifies examples of agonistic engagement with the memory of disputed territories that have the potential to build trust-based relationships between divided communities and overcome antagonistic separation through mutually beneficial joint enterprises. The volume also highlights blind spots and shortcomings of the agonistic approach by focusing on socio-political conditions that might hinder or prevent the broader dissemination of this memory mode.





Polish Sexual Revolutions
Negotiating Sexuality and Modernity
behind the Iron Curtain

By
Anna Dobrowolska

Oxford University Press 2025, 272 Pages

ISBN: 9780198962885

This book studies the history of sexuality in state-socialist Poland in its European and global context, focusing on how communism transformed both sexual discourses and intimate practices between 1945 and 1989. It reconfigures our understanding of the sexual revolution, departing from the case study of Poland to complicate our understanding of 'sexual modernity' and 'progress'. Engaging with the most recent scholarship on sexuality in East Central Europe, the monograph reassesses the

role played by communist states in modernising their citizens' approaches to sex. Contrary to the stereotype which perceives East Central Europe as 'lagging behind' the West in sexual matters and having to 'catch up' after 1989, the book sheds light on the ambiguous histories of state-socialist entanglements with sex to showcase alternative visions of sexual liberation. By focusing on forgotten genealogies of discussions of sexuality, the monograph historicizes the roots of contemporary debates on sex education, LGBTQ+, and women's rights in the region.