

1. Culture War from the Right by the AfD and Its Political Sphere

Völkisch family ideals and anti-feminist narratives / ideas about gender

- A biological and hierarchical understanding of a heteronormative and binary man-woman order: unchangeable character traits and roles are tied to this; the family is seen as the germ cell of the “people” and the nation.
- The father is the patriarchal protector and fighter, shaped by a soldierly form of masculinity.
- The woman: subordinate to the man, without the same rights/opportunities; guardian of the national community, with motherhood elevated in value.
- The political/state sphere is to be removed from the “private”: familism.
- Anti-feminist because it opposes any form of self-determination regarding one’s body, gender, sexuality, reproduction, and concept of family.
- Racism.

Problem Description (3 minutes)

Narratives & strategies: 2 examples — queerness/self-determination framed as a child-protection issue, and immigration/violence framed as child protection (instrumentalization).

Example 1 (current):

Last weekend, on the Day of Children’s Rights, a reading by drag queens for children took place at the Humboldt Forum in Berlin. The AfD had called for protests: “Hands off our children.”

- This plays on the narrative of alleged “premature sexualization” and also portrays queerness and drag queens as a possible threat in terms of sexual assault. The defamatory equation of drag queens or transfeminine people with pedophilia is as old as far-right ideology itself.
- Perpetrator–victim reversal: high security measures are framed as attempts to shield the event so that they can assault children or say the “unspeakable” away from public view.
- Similar queer- and trans-hostile narratives have also mobilized disruptions or far-right counter-protests at Pride events this and last year. Slogans include “Stop premature sexualization,” “Gender and identity propaganda through political influence,” or claims of supposed “fetishization.”
- At the same time, an AfD MP from Lower Saxony is currently charged with incitement to hatred over such statements—her immunity has been lifted until the verdict is reached; she had described the rainbow flag as a symbol of “the machinations of pedophile lobbying groups.”

Example 2:

Immigration and sexualized violence against minors: narratives that are racially charged and, in some cases, have been judged as incitement to hatred. They generalize young men with migration backgrounds as sexually assaulting or attacking German/European women or children—sometimes with knives.

3-Minute Analysis:

- Effects on policy fields: why this fits right-wing extremism.
- Völkisch ideology collapses like a house of cards the moment the “traditional gender order” is questioned.
- Where is the danger? Far-right attack strategies: Who is targeted and what happens? They claim children and women are at risk; in reality, marginalized groups—queer and trans people, people affected by racism—along with daycares, schools, and other educational institutions offering diverse programs are attacked under the pretext that they allegedly fail to uphold necessary neutrality.
- These attack strategies never come without criminalization.
- In stark contrast: there is no genuine commitment to child protection or children’s rights. They oppose so-called “external childcare” by the state—state protection measures have no place in right-wing extremist thinking.
- Focus on “policies that promote births” (reference to the conspiracy narrative of the “Great Replacement”).
- Children’s rights should not be incorporated into the constitution, since that would weaken parental rights.
- Severe stance: child removal (protective custody) should only occur in extreme cases. Example from “fathers’ rights” activists: the child supposedly would not be protected from perpetrators/abuse.
- Anti-choice.
- Support for company-run (private) childcare centers.

3-Minute Recommendations for Action:

- Shrinking spaces — the child-rights community is beginning to wake up, visibility is increasing.
- What to do?
- Show solidarity and take a stand in public spaces.
- Document, collect evidence, report or file charges.
- Raise awareness; provide education and training formats for multipliers working in schools and daycares.
- Protect those affected!