

The Pleasure to Forbid Pleasure

The political controversies, which in former socialist countries marked a decade before the collapse of the socialist systems and governments, shifted from oppositions between the State and civil society to other grounds and fields. New controversies sprang up from a process of political differentiation, often mistakenly comprehended as “pluralisation”. A series of previously not divisive or unimportant signifiers from cultural order instigated a restructuring of the political agency along with many outspoken “new” ideologies. These processes – due to the openings and closures of plural social dialogue – made any comparisons between so-called new democracies more complex and in many respects even irrelevant. Still, we may assume that to quite a large extent, an obsession and fascination inside the space of social imaginary with a notion of *nation* is a common feature in the majority of these countries, but with quite specific consequences in different territories. In the case of Slovenia, a public obsession with the national identity contributes to an unleashing of almost forgotten tendencies to re-define the role of gender differences, meaning above all the place of “woman” in a society and specifically women’s relation to sexual pleasure. An analysis of the conservative discourse uncovers an underlying meaning in its concepts of family, nation (ethnicity), sexuality, society and morality: the female pleasure – as ever, but now in a refreshed articulation – is supposed to be destructive.