

Democratic transitions in Central and Eastern Europe: Danuta Hübner, a profile from the Archives

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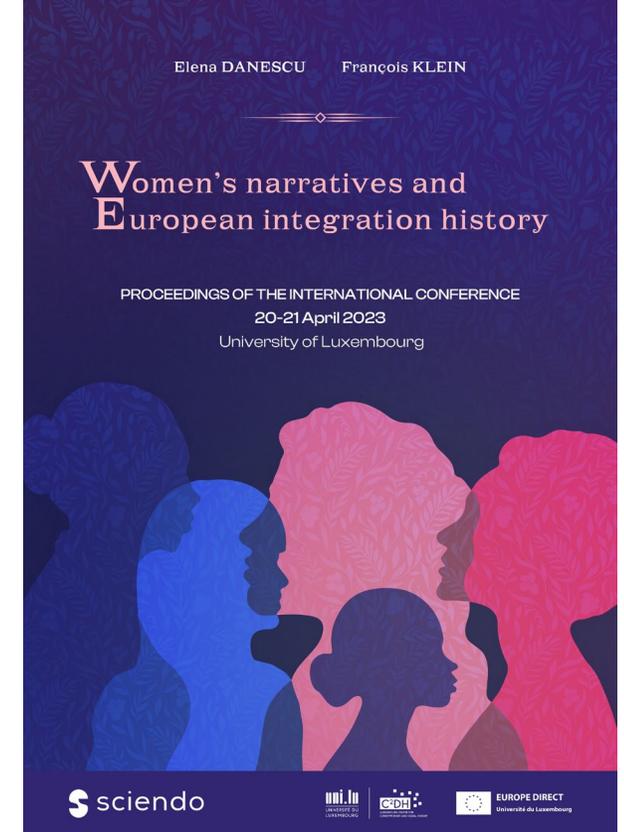
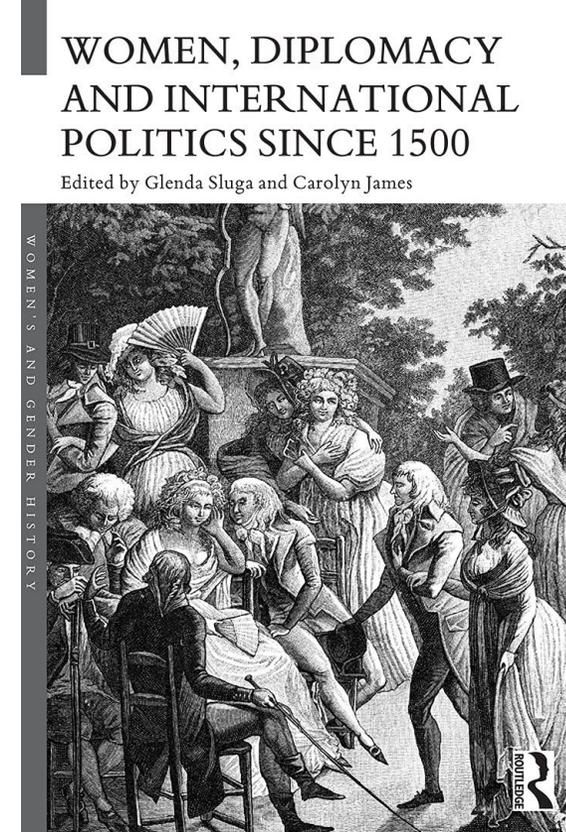
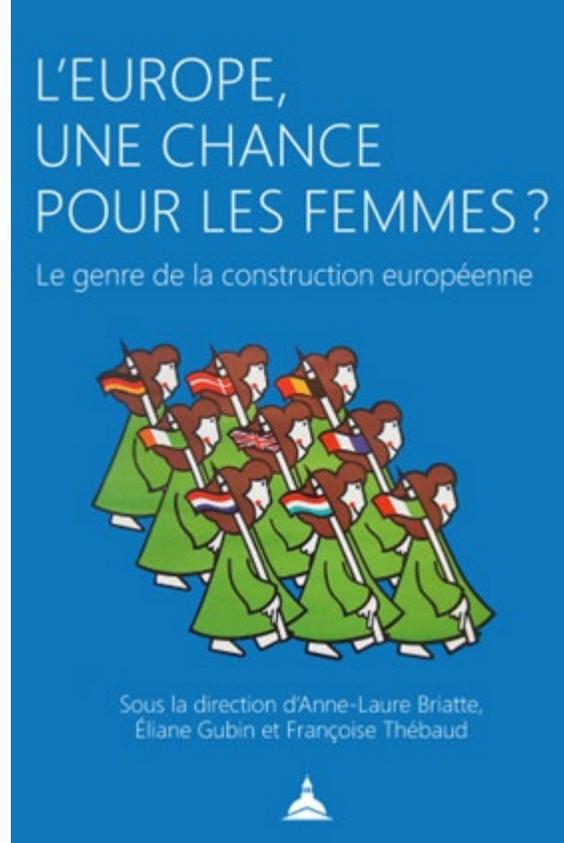
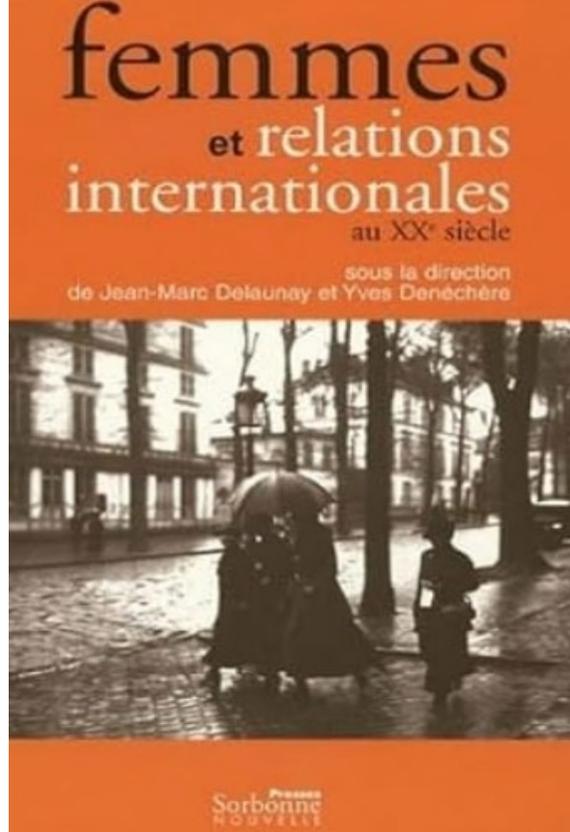


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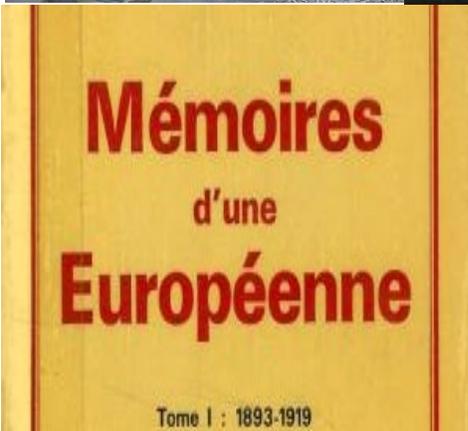
- 1. Introduction : Women in EU Integration, a missing narrative**
- 2. Danuta Hübner, a profile from the Archives**
- 3. Conclusion: creating and disseminating new knowledge and sources**



1. Introduction – Interdisciplinarity

Although women from all horizons – intellectuals and experts, politicians, diplomats, activists, trade unionists, etc, – played a crucial role in the post-war European project, including democratic transitions in Central and Eastern Europe and EU Eastern enlargement their impact has yet to be explored in depth (Sluga 2021; Abels, MacRae 2021), despite the fact that recent shifts in historical practice have led to a re-evaluation and reinsertion of women in disciplines such as international relations, history and sociology (Müller, Tömmel 2022; Owens, Rietzler 2021; Sluga 2021; Holzhauser 2021).

1. Introduction – Interdisciplinarity



- Europe's “founding fathers” are far from being the only ones: women have been committed to Europe from the outset.
- From the 1950s to the 1970s, women worked for Europe in the shadow of male institutions.
- From the late 1970s onwards, the European Community (then the EU) rolled out a policy of gender equality.



1. Introduction – Emergence of new policies

1957: The Treaty of Rome sets a first milestone for equal pay for male and female workers (art. 119)

1976: Directive on the implementation of equal treatment (including access to employment, training, professional promotion, working conditions)

1978: Directive on the organization of national social security schemes

1979: The election of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage marked the start of better representation for women (which number rose from 6% to 16% of the EP)

1995: Gender mainstreaming becomes an integral part of all European Union policies, and the scope of action expands

1997: DAPHNE Program combating violence against women

1997: The Treaty of Amsterdam formalizes gender equality as one of the fundamental principles of Community law

2000 : The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union provides a new basis for women's rights in the EU

2007: European Year of Equal Opportunities for All

2009: The Lisbon Treaty reduced gender discrimination to one of a number of categories, alongside discrimination based on “racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation” (art. 10)

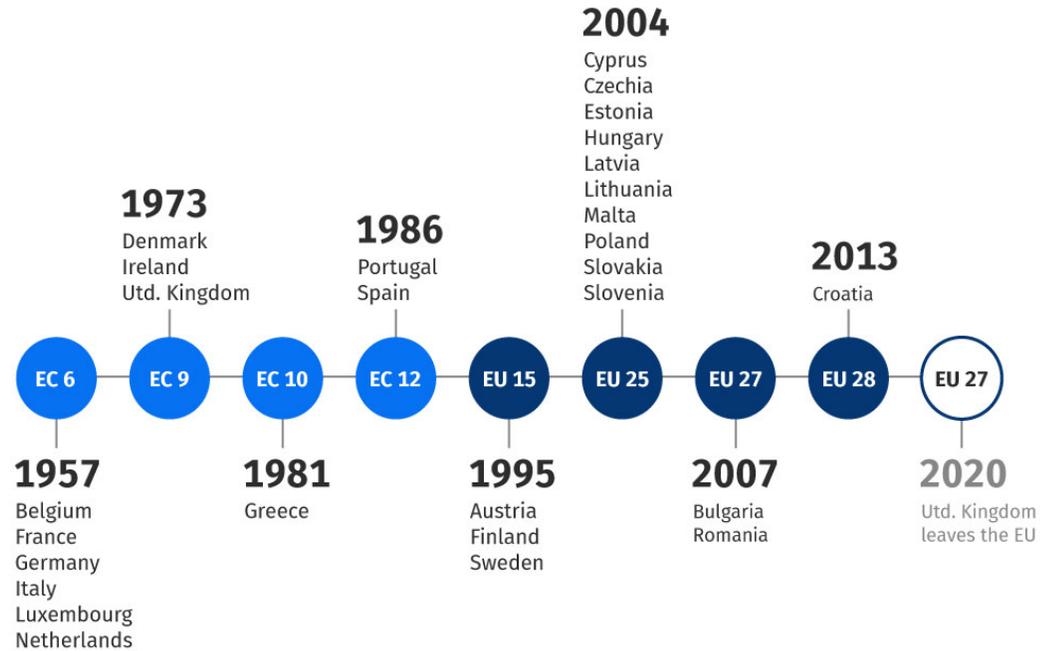
A 2020-2025 EU strategy for gender equality



1. Introduction – Emergence of new policies

European Union timeline

Year of entry to the European Community (EC) / European Union (EU)



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- Each enlargement wave has been motivated by a combination of economic and political ambitions.
- Gender equality is one dimension in this process.

2. Danuta Hübner, a profile from the Archives



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Outstanding women from Central and Eastern Europe significantly contributed :

- to the democratic transitions of post-communist countries following the fall of the Berlin Wall (1989).
- in shaping contemporary European values (such as freedom, democracy, solidarity, and human rights).
- in the process of European integration and EU Eastward enlargement

Examples: Dagmar Burešová, Olga Havlová (Czech Republic); Anna Kéthly, Ottilia Solt (Hungary); Doina Cornea, Ana Blandiana (Romania), Anna Walentynowicz , **Danuta Hübner (Poland)**

2. Danuta Hübner, a profile from the Archives

Fonds Danuta Hübner (DH) at the HAEU

Link: <https://archives.eui.eu/en/isaar/734>

- **3 successive transfers:** November 2018, November 2019, February 2023.
- composed of **multimedia files** produced from **1991 to 2022** during **her mandates in the Polish Government** during Poland's pre-accession to the European Union phase (**1994 – 2003**), as **Minister for European Affairs in the Government of Poland during the accession negotiations (2003- 2004)**, as **European Commissioner responsible for regional policy of the Barroso I Commission (2004 - 2009)** and as **member of the European Parliament** in the group of European People's Party (EPP) (**2009 - 2024**).
- **13 languages** : Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish



AEUI HISTORICAL ARCHIVES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Home

Danuta Hübner

- + Undersecretary of State in Ministry for Industry and Trade in Polish Government (1994 - 1996)
- + Polish Government Committee for European Integration (1996 - 1997)
- + Office of the President of Poland (1998 - 2001)
- + Polish Government Committee on European Affairs and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2001 - 2003)
- + Minister for European Affairs in Polish Government (2003 - 2004)
- + European Commissioner with responsibility for trade (05-11/2004) and regional policy (11/2004-07/2009)
- + Member of European Parliament (07/2009 -
- + Other activities
- + Honours and Personalia
- + Audiovisual collection



2. Danuta Hübner, a profile from the Archives

Born on 8 April 1948

1971 – graduated from the Foreign Trade Faculty of the Warsaw School of Economics.

1974 – PhD in in Western economics

1980 – habilitation in international economic relations, and subsequently – a post-doctoral degree in international trade relations

1988 – 1990 - she is Fulbright scholar at the University of California, Berkeley

1992 – she received the title of professor of economic sciences from the hands of Lech Wałęsa.

She authored numerous publications on economic activity research and development and she continued publishing also after her entry in public service.

An academic figure



2. Danuta Hübner, a profile from the Archives

In the years 1970–1987 she was a member of communist Polish United Workers' Party (PZPR)

1992–1996 Chairperson of the Council for Social Planning, Central Office for Planning

1994–1995 Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Co-author of the Government Programme *Strategy for Poland*

1994–1996 Under-Secretary of State in the Ministry of Industry and Trade

1995–1996 Chief Negotiator for accession to OECD

1996–1997 Government Plenipotentiary for establishing the Committee for European Integration (KIE), Secretary of KIE with the rank of Secretary of State and Head of the Office of the Committee for European Integration (UKIE)

1997–1998 Minister Head of the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland Aleksander Kwaśniewski

A public figure



2. Danuta Hübner, a profile from the Archives

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva (1998–2001)

1998–2000 Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

1998–2001 Economic Advisor to the President of the Republic of Poland Aleksander Kwaśniewski

2000–2001 United Nations Under Secretary General and Executive Secre, Genevatar, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

A diplomate



2. Danuta Hübner, a profile from the Archives

Return to government (2001 – 2004)

2001–2003 – Head of Office of the Committee for European Integration and Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

2003 – 2004 – Minister for European Affairs in the government of Prime Minister Leszek Miller.

In this capacity, she was the representative of the Government of Poland to the Convention on the Future of Europe.

A political leader



2. Danuta Hübner, a profile from the Archives

Member of the European Commission (2004 – 2009)

1 May 2004 – she was appointed a Member of the European Commission by the Polish government.

1st November 2004 – she became Commissioner for Regional Policy in the European Commission led by President José Manuel Barroso

2006 – 2007 – she served as member of the Amato Group composed by outstanding European politicians unofficially working on rewriting the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe into what became known as the Treaty of Lisbon following its rejection by French and Dutch voters.

European Commissioner



2. Danuta Hübner, a profile from the Archives

Member of the European Parliament (2009 –2024)

Elected by Platforma Obywatelska (Poland)

Chair

7th parliamentary term

20-07-2009 / 18-01-2012 : Committee on Regional Development

25-01-2012 / 30-06-2014 : Committee on Regional Development

8th parliamentary term

07-07-2014 / 18-01-2017 : Committee on Constitutional Affairs

24-01-2017 / 01-07-2019 : Committee on Constitutional Affairs

9th parliamentary term

25-01-2024 / 15-07-2024 : Delegation for relations with the United States

Member of the European Parliament



2. Danuta Hübner, a profile from the Archives

“Women’s politics looks different from men’s. Women’s politics is rational, participatory, inclusive. A focus on something that can be called social welfare, and in simplest terms, a holistic approach to politics” . (Danuta Hübner, 2007)

“ The women who prepared us to enter the EU were very numerous. They brought what women always bring: the opportunity to work together. And the EU is all about working together, about cooperation. (...) The EU is created for the citizens, and increasingly also by the citizens. And among them, half are women”. (Danuta Hübner, 2019)

Mother of Europe



3. Creating and disseminating new knowledge and sources



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For **researchers** the time has now come:

- to adopt an **interdisciplinary approach enabling them to integrate the experiences of the new Member States in shaping EU-instigated gender norms**. All, ‘new’ and ‘old’ alike, continue to be challenged to eliminate discrimination against women and in gender relations.
- to help **advance the research agenda** on the role of women in European cooperation through the creation of new sources, fostering a network of scholars and practitioners and producing high-quality scholarly publications.
- to explore the **under-researched second generation of women pioneers in European integration coming from the Central and Eastern Members States**, going beyond the dated conception of Europe’s ‘founding mothers’ and building on new approaches to gendering European integration history in the digital era.

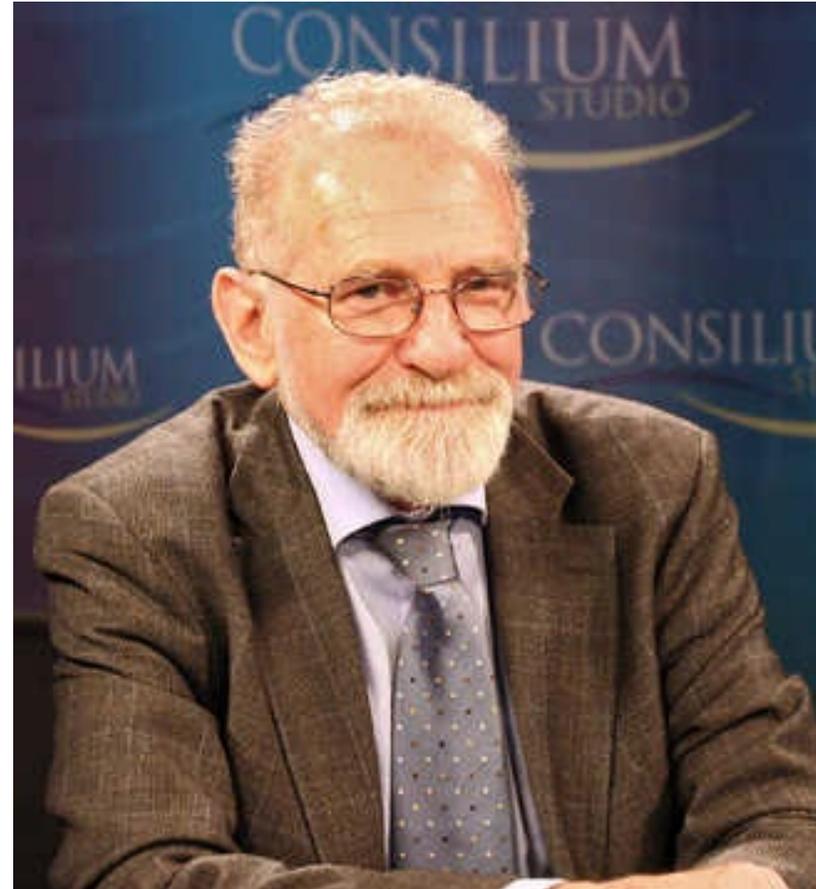
This is also the ambition of the research project **“The female face of Europe – hidden histories, transnational dynamics, new approaches”**, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, EUI Florence (2024-2025).

Mother of Europe



“The elimination of the EU’s internal borders is a sign of recognition that all the citizens in the states concerned belong to a single area, and that they have a shared identity.”

Bronislaw Geremek, address given in Schengen on 18 December 2007 (translated from the original French) Bronislaw Geremek, address given in Schengen on 18 December 2007 (translated from the original French)



[Interview with Bronislaw Geremek \(Brussels, 11 June 2008\) \(Length: 01:13:25\)](#)

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