Engendering the Race: How Gender Matters in the US Presidential Election

Gender does not begin to matter when Hillary Clinton enters the stage, or when her Republican opponent turns trumping misogynist lines into an effective campaign strategy. The political arena has always been a highly gendered space distributed according to complex and multifaceted, yet also shifting and adaptive mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion. This talk explores how gender matters impact on the 2016 presidential election by interrogating its multidimensional framework, ranging from the very institution of the presidency and conceptions of leadership to presidential rhetoric and media coverage of electoral processes. Why has the US presidency remained a male domain even as women have consistently been elected into high political offices during the last forty years? Political and media cultures alike, Sabine Sielke argues, have had their share in obstructing as much as driving democratic political participation.

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