3 Waves of Feminism

Anastasia Flouli, PhD Student

2017/10/18
What feminism is

• Feminism is a collection of political movements, social movements and ideologies that defend the political, the economic, the personal and the social rights of women.

• Feminist movements aim at achieving and establishing equality between women and men.

• Feminists act, speak, write and advocate on behalf of women's issues and rights and identify injustice to females in the social status quo.
What feminism is

Feminist: A person who believes in the social, political and economic equality of the sexes.
What feminism is NOT

• Feminism is not the belief that women are superior
• Feminism is not hating men (misandry)
• Feminism is not male oppression
Waves of Feminism

• The history of the feminist movements is divided into three "waves".
• The first wave refers to the movement of the 19th through early 20th centuries, which dealt mainly with suffrage, working conditions and educational rights for women and girls.
• The second wave (1960s-1980s) dealt with the inequality of laws, as well as cultural inequalities and the role of women in society.
• The third wave of feminism (1990s-2000s?) is seen as both a continuation of the second wave and a response to the perceived failures.
First-wave feminism involved a period of feminist activity during the 19th and early 20th centuries, especially in Europe and in the United States. Key concerns:

- women's suffrage (the right to vote)
- the right to education
- better working conditions
- marriage and property laws
- reproductive rights
First-Wave Feminism

Woman Suffrage Parade of 1913

Silent Sentinels 1917-1919
Second-wave feminism is a period of feminist activity and thought that first began in the early 1960s in USA and spread all over the western world and beyond.

Key concerns:

• raising consciousness about sexism and patriarchy
• raising consciousness about gender based violence, domestic abuse and marital rape
• inequalities in the workplace
• legalizing abortion and birth control
• sexual liberation of women
Third-Wave Feminism

The third wave of feminism (1990s-2000s?) arose partially as a response to the perceived failures of second-wave feminism

Key concerns:

• Intersectionality

• The diversity of "women" is recognized and emphasis is placed on identity, gender, race, nation, social order and sexual preference

• Changes on stereotypes, media portrayals and language used to define women.

• Sexual identities
Thank you for your attention!
Feminism in the 21st century

• What is the place of feminism in the world today?
• Does feminism have a place in your country?
• Do women in your country call themselves feminists?
• Is feminism “a bad word” in your country?