

## 2. Políticas, instituições e cidadania

### OC - (23160) - THREE GENERATIONS OF FEMALE POLITICAL ATTITUDES IN PORTUGAL'S DEMOCRATIC STATE

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In 1974 the Carnation Revolution ended Portugal's *Estado Novo*, an authoritarian regime that enforced conservative values, especially for women. After the overthrow of the nearly forty-year dictatorship, Portugal held their first democratic elections and abolished many gender-targeted political restrictions. However, despite many changes to Portuguese government, women continue to be politically underrepresented, especially at local levels. This study demonstrates how female political attitudes have changed since Portugal's *Estado Novo* through cross-generational oral histories of college-age Portuguese women, their mothers, and their grandmothers, and how these attitudes contribute to or hinder gender equality.

Portugal finds itself at a unique point in its history: college-age women grew up in democracy, their mothers during the transition to democracy, and their grandmothers in an authoritarian dictatorship. A comparison of these women, raised in the same family yet in radically different political environments, reveals interesting patterns about democracy and gender equality. Though many theories exist concerning female political attitudes, many fail to allow women to explain their political experiences and what they find limiting to their political participation. Giving women a chance to share their own attitudes addresses this issue.

Many Portuguese women who grew up during the authoritarian regime exhibited the conservative and traditional opinions that permeated the authoritarian rule. Their daughters have observed or participated in the creation of parity laws and gender quotas in the Portuguese government. The last generation (the college students) have just begun to enter, or avoid, the political arena. Their perspectives as potential leaders of Portugal shed light on whether the rising generation of women feels represented in politics and empowered to participate more than before. By understanding political attitudes on the ground we can develop better gender-inclusive policies and use this knowledge to propel women's future participation in politics in today's political environment.

**Palavras-chave : representation, gender equality, authoritarianism, oral history**