

The (Im)possibly Queer International Feminist Politics of Solidarity in Central and Eastern Europe

The current economic and politics crisis of the Eurozone has brought into focus the spatial dimensions of solidarity and the shifting nature of uneven regional development. This paper examines the gender and sexual politics of social and political solidarity in relation to spatially uneven development within the European Union. This author makes reference to recent debates in Human Geography on the relational politics of scale, networks and assemblage to pose questions of contemporary transnational gender and sexual politics. The author argues that these debates can enrich discussions of the gender and sexual politics of solidarity, by opening up new agendas for a critical engagement with the region within notions of European solidarity. This theoretical discussion of the regional dimension of sexual politics is grounded in a recent empirical study of transnational LGBTQ activism in Central and Eastern Europe. The paper concludes by evaluating the relative use of the territorial and relational geographical dimensions in theorizing the gender and sexual politics of solidarity in the European Union.