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WOMEN'S PRECARITY IN FRANCE

Gender Perspectives on Precarity and Precariousness

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Focus on trans womens' precarity*

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WOMEN'S PRECARITY

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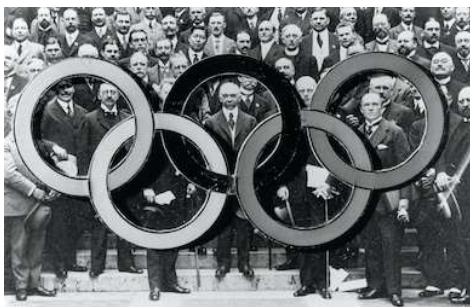


INTRODUCTION

Sports and gender...

- The *Phryges* : the mascots of the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Sporty, party-goers... and French.
- In the shape of Phrygian caps, they embody the French spirit, values and a strong symbol of our country.

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« The Olympic games must be reserved for men [...] a female Olympiad would be impractical, uninteresting, unattractive and incorrect »

Pierre DE COUBERTIN
1896

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Katherine Switzer, the first woman to run marathon in 1967

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Melissa Plaza, Phd. sports psychology, international footballer playing in D1 between 2003 AND 2016. Author of the book "Not for Girls"

"Once my bills have been paid, and despite housing benefits, the scholarship and my salary as a footballer, I don't have more than fifty euros a month left to eat and buy petrol. I am coping with this situation as best I can to cut back on the food budget, calculating every meal I can afford."

With her actual salary of 1500€/month, she estimates that she will get out of precarity in 2011

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Average salary of a female footballer in D1	Average salary of a male Footballer in D1
2300€	108 000€

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WOMEN'S PRECARIOUSNESS

Gender Perspectives on Precarity and Precariousness



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DEFINITION

Precariousness is :

« The absence of one or more of the security especially those employment [...] »

The resulting can be more or less extensive and have more or less serious and definitive consequences, it leads to extreme poverty when it affects several areas of existence »

Joseph Wresinski (1987) in a report for the Economic and Social Council in France

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POVERTY

POVERTY is a **state**, it is quantifiable.

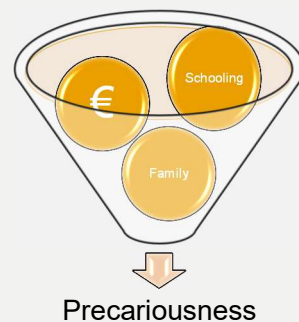


In France the poverty line for a single person is:

1158 € per month

PRECARIOUSNESS

PRECARIOUSNESS is a **process** it is more subjective



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Different areas of Precariousness

Education

Employment

Family

Housing

Healthcare

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Education

Among the younger generations,
women are significantly more
highly educated than men.

Figure 1 - Diplôme le plus élevé obtenu selon l'âge et le sexe en 2018

	25-34 ans		35-44 ans		45-54 ans		en %
	Femmes	Hommes	Femmes	Hommes	Femmes	Hommes	
Aucun diplôme ou certificat d'études primaires	8,4	9,8	11,0	12,8	16,8	16,7	
Brevet des collèges	3,7	4,3	3,4	3,6	5,2	4,1	
CAP, BEP ou équivalent	16,0	20,7	16,1	22,2	26,8	33,7	
Baccalauréat, brevet professionnel ou équivalent	20,9	22,5	20,3	21,0	16,7	14,4	
Diplôme du supérieur court (niveau bac + 2)	14,9	13,1	20,6	15,7	16,2	13,2	
Diplôme du supérieur long (supérieur à bac + 2)	36,1	29,6	28,6	24,7	18,3	17,9	
Ensemble	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	
Part de bacheliers ou plus	71,9	65,2	69,5	61,4	51,2	45,5	

Champ : France hors Mayotte, population des ménages, personnes âgées de 25 à 64 ans.

Source : Insee, enquête Emploi 2018.

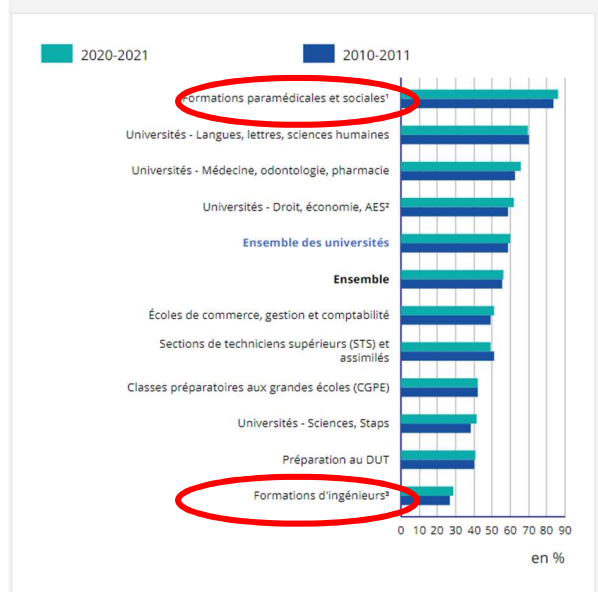
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Education

The proportion of women varies considerably depending on the field of study and the speciality / programme.

Women are less likely than men to opt for selective or scientific programmes, with the exception of health related studies.

Figure 1 - Part des femmes dans les formations d'enseignement supérieur



*Source : Mesri-Sies - systèmes d'information SISE et Sclarité ; enquêtes sur les établissements d'enseignement supérieur ; enquêtes spécifiques aux ministères en charge de l'agriculture, de la santé et des affaires sociales et de la culture. ¹³



If the level of education is a protective factor against precariousness, it is an imperfect protection for women

Employment

- ☐ More underemployment and unemployment
- ☐ More part-time work
- ☐ Less often managers and higher intellectual professions
- ☐ Less well paid
 - 80% of low-wage employees are women

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Family

Faced a family shock, the impact is always to the disadvantage of women. Women are more likely to fall into poverty than men as a result of separation or widowhood.

80% of single-parent families are lead by women

35% of these families live below the poverty line

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Housing

Lower incomes, material insecurity, domestic violence... are all factors that place women in situations of rupture, and by extension on the front line of the housing crisis.

Poor housing conditions

20 % of the French population

40 % Single woman with a child

45 % Single woman with 2 children

59 % Single woman with 3 children

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Healthcare

**Health at work : + 8% work accident
+ 41 % travel accident at work**

**Abandonment or postponement
of healthcare procedures : 64% are women**

**Higher expenses for care or health : contraception,
menstrual insecurity...**

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REFERENCES

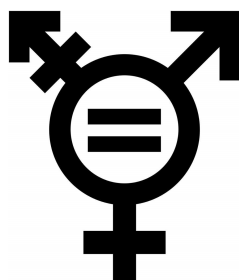
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FOCUS ON TRANS* WOMEN'S PRECARITY

*An intersectional
transfeminist
perspective*

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DEFINITIONS

Trans* and Transidentity

Trans* or transgender

"An umbrella term that encompasses a diversity of identities claimed by people whose gender identity does not correspond to the gender assigned at birth. These could be, for example, transexual people, transgender people, queer people women and men with a trans trajectory, non-binary people", genderqueer, genderfluid, etc.

Transphobia

"Refers to hatred and prejudice against trans people (...) who do not conform to the norms traditionally associated with their gender."

Source : « Définitions sur la diversité sexuelle et de genre », Coalition des familles LGBT, Chaire de recherche sur l'homophobie, UQAM, Gai écoute, Montréal.

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DEFINITIONS

Precarity from an intersectional perspective

"**Precarity** is not experienced by all. Rather, as Judith Butler (2009) notes, it is the **extreme state of precariousness** - a heightened exposure to institutional and social violence imposed on marginalized populations such as people of color, non-white immigrants, people of non-Christian faiths, and LGBTQ+ people. Nor does precarity impact the people in these groups evenly." (JENKINS, 2020)

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Trans* women precarity

Transgender women experience of precarity is rooted in the same patriarchal, heterosexist and gender binary system of distribution of power and resources as cisgender women.

The intersectional and transfeminist perspective allows us to identify the specificities of their situations and provides us with essential knowledge to better accompany them and address these issues.

Yet, there is a lack of researches, specific knowledge and data on trans* women's realities in all the areas related to precarity... Here is what we actually know.

Education... *no data*

Employment

Family.. *no data*

Housing... *no data*

Healthcare

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EMPLOYMENT and the WORKPLACE

UNEMPLOYMENT

In 2015 in France, **17,5% of trans* folks were unemployed** and **19,5% are on welfare** (which is equivalent of half of the income of the poverty line) (ALESSANDRIN, 2015)

This economic precarity and poverty has many root causes : discrimination in hiring processes, prejudices, transphobia, lack of knowledge and sensitization training... For transwomen, transmisogyny adds another layer of oppression.

VIOLENCE IN THE WORKPLACE

In a study by the European Human Rights Agency, **54% of trans* people** have been victims of **harassment and discrimination** in the workplace

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EMPLOYMENT and POVERTY

JOB LOSS

"28% of trans* people report having lost a job due to their transidentity"
(ALLESSANDRIN, 2020)

A Canadian study shows that transmen (12,9%) and transwoman (12%) were more likely to live in poverty than cispeople. 20.6% of non-binary people live in poverty.
(Statistics Canada, census 2021)

No data for France

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HEALTHCARE

DEPATHOLOGISATION OF TRANS* PEOPLE

"The removal of gender identity disorder from the list of **mental illnesses** in the 11th version of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11), adopted by the (...) World Health Organisation on 25 May 2019 is a welcome and overdue development for trans people all around the world,"
Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Dunja Mijatovic.

Great improvements in the legal framework at national and European levels. Better recognition and support for trans* needs and rights.

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HEALTHCARE

Access to healthcare and professionals is still extremely difficult in many regions in France (State's report 2022):

- **Waiting lists** for well trained professionals : general practitioners, surgeons, endocrinologists, psychiatrists, etc.
- **Refusal of care**
- **Lack of knowledge** and specific training / education
- **Persistence of prejudices** and misconceptions based on a refuted biomedical model perpetuating the *naturalist sex binary* paradigm (ex : testosterone creates aggressiveness ; transwomen are a danger to ciswoman ; etc.)
- **Few psychiatrists** are non-pathologising, even with ICD-11... Psychologists are not covered by social security and are expensive.

(PICARD, JUTANT, GUEYDAN, 2022)

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DISCRIMINATION

« In the last 12 months, were you discriminated based on your sexual orientation or transidentity? »

59% of trans* people

« Avez-vous été discriminé(e) dans les 12 derniers mois pour votre orientation sexuelle ou votre transidentité ? »

Unité : %

	Ensemble LGBTI	dont gays	dont lesbiennes	dont trans
Non	58	63	55	41
Oui	42	37	45	59
Ensemble	100	100	100	100

Lecture : 37 % des hommes homosexuels ayant répondu à l'enquête déclarent avoir été discriminés dans les 12 derniers mois en France à l'occasion d'au moins une des huit situations ayant fait l'objet de cette étude (travail, santé, loisirs, éducation, etc.).

Source : Agence des droits fondamentaux de l'Union européenne - Données 2019 - ©Observatoire des inégalités

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IMPACTS OF TRANSPHOBIA

(to name a few)

IMPACTS ON FRIENDSHIPS AND FAMILY

In a recent survey in France, trans* people said since transitioning, "they have lost one or more contacts with friends for (68,66% of them) and with one or more members of their family for 41.79% of them." (ALLESSANDRIN, 2020)

HIGHEST SUICIDAL ATTEMPTS AND RATE

France "56.34% of those questioned said they had experienced **depression** following transphobic acts or comments and 18.31% had attempted suicide." (ALLESSANDRIN, 2020)

"The lifetime **suicide attempt** rate for trans and gender non-conforming people averages at 41%" (Haas, Rodgers, & Herman, 2014 ; in JENKINS 2020)

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BACKLASH

The actual
crackdown on
trans* rights...

In France, powerful organizations are leading the crackdown on recently acquired rights for trans people. They are gaining a lot of publicity in the media and represent a real immediate threat to LGBTQI+ folks. Words used refer to a so called *trans pandemic*...

To prevent the setbacks, the trans community have been organizing protests everywhere in France since the beginning of May 2024.

With the rise of conservative ideas and of right wing political parties everywhere (if not clearly fascist ideologies), trans* women rights (moreover trans* woman of color and disabled trans* woman) are threatened in France, in Europe and in the World

As social workers and academics, what will we do about it?

Thank you for your attention

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