

TOVE PETTERSEN

Philosophy's Second Sex



Why are there so few women included in the history of philosophy? What are the consequences resulting from the fact that men have designed the vast majority of contemporary political and ethical theories? How can discrimination as well as equal treatment based on gender be philosophically justified? Are women the second sex of philosophy? And what is feminist philosophy?

In *Philosophy's Second Sex*, Tove Pettersen introduces feminist philosophy for students and others who are interested in gender, feminism and philosophy. She shows what it is, and how it can be used both in analyzing various texts and of a gendered reality.

Pettersen discusses Plato, Aristotle, Hume and Kant's theories of gender. A separate chapter is devoted to women's place in the philosophy of history, in which Catharine Trotter Cockburn, Sophia and Harriet Taylor are presented. Simone de Beauvoir's ethics and her views on gender differences are discussed, and both care ethics and feminist ethics are presented. Other key themes are the connection between gender, justice (local and global) and political philosophy, and the relationship between feminist philosophy, postmodernism and relativism.

The book is structured as a collection of essays, which can be read independently of each other. Seen together, they nevertheless reveal a development from women's position in ancient philosophy to the challenges feminist philosophy faces in our contemporary, globalized world.

Tove Pettersen is currently a professor of philosophy at the University Oslo. For years she has been teaching and supervising philosophy students, and she is the former director of research at the Ethics Program. Pettersen's fields of research are feminist philosophy, moral philosophy and ethics, and she specializes on the ethics of care and Simone de Beauvoir's philosophy. She is also working on applied ethics, political philosophy and philosophy of history. She frequently gives guest lectures and seminars at other academic institutions, and has participated on national television and radio programs on several occasions. Tove Pettersen has published books and several articles within her field, nationally as well as internationally. Some of her works have been translated into French and Italian. Recent interviews with the author are available at <http://eng.kilden.forskningsradet.no/c52778/nyhet/vis.html?tid=75899> and <http://zorgethiek.nu/serie-internationale-zorgethici-14-tove-pettersen/>



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