

SUMMARIES

- *Hannie van Horen Verhoosel*
'A bona trobairis'

Courtly lyrics of female troubadours in southern France in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries

The *trobairitz*, usually high-ranking noble women who were known as *domna*, are the female poets of courtly lyric. They can be regarded as the female counterparts of the troubadours, the lyric singers and poets of courtly love, a culture that flourished in the courts of southern France in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Their work fits almost completely into the socio-poetic code of the male troubadour love lyric. The writing of a courtly chanson caused a double-edged problem for the *trobairitz*: in the first place they must make their mark in a male dominated genre, and they must also adapt the courtly code of that genre, bound as it was by strict formality and inflexible rules, to their own situation. This meant they must replace the man as the active and articulate lover, and manoeuvre him into the passive role of the 'beloved'. The central question of this article deals with the breaching of the traditional courtly code and its consequences for the gender identity of the *trobairitz*, for their chosen perspective and the manner in which this breach acquired shape in the formal vocabulary of courtly lyric.

- *Edith Kuiper*
Time to change tack

On gender and the economic crisis

This article states that gender played a crucial role in the economic crisis by the way masculine behavior and firm policies were directed

to competition for short term profit maximization and incomes. Economic science, using financial terminology and theorizing the status quo, is here perceived as too intertwined with international finance to be of great help in providing useful analyses during the breakdown of the financial system. Moreover, the absence of women in the Board and trading rooms, that to a large extent caused the narrowing of perspective as observed, can also be identified in the main economic departments. Here competition for publications and quotations has replaced the economists' contributions to the public debate and policy advise. The author argues that an effective strategy may be to bring in women on a large scale in high positions in Banking, business, universities and politics, and change the models of economic behavior of managers, policy makers, consumers and the economy along with it.

- *Renée Römken*
Rightly concerned

This paper is a summary of the inaugural lecture presented as Chair on Interpersonal Violence, in particular violence in the private domain, at Tilburg University. It addresses shifts in perspective on domestic violence over the past thirty years in the Netherlands. Domestic violence has moved from an activist concern in the political margin to a mainstream concern in legal and policy developments. The paper focuses on shifts in legal regulation, and critically addresses the criminalization of domestic violence. Empirical evidence underlines unintended and at times counterproductive consequences of the

(criminal) law in action, certainly from a victim's perspective.

From a Foucauldian perspective it is argued that domestic violence has moved to the center of a multi-faceted disciplinary and self-disciplinary regime. At the same time, however, criminal law tends to have increased its power, despite its limited effectiveness. It is argued that this illuminates structural dynamics of the legal system as a uniquely powerful legal disciplinary regime.

► *Sawitri Saharso*

Beyond the cultural confinement

New intercultural governance

Contained in the nowadays dominant view that migrants and their integration constitute a first order social risk because of their different moral values is the idea that migrants, women in particular, are passive victims of incomprehensible cultural imperatives. Discussion of various cases of deep moral diversity, e.g. sex selective abortion or female genital cutting leads to the conclusion that even in these cases women are driven by motives we can understand. Social norms can make it rational for individuals, Western and non-Western alike, to want things, which are harmful to them or their daughters. This opens up possibilities for cross-cultural solidarity. Taking into account the social circumstances that incite people to unwanted behaviour allows for more effective intervention than a mere cultural explanation.

Governments try to promote the integration of migrants. European research on the Islamic headscarf suggests that countries have their own historical traditions of including citizens into the nation. These concern not only the inclusion of migrants, but broader categories of citizens and correspond with nation-specific institutional arrangements

which cannot, however, be reduced to one underlying national system. What policy best promotes the integration of migrants still has to be researched, preferably through a comparative institutional approach.

► *Josje Weusten*

A critique of a romanticized discourse on motherhood

Murderous mothers in Dorrestein's *Een hart van steen* and Rasker's *Met onbekende bestemming*

In contemporary Dutch society, white middle-class and heterosexual motherhood is often normatively framed in terms of enjoyment. In contemporary Dutch literary fiction, however, this motherhood is regularly problematized. This offers an interesting tension, which begs the question of how such literary images of motherhood relate to the discourse of enjoyment. This article unravels the relationship between two bestselling Dutch novels which both detail the story of a mother who commits infanticide, and the discourse of enjoyment. The novels are *Een hart van steen* (2003[1998], translated into English in 2001 as *A Heart of Stone*) by Renate Dorrestein and *Met onbekende bestemming* (2003[2000], translated into English in 2002 as *Unknown Destination*) by Maya Rasker.

A contextual, narratologically inspired, and comparative reading of the novels is offered, which leads to the conclusion that both novels – and particularly *Met onbekende bestemming* – may to a certain extent be read as cultural critiques of the discourse of enjoyment surrounding white heterosexual motherhood in the middleclass. This holds to a greater extent for *Met onbekende bestemming*, which is the result of the fact that readers of this novel are stimulated to identify with the mother who kills her daughter.