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THE LANGUAGE OF GENDER-BASED SEPARATISM

A Comparative Analysis

Veronika Koller

Lancaster University

Alexandra Krendel

Lancaster University

Jessica Aiston

Lancaster University



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Veronika Koller, Alexandra Krendel, Jessica Aiston
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One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
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The Language of Gender-Based Separatism

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Veronika Koller
Lancaster University

Alexandra Krendel
Lancaster University

Jessica Aiston
Lancaster University

Author for correspondence: Veronika Koller, v.koller@lancaster.ac.uk

Abstract: This Element shows how two social movements and networks, lesbian separatism and Men Going Their Own Way (MGTOW), reflect the changing and complex (anti-)feminist ideologies of their time. The authors outline the historical and political background of those discourses and how they are influencing contemporary gender relations.

The materials analysed comprise ten manifestos, which are examined with a combination of data-led discourse analysis and theory-led argumentation analysis. The manifestos are similar in that both sets of authors construct homogenous in-groups and out-groups as well as dichotomies between them. There are some differences though in how this is linguistically realised and who is classified as an out-group. Both groups cast social actors in particular roles and establish ethical norms, but strategic planning and utopias are more prominent among lesbian separatists. Freedom, advantage and authority are central in each group's argumentation, but lesbian separatists also stress humanitarianism while MGTOW focus on financial matters.

Keywords: feminism, manosphere, manifestos, social movements, lesbian discourse

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