

Questions for Gender and Feminist Politics at the Turn of the Twenty-First Century

Fraisse, Exclusive Democracy

Why, according to Fraisse, are “morals” not a sufficient explanation of women’s exclusion from representation in French politics?

What does she mean when she says “modern democracy is forgetful”? How, does she argue, is women’s exclusion from politics in French democracy different from that of women’s exclusion in ancient Greece? What do you think of her distinction?

Why, according to Fraisse, has the right to vote had so little impact on women’s levels of representation in French politics?

Why does she object to the notion of the French model being “particular” and argue, instead, that it is “paradigmatic”?

What is the problem with the “parité” law in contemporary France, according to Fraisse? What do you think of her argument?

Gaspard, Khosrokhavar, The Headscarf and the Republic

What are the principle objections that the authors raise to the law forbidding the wearing of Islamic headscarves in French public schools?

What point are they trying to make when they say that “the headscarf is a French phenomenon”?

Do you think that the decision to weak a headscarf could be categorized as “feminist” in certain situations?

Why do you think that this issue so controversial in France as opposed to the U.S., where it has never been a matter of controversy or public debate?