Gender and Politics in Finland

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- Gendered structures do not always benefit men...
- Child custody vs. pay differentials
- Multidimensional domestic violence
- Men at the top and the bottom of the class hierarchy, vomen "in the middle"

...except in politics. Where men re

n 1906, the first in the world, women were allowed to vote and run for national elections in Finland



irst female minister in 1926

irst female president 2000

he number of women has increased, pecially since 1970





...behind this is the Finnish female image: in a poor agrarian society, a woman is primarily seen as "a good workman"

- Finnish folklore filled with strong women
- Women active in non-governmental organizations already in the 19th century
- "Two-provider model" is seen as normal





After 110 years, there is still work to do:

- Women in elections with fewer candidates and smaller campaign budgets
- About 40% of MPs female, even though majority of voters are fem
- •17 ministers, 5 females, only malin the first chain

Men are more often experts:

- 2/3 of the committees' experts are men
- 3.4% of experts interviewed by media in the context of the financial crisis were women
- Segregation of expertise: men's expertise (economy, defense, zoning) is more valued than women's expertise (family, health, culture)

Things can change, however, if we choose so:

ast year's best plenary session speech slots went to men: omen's representatives got their turn after ministers and edia left for coffee break

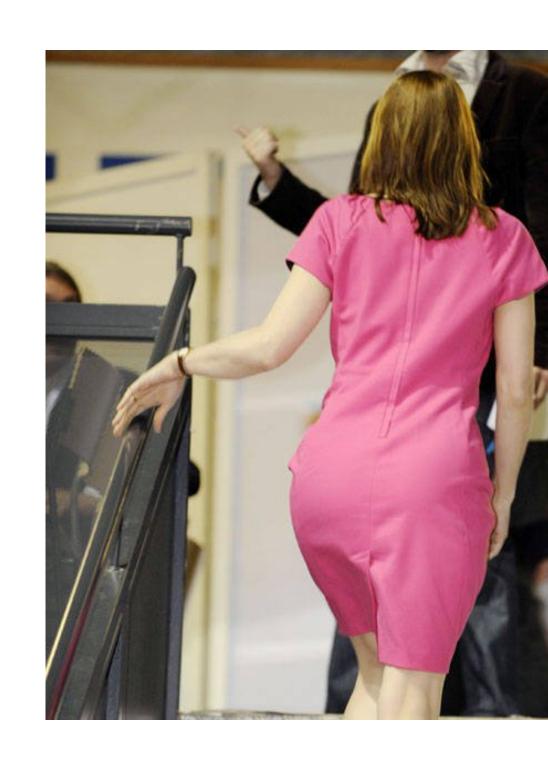
he new female chairman dismantled this practice and now ares the speaking turns on basis of gender representation

exism and chauvinism are sappearing, though slowly

ppearance pressures

arassment in parliament is ninishing

till: the new hate speech is ected at female politicians



But why is it important? Doesn't opinions count in politics, not gender?

is long as gender determines our world of experience matters

The whole idea of democracy is that, from a different point lew, society seems different - and that the wisest decisions quire everyone to participate

..and if gender roles some day disappear, there are many her divisions in the queue: class, ethnicity, health, etc...

Thank you

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