

SUMMARY

The book „Difference matters” treats the issue of diversity through the lenses of socio-cultural anthropology and feminist studies. The first chapter reconstructs the formation of the disciplinary frameworks of this analysis, underlies concepts and debates, and draws attention to ways, in which basic dilemmas were passed through during their history. Eventually it emphasizes that the social practices – which create differences/ inequalities –, and the cultural concepts on diversity/ exclusion of otherness are sustaining each other, and a gender order is generated at the crossroads of the discursive and institutional constructions of gender, and of the subjective experiences of femininity and masculinity. The second chapter observes, that under some conditions, ethnicity might be the identity that matters most and ethno-national politics dominate the public sphere, but – in other moments – it is gender that dominantly structures people’s life and social relations, and feminism becomes a legitimate politics. Nevertheless, it stresses the role of the latter in recognizing multiple identities, which matter in the individual’s life, and in defining a new politics of difference. The last chapter discusses the ways, in which gender and ethnic order are articulated in Romania in people’s everyday life, observing as well the identity categories and the related social positions offered/ imposed by the socialist and post-socialist regimes to/ on its citizens. It highlights

that these processes are embedded in broader power structures, acquire meanings and significance within a larger social and cultural order, and investigates the symbolic aspects and the material consequences of the processes, which transform difference in inequality.

Recognizing that – under the conditions of globalization and transnational processes – socio-cultural diversity continues to be a constant preoccupation for the elites of identity politics, but also a challenge for everyday co-existence, the volume is a testimony of the theoretical, empirical and critical potential of feminist anthropology in studying it across borders.