

METROPOLIS 2006

Workshop: Gender, citizenship and migration: making national and transnational connections

4 October 2006

MULTIPLE BELONGINGS: loyalty and integration in immigrant women's discourses



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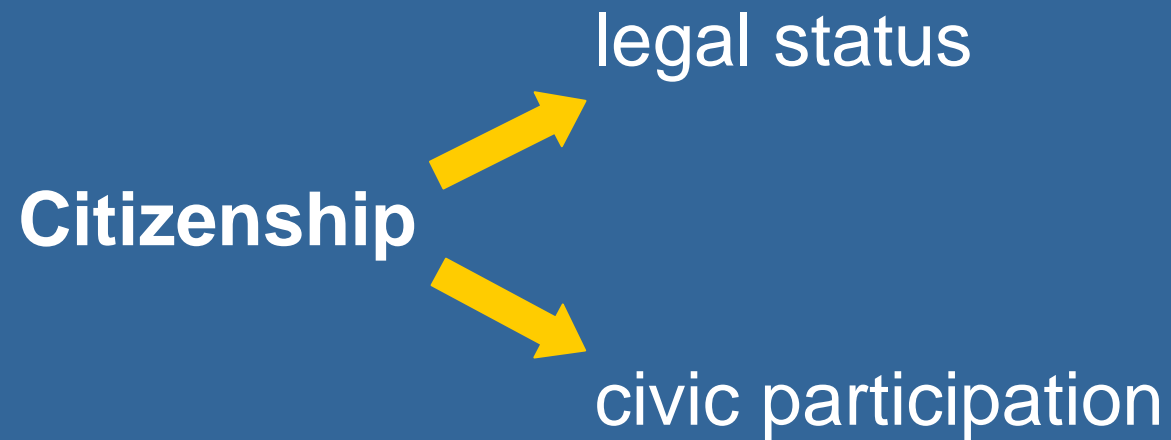
Framework

- work in progress aiming at understanding immigrant women's contributions to the transformations in the notions of citizenship (Portugal);
- formal and informal political actors.

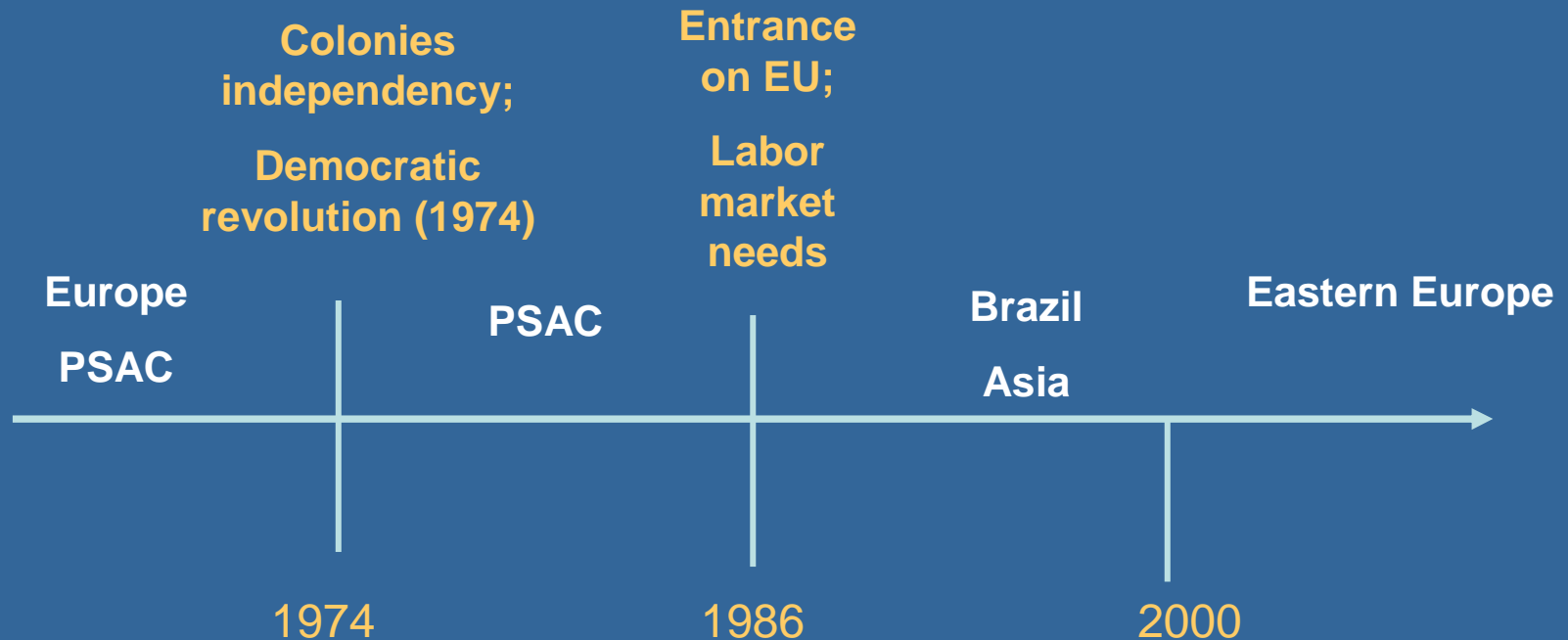


- micro-level perspective

Framework



Migration to Portugal



Portuguese Migration Policy

«Migrants come to improve their life conditions, but they also have an important role on our development. So it is our duty to offer them minimum conditions of subsistence and integration. This duty is not exclusively grounded on ethic and humanist criteria; it is also grounded in relevant national motives: insufficiently integrated migrants, unstable, with social problems, are a factor of perturbation and contribute to feelings of insecurity. The compensation of this duty of national community towards immigrants is their duty to conform to the minimum constitutional rules of social coexistence.»

Socialist Party, Government program, elections 2005

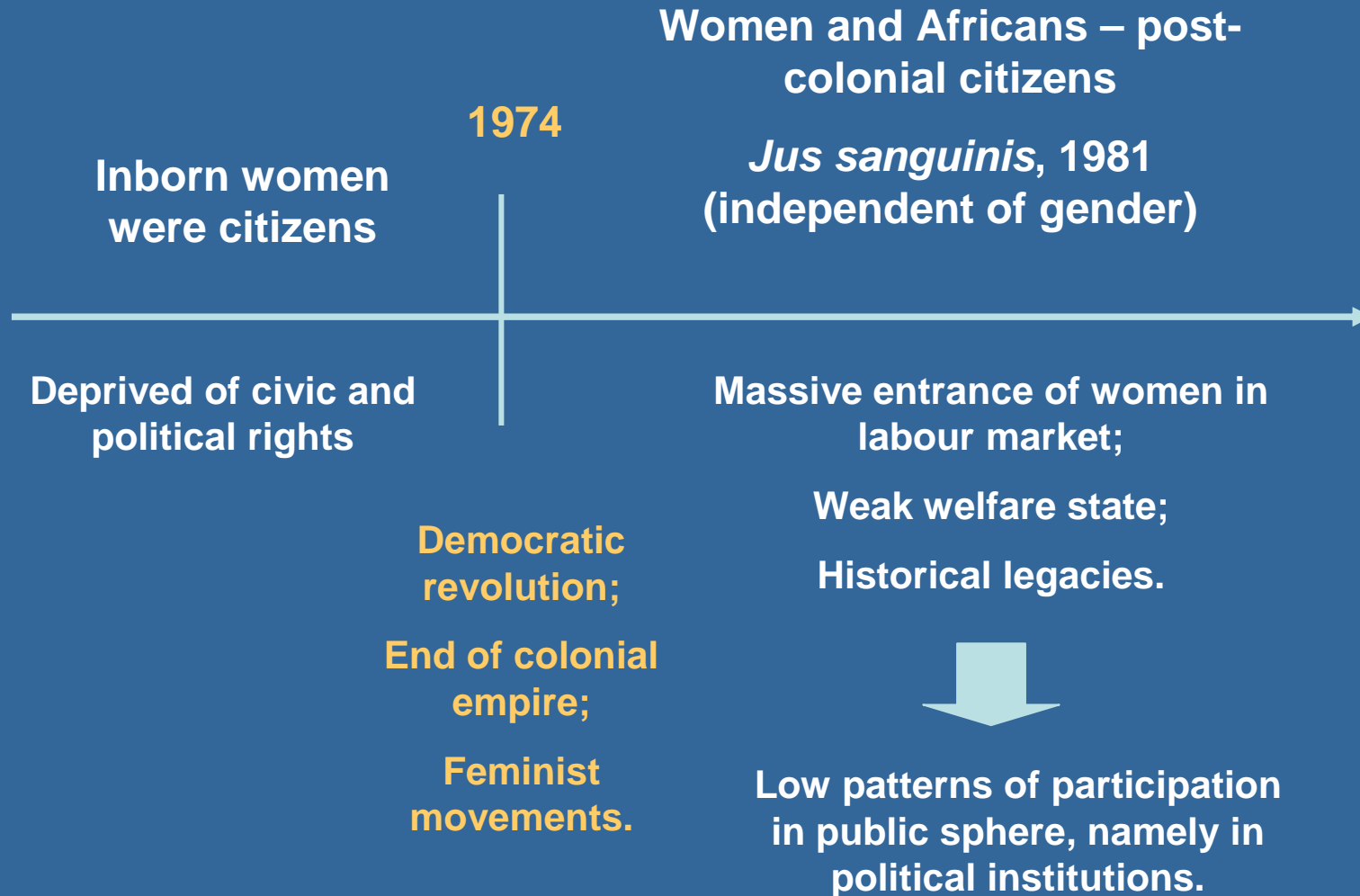
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Number of immigrants with *residence permit* by country and gender (2004)

	Men 2004		Women 2004	
	Nr.	%	Nr.	%
Ukraine	598	44	755	56
Romania	613	54	526	46
Russia	394	35	720	65
Moldavia	559	61	356	39
Cape-Verde	31.015	56	24.314	44
Angola	14.508	55	11.954	45
Guinea-Bissau	13.873	67	6.933	33
Sao Tome and Principe	3.758	48	4.077	52
Mozambique	2.662	53	2.334	47
Brazil	13.615	48	14.772	52
Total	143.205	55	119.318	45

**Source: SEF –
Foreigners and
Borders
Department in
Wall et al. 2006**

Portuguese history of women's rights



Collective identities?

«We belonged, we were all citizens of the Portuguese colonial empire and therefore we circulated freely...» [#9]

«I only feel immigrant when truly I feel some animosity from the other. [...] I guess immigrants are the ones who don't feel this land as their country.[...] I do not feel an immigrant maybe because I didn't come for improving my life conditions. When I left, I was very well there, I can't complain. Only I thought I needed, I came looking for other life conditions, I came for knowledge. [...] Maybe that's why I do not feel as an immigrant.» [#5]

«[I don't feel as an immigrant] because the reasons why I migrated are different from most of Brazilians who come to Portugal; because I went to other countries before and I left a better life in Brazil than the one I have here. That's why I don't have the profile [of an immigrant]. Generally Brazilians migrate seeking for a better life, for me it was the opposite (laugh), I seek adventure, something different, to know other things.» [B#3]

Politically active women

«Look, suddenly they realised streets were full of black spots.» [#7]

«[about political concerns] I would say human: education, health, human rights»

«[...] I prefer to work on immigration issues. That's what I like the most. But I also work on, I'm a teacher, on education issues, equality of opportunities issues as I am a women, so women and handicapped issues. These are the two subjects I prefer, immigration and handicapped, social issues, civilizational...»

«My life is here, [...] So, I'm a person without the right to vote, because I'm not going expressly to Moldavia to vote... I would like to take part in the life of this country once I'm here...»

Non-active women

«I only came to Portugal because I've made a research and this was where it was easier to get the visa. I only came for the document.»

«If I had Portuguese citizenship, I would have European passport, I could go to Italy. I could work, make the exam in dentists order. I could have a better job, to earn more money. And I could pay the university, which is expensive»

«I get to know it (House of Brazil) by the web and I came because of the lawyer. Because I didn't had the money to pay a particular lawyer. Then I became friend of everyone [...] but there aren't only Brazilians, you know there are capeverdians...»

«I do not have any engagement with the Portuguese community, but I like Portugal a lot. But it is that non-compromised kind of like. I do not have any political or economic concern. I do not care with any of those things»

Final remarks

Settlement country

Home country

CITIZENSHIP
(pragmatism)

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graph LR; A[CITIZENSHIP (pragmatism)] --> B[Right]; A --> C[Opportunity]
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Right
Opportunity

CITIZENSHIP → identity
(loyalty)

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