

REZENSIONEN

ERRATUM

In Heft 2/2025 der *Femina Politica* waren in der von Angela Wroblewski verfassten Rezension der Studie „Multidimensionale Geschlechtergleichheiten im akademischen Mittelbau: Arbeit, Karriere, Perspektiven“ (Wiesbaden 2024) von Lisa Mense, Ulla Hendrix, Sophie König, Heike Mauer und Jennifer Niegel die Namen der Herausgeberinnen Ulla Hendrix und Jennifer Niegel falsch geschrieben. Das ist uns in der redaktionellen Arbeit nicht aufgefallen, so dass die Fehler sowohl im Inhaltsverzeichnis als auch im Titel, in der Rezension selbst und bei der bibliografischen Angabe erscheinen. Wir bitten um Entschuldigung!

Gabriele Abels, Johanna Kantola, Emanuela Lombardo, Henriette Müller (Eds.)

The European Commission under President Ursula von der Leyen: Gender, Leadership, Policies, and Crises

PETRA DEBUSSCHER

In their edited volume, *Gabriele Abels, Johanna Kantola, Emanuela Lombardo and Henriette Müller* offer the first systematic feminist analysis of the first von der Leyen Commission (2019-2024). The volume carefully bridges feminist institutionalism, leadership analysis, and EU studies to unpack how gender and equality policies have evolved – and sometimes stalled – during the first Commission presidency led by a woman. Through the lens of what the editors term “critical actorness” the book interrogates both the transformative potentials and limitations of the Commission’s commitment to gender and intersectional equality.

The von der Leyen presidency was marked by unprecedented challenges and compounding crises, prompting important questions about the Commission’s imprint on European integration and governance. While von der Leyen’s broader agenda and crisis management have been widely studied, her deliberate push for a “Union of Equality” remains understudied. Yet it marks an innovative shift in EU governance: it advances a distinct vision for Europe, sets an orientation for action, and reframes equality as central to the Union’s legitimacy. The editors stress that the historical significance of her presidency extends beyond the symbolic importance of being the first woman in this powerful role, as it symbolizes a crucial normalization of women’s presence in historically male-dominated EU leadership positions, even as the complexities of translating symbolic representation into lasting transformative policies remain significant. While von der Leyen does not identify as a feminist,