



Sexuo-economics in Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1860-1935)

Jessica Harmening
University of Paderborn

In her book *Women and Economics* Charlotte Perkins Gilman terms the “sexuo-economic relation” to mean the exact opposite of a healthy economic relation.

She considers this relation to be an important factor in the evolution of the human species. In the human species, the sexuo-economic relation impeded the development of female members of the human race, rendering their intellectual and moral capacities underdeveloped, while stimulating sexual development in both sexes. Although there was once an advantage to the society by establishing the sexuo-economic relation, it is obsolete now. The result of the unnaturally maintained sexuo-economic relation is the “servant-motherhood” and the overall economic dependence of women upon men, caused by excessive individualism, the sexualization of industrial relations and the commercialization of sexual relations.

Primary Sources:

Gilman, Charlotte Perkins 1989. *Women and economics. A study of the economic relation between men and women as a factor in social evolution.* Boston: Small, Maynard & Co. URL: <http://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/gilman/economics/economics.html> [11|10|2017].

Gilman, Charlotte Perkins 2016. *Women and economics.* Leipzig: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform.

Secondary Sources:

Bobock, Bert 2008. *Women & evolutionary economics. A comparison of Thorstein Veblen's*

"Theory of the leisure class" and Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "women and economics" in historical perspective. GRIN Verlag.

Diamond, Mary Ann 1995. The economics of Charlotte Perkins Gilman, in Diamond, M. A. (ed.): *Woman of value*. Aldershot: Elgar, 124-150.

Lane, Ann J. & Meyerling, Sheryl L. 1990. *To "Herland" and beyond. The life and works of Charlotte Perkins Gilman*.

Murphy, Julien S. 1995. The economics of Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1860-1935), in Waite, Mary Ellen (ed.): *A history of women philosophers. Contemporary women philosophers, 1900-today*. Dordrecht: Springer, 51-68.

Scharnhorst, Gary 1985. *Charlotte Perkins Gilman*. Boston: Twayne Publishers.

Keywords:

sexuo-economic relation, economic relation, sexual relation, servant-motherhood, economic dependence, evolution, commercialization