

Title:

Old Age – Simone de Beauvoir’s Interdisciplinary Analysis

Abstract:

Freedom and oppression are key themes throughout the philosopher Simone de Beauvoir’s entire body of work. Also in *The Coming of Age* (1970), in which Beauvoir puts forward a comprehensive philosophical analysis of the phenomenon of old age, freedom and oppression are central. Based on phenomenology, existentialist ethics and feminist theory, Beauvoir explains how the opportunity to live a good life is restricted by marginalization and discrimination of the elderly, and also the unique existential challenges old age has for the individual. In this talk Pettersen will demonstrate how Beauvoir in her complex study of old age undertakes an interdisciplinary and also intersectional analysis by paying attention to multiple axes of challenges related to aging. Pettersen will also discuss why such an approach to aging is necessary.

Bibliography:

Tove Pettersen is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Oslo, Centre for Gender Research where she currently is Head of Studies. She specializes in Feminist Philosophy and Feminist Ethics, especially in the Ethics of Care and the Existential Ethics of Simone de Beauvoir. In 2012, she received the Norwegian award "På Kantens-prisen" for her work in feminist philosophy. She also works with topics related to Moral and Political Philosophy, History of Philosophy, and the Philosophy of Ageing. She has published books and several articles within her field, both in English and Norwegian, and her articles have been translated into French and Italian. From 2016-2019 Pettersen was President of The International Simone de Beauvoir Society, and the organization's Chair of the Boards of Directors. She is a member of the Editorial Board of *Simone de Beauvoir Studies*, from 2015-2017 she was on the Academic Board of the Erasmus+ project “Gender and Philosophy: Developing learning and teaching practices to include underrepresented groups” (GAP), and from 2019 Member of The Norwegian Centre on Healthy Aging.