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Happy Homes, Happy Society?

The Contribution of Domestic Life in a Time of Social Changes

The impact of domestic happiness on public space

Agnieszka Nogal, Head of the Political Philosophy Faculty at the University of Warsaw

The thesis of the text is that in liberal political philosophy there are no tools to conceptualize the relation between homes and society. In order to analyze the impact of the home on the public sphere, one must depart from the liberal model of the public sphere and turn towards classical thought and virtue concept. Such a turn will be examined in the text using arguments formulated by Martha Nussbaum and Sibyl Schwarzenbach, allowing one to supplement the specific "lack" of liberalism with the space of the home treated as a space of civic education.

The argument will be divided into three main parts. In the first one, liberalism will be reconstructed and the liberal model of the public sphere will be distinguished. The weaknesses of the liberal model of the public sphere will be indicated, in particular its failure to take into account the influence of homes. Critical arguments against the liberal model of the public sphere will also be presented.

The second part presents the return of classical inspirations, using the example of the contemporary, recognized philosophical and political paradigm put forward by Martha Nussbaum. The author argues that political philosophy should be supplemented with a model of civic education.

In the third part, the classical elements of Sibyl Schwarzenbach's political philosophy will be identified. The author argues that education is connected with care as exercised by the people closest to us. Thus, it should at least partially take place at home and cannot be limited to the influence of the state in the public sphere.

The conclusion summarizes the arguments that in order to perceive the influence of houses on the public sphere, one has to depart from the one-sided liberal model, which only perceives fully formed equal citizens. We should turn to the classical model, which appeals to paideia, and thus to shaping citizens constantly from an early age. From this perspective, it turns out that homes are essential to public spaces, as they are where not only children but future citizens are brought up.

*Full papers are being prepared for publication. Further details to be announced.