RENÉE ANDERSSON (b. 1979) is a PhD candidate in political science. She has taught political science and social studies, including public administration and gender studies. She is interested in theoretical and empirical issues regarding feminist public administration, local government and gendered violence. This is her doctoral thesis.

Gender equality should be understood as the political and social goal of equal rights between the genders, with power, resources and opportunities being equally distributed. One contemporary strategy for achieving gender equality is gender mainstreaming, which can be described as a strategy to increase gender equality in states and other institutions and/or to make them more gender aware. In this thesis the strategy of gender mainstreaming is investigated with the aim of producing a critical perspective and empirical knowledge about whether, and if so how, gender mainstreaming contributes to a more (gender) equal society. The empirical focus is on local government in Sweden, and the case is a local government gender mainstreaming project. Theoretical frameworks from discourse theory and new feminist institutionalism are mobilized, and the emphasis in on discourses and on the silences within them. To study "what is not there" in the empirical material, the concepts of *silences* and *silencing* are used as both theoretical and methodological tools. The study thereby responds to the need to investigate *the doing* of gender mainstreaming. Using material from interviews, observations and documentations, the inherent problematics in gender mainstreaming are studied from different angles.

RENÉE ANDERSSON Gender mainstreaming as feminist politics

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