

Call for Abstracts

Conference: Politiken der Reproduction – Politics of Reproduction

27th - 29th March 2017, Kulturzentrum Pavillon, Lister Meile 4, Hannover (Germany)

The working group of institutions for Women's and Gender Studies in Lower Saxony (Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Einrichtungen für Frauen- und Geschlechterforschung in Niedersachsen – LAGEN) is hosting an international and interdisciplinary Gender Studies conference in March 2017, which marks its tenth anniversary. Under the heading of "Politiken der Reproduktion – Politics of Reproduction" the conference investigates key issues within the field of Women's and Gender Studies – in particular questions of production and reproduction of gender and social gender relations. Based on a broad understanding six interdisciplinary panels explore diverse aspects of re_production with reference to social gender_relations in their contested and contradictory nature: "biographies", "care", "configurations of humans und machines", "spaces", "world views" and "knowledge and institutions".

1. Biographies

This panel analyses biographical constructions in terms of processes as well as results from the perspective of Gender Studies. Possible are both empirical as well as theoretical papers, gladly from intersectional perspectives. The following topics are possible:

- gender relations as frameworks for biographical constructions, e.g. social division of labour in/of production and reproduction, work and family, public and private spheres,
- gender relations from an individual perspective against the backdrop of spatiotemporal structures of actual settings and/or generational and regional everyday perceptions,
- individual biography as field of action: movement selectivity in the context of social space, e.g. with regards to migration,
- biographical construction of gender / construction of self as gendered being,
- aspects of political governance of biographies.

Responsible: Prof. Dr. Heike Kahlert (Ruhr-Universität Bochum), Dr. Bärbel Miemietz (Medizinische Hochschule Hannover), Prof. Dr. Corinna Onnen (Universität Vechta).

2. Care

"Care" is an early established and contested area of feminist research (e.g. "pay for domestic work", subsistence economy or outsourcing of care as migrant women's work) as well as a highly dynamic

social field. “Care” is used to discuss questions of labour, ethics, affects, identity formation (gender, ethnicity, class, ...), politics and sociality.

The panel invites all participants to sort through and debate care and caring as policy and practice, both of which are always shaped by ontologisation, ambivalences, conflicts and power relations. Thus, for example, “caring” and “protection of life” (be that of women, children, LGBTs, migrants, refugees, ...) might develop into an ethics that determines international politics within the context of post colonial intervention regimes, while simultaneously stabilising existent rule as well as having a violent effect. We welcome (power)critical analyses and investigations with regards to the above outlined dimensions and problems. In addition to cultural and sociological research perspectives we are particularly interested in areas of research in which care as subject of investigation remains on the periphery, such as, for example, in the context of sustainability sciences.

Responsible: Dr. Sabine Bohne (Universität Vechta), Mirjam Dierkes (Hochschule Hannover), Prof. Dr. Sabine Hess (Universität Göttingen), Prof. Dr. Helen Schwenken (Universität Osnabrück).

3. Configurations of humans und machines

Machines and technologies change work, life and sociality. Often the problem definitions of technical products are only in line with specific social groups or follow gendered stereotypes. The human/nonhuman ensembles in research processes have so far rarely been investigated with regard to their implicit and explicit gendering.

This panel aims to contribute to the understanding of processes that cause these in- and exclusions and moreover target at avoiding them. We invite diverse approaches to this question that will be linked through joint discussions.

Intersectional gender analyses of the interplay of humans (e.g. users, affected persons, developers) and machines (e.g. drug development, computer science, medical and automotive technology) and their scientific foundations (e.g. modelling, simulation, experiment) are as welcome as Media Studies perspectives or methodical approaches for technology design.

Responsible: Prof. Dr. Corinna Bath (TU Braunschweig/Ostfalia Hochschule für angewandte Wissenschaften) und Prof. Dr. Bettina Wahrig (TU Braunschweig).

4. Spaces

Spaces are structured through material and social processes. They constitute themselves through action and are characterised through in- and exclusion. They thus present historically developed mediation relationships of material and discursive elements on differing levels of measurement.

The CFP of this panel addresses the diversity of feminist debates on space(s) and asks amongst other things about:

- the contribution of Gender Studies to the analysis of possibilities and limitations of appropriation of space,
- strategies of self positioning, society’s space and role allocation, and possibilities of space and border transgression(s),

- theoretical and empirical studies on (inter)relations between space and gender as well as further categories of social injustice,
- practical, political and planning consequences, resulting from the theoretical debates on “doing gender” – also beyond heteronormative gender orders,
- the link between the categories space and gender with other categories such as body, time, mobility, materiality, etc.

Responsible: Prof. Dr. Helene Götschel (Hochschule Hannover), Prof. Dr. Tanja Mölders (Leibniz Universität Hannover), Dr. Nicole K. Strohmann (Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien Hannover).

5. World Views

Through the emergence of among others new-religious and ethnic movements, fundamentalisms, the development of the internet with its possibilities of trans-local networking and the diversification of the religious landscape in the last two decades, religions in general as well as religious belonging and practices have gained importance. This has led to a controversial debate about the issue of secularisation and to a questioning of the dominance of secularist interpretations of the world. These developments are intensely interspersed with social power-relations, due to which gender and other categories of differentiation – as for example sexuality and ethnicity – have gained prominent positions. In the context of these issues various movements and trends will be further illuminated with the aid of concrete studies on religious communities and practices. The proposed papers should therefore include a gender-theoretical perspective with reference to one of the following research questions:

- epistemological and methodological aspects with reference to religion, religiosity and secularism,
- Judaeo/Christian/Islamic-religious residues in Western science,
- genealogical discussions about the terms “secularism” and “religiosity”,
- religion as another category of difference within in the “canon” of intersectionality,
- possibilities of a broader intellectual diversity.

Responsible: PD Dr. Sabine Grenz (Universität Göttingen), Prof. Dr. Susanne Rode-Breymann (Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien Hannover).

6. Knowledge and Institutions

Gender-knowledge and institutional conditions are closely interrelated. Feminist critique is based on the insight into and understanding of the fundamental gender hierarchy in the production of knowledge within the contexts of institutions as well as specialist disciplines. It furthermore critically explores the gendering of institutional structures via formal and informal laws and rules, discourses and practices, which themselves are subject to dynamic change(s) through altered gender-knowledge. Thus, in the course of their own institutionalisation Women’s and Gender Studies themselves have played a significant part in the production and constitution of (hierarchical) knowledge production.

This panel will focus on the analyses of processes of change with regards to gender-knowledge and its regulation as well as processes of reproduction of gender orders in organisations, institutions and profession. These aspects will also be investigated with regards to structural solidifications and signs

of subversive dynamics. Finally, the panel aims to critically reflect on practices of intervention and adjustment performance.

Responsible: Prof. Dr. Kathrin Audehm (Universität Hildesheim), Dr. Sylvia Pritsch (Universität Oldenburg) und Juliette Wedl (Braunschweiger Zentrum für Gender Studies)

Languages: Conference languages will be German and English, meaning papers as well as contributions to discussions are welcome in both languages. We encourage contributors to choose the language they feel most confident in. We are fully aware that the idea of internationalisation and the language-defined possibilities of expression exist in a non-resolvable state of tension and have thus decided to opt for a side by side of both languages, acknowledging that this of course always implies a compromise.

Submission of proposals: Please submit your proposal (length max: 2.500 characters including spaces), responding to one of the above outlined questions and indicating the panel allocation, by **23rd September 2016** via the appropriate document ("Formular zur Beitragseinreichung") on www.nds-lagen.de.

If you have any further questions or queries please contact Dr. Beate Friedrich verbund@nds-lagen.de or Joerdis Grabow lagen@nds-lagen.de

Further information on LAGEN: www.nds-lagen.de.