



Angela Davis Gastprofessur
für internationale **Gender und Diversity Studies**

JULY
5-15
2021

ANN PHOENIX

ANN PHOENIX

Angela Davis Guest Professorship in International Gender and Diversity Studies

In 2013, the Cornelia Goethe Center for Women's Studies and the Study of Gender (CGC) established the Angela Davis Guest Professorship in International Gender and Diversity Studies. The Guest Professorship serves to promote international and interdisciplinary collaboration in the fields of Gender and Diversity Studies.

The inauguration by its namesake, activist, public intellectual, and scholar Prof. Angela Davis, attracted considerable public attention both nationally and internationally. Following professors Chandra Talpade Mohanty (2015) and Amina Mama (2018), this year's Angela Davis Guest Professorship will be held by Ann Phoenix.

Ann Phoenix is Professor of Psychosocial Studies at the Institute of Education, University College London (UCL). After studying philosophy,

economics and psychology, she obtained her PhD in 1991 with a study on mothers under the age of 20. This was followed by a stint as Senior Lecturer in Psychology at the Open University and as Co-Director of the Thomas Coram Research Unit at the University of London, until she was appointed Professor of Psychosocial Studies at the Institute of Education, University College London. In 2014, Ann Phoenix was honored with membership in the British Academy and the Academy of Social Sciences in recognition of her outstanding scholarly achievements. She has been and continues to be an internationally sought-after visiting professor. With her passion and commitment to critical, empirical, and intersectional research and teaching, Ann Phoenix has inspired scholars and students worldwide.

When Black Lives Matter All Lives Will Matter

In September 2020, Ann Phoenix published a blog together with graduates from UCL, under the headline "When Black Lives Matter All Lives Will Matter". The authors make the case for engaging in difficult conversations, taking a stand against systemic racism, acknowledging the diversity of racisms, and reflecting on what decolonization means not only for education but also for the state and society in general. They emphasize that conversations in which Black voices are given space can bridge social divides. But this, they say, requires effort and courage. To bring about lasting change, universities would have to change fundamentally: in terms of students, employees, and curricula. In short, in terms of the entire organization.



Intersectionality Research

Ann Phoenix is one of the most internationally prominent scholars in the field of intersectionality studies. The connection between subjectivity and social structures is as central to her work as the intersection of race, gender and class as dimensions of inequality. She expands this intersection case-by-case to include further categories relevant to the particular context of inequality. In numerous international research projects and a vast array of publications, Ann Phoenix deals with the topics of motherhood and family, school and racism, childhood and youth, poverty and migration. The connection between intersectionality and Black feminism is a common thread running through her work.



For me it's not possible to think about Black feminism without thinking about intersectionality. Black feminism was an inclusionary project. It was quietly saying, look, we, in our multiplicities are here as well. But it was also saying - this is a mode of thinking, this is a way of understanding the social world.

Childhood, poverty, migration

How children cope with challenging family relationships, poverty or relationships shaped by migration is one of the central research questions for Ann Phoenix. For example, she studies children's 'language brokering' – translation services by children that are associated with



shifts in power positions and generational relations both within and outside the family. Another focus of her work is gender socialisation, which she believes can only be understood intersectionally. Children learn from an early age that gender differences between Black men and women are different from those between white men and women. Experiences of racism shape and permeate gender differences.

We are all always multiply located, and the different categories to which we belong decentre each other, but always operate together, so that nobody is ever one gender position, one racialised position and so on.

ANN PHOENIX

School and Racism, Black Masculinities, Black Femininities

School and school education function as social place-makers, which is another reason why intersectional studies of everyday school life and its experience are central. Ann Phoenix's research on Black masculinities shows that Black boys struggle with interaction cultures and a recognisable student habitus negatively impacting their school performance. Black girls, on the other hand, perform better in school, but are often devalued by (white) teachers because their performance of femininity is measured against norms associated with whiteness. Education, according to Ann Phoenix, is structured by complex relations of inequality that differently distribute possibilities and ideas of who we can become.



ANN PHOENIX

PUBLIC LECTURES JULY 8, 2021

The ties that divide us: Rethinking psychosocial positioning as local, national and global?

Much feminist scholarship over the last 60 years has pointed to the ways in which family members are bound together in unequal relations of power. Particular family forms are sanctioned by state policies in ways that make them structures of economic and socioemotional support for many. In the social sciences, social ties are often considered central to social activism, recruitment to social movements and even social cohesion. However, the complexity and contradictory nature of social ties has often been left unattended. This inaugural lecture explores the ways in

which social ties are necessarily intersectional. Those tied are necessarily positioned in multiple social categories, locations, temporalities, processes, and structures. Multiple positionings make for contradictions in power relations and imbue ties with differences and divisions that are local, national, global, and located in histories. The lecture draws on contemporary events such as the COVID-19 pandemic, Black Lives Matter, and women's rights to safety. It argues that ties simultaneously divide and bind and that, as feminist scholarship has long shown, the personal is not individual. Far from being reason for pessimism, the lecture concludes that recognition of divisions provides productive space to rethink psychosocial and intersectional divisions and ties in hopeful ways.

More information can be found on the website of the event <https://www.cgc.uni-frankfurt.de/en/244255/angela-davis-guest-professorship-inaugural-lecture/>

JULY 15, 2021

The indispensability of Intersectionality: Living through unexpected transformational conjunctions

The 2020s constitute a period of global turmoil in which attempts to ‚build back better‘ will have to start from the recognition that it marked a period of unexpected transformational conjunctions. Movements to redress social inequities gained unprecedented recognition because of COVID-19; the murder of George Floyd in the USA and climate change activism all forced inequalities into popular consciousness and enabled different accounts to be heard in mainstream media. These three issues were not unitary, but signifiers of complex, polyvalent issues that must be understood

intersectionally. It is not surprising that already burgeoning theorisations of intersectionality were both taken up and disputed. This lecture argues for the indispensability of intersectionality to understanding these issues and that these transformational conjunctions also help to move on theorisations and applications of intersectionality. It theorises the big picture that characterises inequalities in 2021 and the complexity of gendered inequalities in that picture. It punctuates that big picture with research examples from a range of research studies including transitions to motherhood for Muslim, white and black mothers environment in the lives of families, and boys and masculinities. The lecture will argue that such everyday examples are central to understanding the big picture of the polyvalence of gendered, racialised, ethnicised relations.

More information can be found on the website of the event

<https://www.cgc.uni-frankfurt.de/en/244290/angela-davis-guest-professorship-lecture/>

EVENTS FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY

JULY 5 – JULY 15, 2021, 4 Units, 9 am – 1 pm

Seminar:
Thinking through Intersectionality: Situated multiplicity in process

You can find more information on the dates, content and registration for the event on the website in the electronic course catalogue <https://www.cgc.uni-frankfurt.de/247081/angela-davis-gastprofessur-seminar-mit-ann-phoenix/>

JULY 13, 2021

Fireside Chat

The informal setting of the fireside chat is intended to provide a special space for personal and open questions about research areas, career decisions, successes and failures and strategies for overcoming them, as well as social relationships and networks.

More information regarding registration and format can be found on the website of the event <https://www.cgc.uni-frankfurt.de/en/244309/angela-davis-guest-professorship-fireside-chat-with-ann-phoenix-on-13-07-2021/>

THE CORNELIA GOETHE CENTER

The Cornelia Goethe Center for Women's and Gender Studies (CGC) is an interdisciplinary and internationally oriented academic center for women's and gender studies at Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, currently involving nearly 40 professors and numerous staff members from ten departments. The center was founded in 1997 and named in 2000 after Cornelia Goethe, the gifted sister of the Frankfurt University's namesake. Today, it is one of the largest and most established gender research centers in Germany. The center's research focuses on care and migration, transnationalisation and social movements, gender justice and diversity, social inequalities as well as biopolitics, body and gender.



With its international conferences, workshops and subject-specific events, the center provides space for scientific exchange as well as international cooperation and networking. With event formats such as the interdisciplinary Cornelia Goethe Colloquia, a lecture series on changing topics,

and the Angela Davis Visiting Professorship, the center reaches a broad public. The center's participation in the Goethe University's Citizens' University and the work of the center's Circle of Sponsors are also crucial to its public impact.

The Center offers an interdisciplinary bachelor's minor in Gender Studies and a master's level certificate program in Gender Studies to students.

SUPPORTED BY



Cornelia Goethe Centrum
für Frauenstudien und die Erforschung
der Geschlechterverhältnisse



FÖRDERKREIS



The Cornelia Goethe Center for Women's and Gender Studies (CGC)

Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main
Theodor-W.-Adorno-Platz 6
PEG-Gebäude, 2. Stock, R. 2.G 154
60629 Frankfurt am Main
E-Mail: CGCentrum@soz.uni-frankfurt.de
Homepage: <http://www.cgc.uni-frankfurt.de>

Academic host: Bettina Kleiner (Faculty of Education)

Conception: Bettina Kleiner, Helma Lutz, Marianne Schmidbauer

Coordination: Mandy Gratz

Layout: Miguel Pardo



Angela Davis Gastprofessur
für internationale **Gender** und **Diversity Studies**

ANN PHOENIX
JULY
5-15
2021



Cornelia Goethe Centrum
für Frauenstudien und die Erforschung
der Geschlechterverhältnisse



FÖRDERKREIS



GRADE Center
Gender



**GLEICH
STELLUNGSBÜRO**
Goethe-Universität
Frankfurt am Main



**FREUNDE
DER UNIVERSITÄT**



**GOETHE
UNIVERSITÄT
FRANKFURT AM MAIN**