GRADE Center Gender

PROGRAM

WINTER SEMESTER 2019/20
Overview

Workshops
22.11. 13-18h PA P22
Claire Colebrook: How (not) to think in/corporeal feminisms and environmental post/humanisms

06.12. 09-17h SH 5.108
Imke Lode: Poster Design and Presentation

16.01. 10-14h SH 3.105
Jack Halberstam: Wildness

Poster Session
12.02. 18-20h SH 3.105
Helma Lutz & Marianne Schmidbaur: Semester Closing Ceremony with Poster Presentation

Fireside Chat
11.11. 18-20h SH 3.105
Saskia Sassen

Cornelia Goethe Colloquium
Wednesdays 18-20h PEG 1G191
Trans*Formationen

Past Events
12.10. 10-14h SH 5.101
Josef Barla, Pat Treusch, Christoph Hubatschke: Diffracting AI an Robotics: Decolonial and Feminist Perspective
How (not) to think in/corporeal feminisms and environmental post/humanisms

Claire Colebrook (Penn State University)

Description

What are we talking about when we talk about matter, sexual difference, the body and in/corporeality in feminist theory? What role does environmentalism play for posthumanisms and the environment for the post/human? In what ways do and don’t posthumanisms and new materialisms tie in with trajectories of feminist theory? We seek to explore these and further related questions through engaging with the work of Claire Colebrook.

Colebrook makes an instructive contribution to feminist (new) materialisms by developing a genealogy that does not build on a critique of representationalist accounts of materiality. Instead, she discusses the early writings of Rosi Braidotti, Elizabeth Grosz and Luce Irigaray. Colebrook highlights that it is already in their theories of ‘sexual difference’ that they theorize matter and representation non-dualistically. While affirming the new materialist critique of phenomenology and poststructuralism, for Colebrook, the main issue with the de-corporealization of the body and matter is not a textualist, linguistic, postmodern and constructivist tradition of feminism. She rather develops a concept of matter as a positive, in/corporeal event that is neither ‘the other’ of representation, nor a negated origin.

In her more recent work, Colebrook develops a critical account of posthumanisms in the Anthropocene. She argues that the biopolitical management of life posthumanist theories criticize and the ecological redemption they advocate are two sides of the same coin. Colebrook argues that insofar as finding the culprit for ecological threats and extinction – be it the Anthropos or Capitalism – entails the promise of a better humanity; the human becomes destroyer and preserver at once. According to her, posthumanisms promise to extinguish (the humanist idea of) Man through a turn to an ecological notion of life that reconciles the human with his environment. However, projections of survival based on this understanding are always anthropomorphic modes of existence that (re)enact (the humanist notion of) the human.
These two strains of theory in Colebrook’s work will be explored by engaging with key texts that present and discuss the respective arguments during two sessions of a one-day-workshop. Our discussions will be guided by the participants’ particular interests in Colebrook’s thinking, as it becomes relevant in their own research. The workshop is rounded off with a concluding reflection that traces the intriguing manner of thinking that runs through Colebrook’s engagement with both thematical complexes.

Bio

Claire Colebrook is Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of English, Philosophy, and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Penn State University (Pennsylvania, USA). She wrote numerous articles and books on the philosophy of feminist new materialisms and Gilles Deleuze, sexual difference, feminist ethics and representation as well as more recently on extinction, time and futures. Currently, she is completing a book on the fragility of the species, the archive, and the earth.

Further Information

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Poster Design and Presentation

Imke Lode (ProSciencia, Lübeck)

Description

The contents of the workshop are input units as well as various application-oriented individual and group exercises on the following topics:

- General aspects regarding purpose, audience, story of your poster
- Poster content; planning your poster
- Poster layout and text; poster illustrations
- Oral presentation skills of your poster, e.g. body language, use of your voice
- Question & Answer session; “what if …” and other challenges
- Gender specific and diversity-sensitive aspects of posters and their presentation.

The workshop is characterized by the fact that theoretical input is interlocked with practice and applied immediately. Participants should either bring a poster with them, digitally on their laptop, so that they can continue working on the poster directly, or print images and texts for a poster, which they can integrate into a layout.

The aim of the workshop is for the participants to improve an existing poster in the course of the workshop or to develop first steps and elements for the layout of a new poster. The workshop documents, which are made available to the participants as pdf files, ensure that they can continue to use what they have learned as a resource for further posters in the future.

The workshop will take place in English and German and the posters can also be created in either language.

Registrations until 22.11. via e-mail.
Wildness

Jack Halberstam (Columbia University)

Description

Wildness is a great category with which to think. It references all at once the opposite of civilization; the idea of unsorted relations to knowledge and being; nature after nature; queerness after and before nature, and life as an encounter with both the bio-political forces of being and the necro-political forces of unbecoming. We will start by locating wildness as a disorderly and disordering discursive frame and then move to the topics of decolonial bewilderment, race and sexuality, anarchy and destitution, animal politics.

Readings


Bio

Further Information

In addition to an input lecture by Jack Halberstam and a discussion of the texts, you will also have the opportunity to discuss your own theses and dissertations as well as current research projects in related areas during the workshop. For this purpose, please send us a current abstract of your work until the registration deadline.

Registrations until 05.01.2020 via e-mail.
Semester Closing Ceremony with Poster Presentation

Helma Lutz & Marianne Schmidbaur (Goethe University)

Description

The GRADE Center Gender brings together young scientists from a variety of disciplines and subject areas. Their research focuses on a wide range of gender studies issues. In order to provide an insight into the projects of its members, this semester the GRADE Center Gender is organizing its first graduation ceremony at which young scientists present their (ongoing or finished) projects as part of a poster presentation.

To prepare the presentation, the GRADE Center Gender is offering a workshop on poster design on December 6, in which participants can either design new posters or continue to develop existing ones (see above). The students will present the posters created in the context of that workshop at the semester closing ceremony.

Therefore, we cordially invite all members of the Center to sign up for the workshop and the poster session to present their projects to interested scientists.

We are also looking forward to welcoming all those who are interested in getting to know the work located at the GRADE Center Gender and who want to join Helma Lutz, Marianne Schmidbaur and GRADE Gender members in celebrating the end of the semester in a relaxed setting.

Please register for the event via e-mail by February 5, 2020.
Fireside Chat with Saskia Sassen

Saskia Sassen (Columbia University)

Fireside Chats

In our fireside chats we invite academics and public figures to speak about their biography and their motivations in an informal setting. These meetings also provide the space for networking among the participants.

Bio

Saskia Sassen is the Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology at Columbia University and a Member of its Committee on Global Thought, which she chaired till 2015. She is a student of cities, immigration, and states in the world economy, with inequality, gendering and digitization three key variables running through her work. Born in the Netherlands, she grew up in Argentina and Italy, studied in France, was raised in five languages, and began her professional life in the United States. She is the author of eight books and the editor or co-editor of three books. Together, her authored books are translated in over twenty languages. She has received many awards and honors, among them multiple doctor honoris causa, the 2013 Principe de Asturias Prize in the Social Sciences, election to the Royal Academy of the Sciences of the Netherlands, and made a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres by the French government.

Further Information

The event will be hosted by Prof. Dr. Helma Lutz.

Saskia Sassen will also hold the celebratory lecture of the commemoration event ‘100 Years of Sociology at the Goethe University Frankfurt am Main’ on the following Tuesday, November 12, 2019.

Registrations until 07.11.2020 via e-mail.
**Trans*Formationen**

**Dates**

23.10.
Veronika Magyar-Haas: Zur Vulnerabilität des Selbst im Transformationsprozess

13.11.
Chris Quinan: Theorizing Gender at the Border: Biometric Technologies and Trans and Non-Binary Subjectivities

27.11.
Lann Hornscheidt: Exit Gender

04.12.
Joris A. Gregor: Wenn der rote Faden Knoten schlägt. Queering Biographicity als method(olog)ische Antwort auf die spätmoderne „Komplexitätsoxidation“

11.12.
Tamás Jules Fütty: Transformationen biopolitischer Grenzen: am Beispiel intersektionaler Lebens- und Todespraktiken zu Trans*

15.01.
Jack Halberstam: Exit Routes: On Dereliction and Destitution

29.01.
Yv Nay: Zugehörigkeit(en) im Trans*-Aktivismus

05.02.
Podiumsdiskussion: Geschlechtliche Vielfalt in KiTa, Schule, Hochschule und Jugendarbeit – bildungspraktische Perspektiven zur „dritten Option“
Diffracting AI and Robotics: Decolonial and Feminist Perspectives

Josef Barla (Goethe University Frankfurt), Pat Treusch (TU Berlin), Christoph Hubatschke (University of Vienna)

Description

In December 2018, the EU Commission published a draft report entitled Ethics guidelines for a trustworthy AI with the aim to address a technology that according to the commission will thoroughly “alter the fabric of society” in the near future. In a striking way, at the very moment intelligent machines are supposed to become a reality, the question what it means to be human and what sociality entails seems to become the focal point in the call for a “human centered” robotics and AI. While recent research more and more demonstrates that robots, algorithms, and AI often perpetuate gender and racial biases along with social power relations, the question arises how social power relations, bias, and interests built into ‘intelligent’ machines and programmed into AI—both intentionally and unconsciously—could be identified and deprogrammed, in order to get to more just and inclusive futures.

This workshops shall spark a dialog between early carrier scholars from different disciplines critically exploring questions of de/coloniality, social justice, response-ability, dis/ability, and techno-biopower, to name but a few, as well as potential challenges for decolonializing, feminist, queer, crip, and other critical scholars in engaging with ‘intelligent’ machines, code, and algorithms.

Further Information

The workshop was part of the symposium “Diffracting AI and Robotics” taking place at Goethe University on 11 October 2019. The keynote address was given by Mitali Thakor, Science in Society Program, Wesleyan University.

The symposium and the workshop were jointly organized by Josef Barla (Goethe University Frankfurt), Pat Treusch (TU Berlin), and Christoph Hubatschke (University of Vienna). For more information, please contact Josef Barla (barla@soz.uni-frankfurt.de).
Further Information

Registration
You can register for the workshops via e-mail unless stated otherwise.

Workshops are open to (advanced) Master Students, PHDs and PostDocs. The lecture series is open to the general public.

Membership
More Information on how to become a member of GRADE Center Gender can be found on our website.

Current Projects
A selection of current research projects by members of the center is available here.

Organizational Information
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