

Online Workshop – October 20, 2020; 3-6 pm (CEST)

#4GenderStudies: Building Transnational Feminist Solidarities in Academia

Organized by **Margherita von Brentano Center for Gender Studies** (www.mvzb.fu-berlin.de)

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Meeting Information

The workshop will take place via **Cisco Webex Meetings**. The link(s) will be sent a few days in advance.

We kindly ask you to install Cisco Webex Meetings on your desktop or mobile device in advance:

<https://www.webex.com/de/downloads.html>

Description of the event

On the eve of the fourth edition of the Science Day #4GenderStudies (December 18, 2020), the Margherita von Brentano Center for Gender Studies (MvBZ) offers an online workshop. The idea of the Science Day #4GenderStudies started in 2017 with the intention to show Gender Studies in all its diversity and to portray its scientific potential at the academic and social level. This year the workshop is set to strengthen the international networks of Gender Studies, as well as solidarity and agency as an academic and scientific community.

In recent years, Gender Studies has experienced increasing threats from several sides: anti-feminists and right winged groups are on the rise, which accuse Gender Studies and activists of a so-called "gender hysteria". Gender Studies is forced to justify and defend themselves, what is not expected from any other research field. Our answer to this is an increased visibility of researchers and their work, as well as strong mutual support. We call for solidarity: a unified bond between different scientific and geographical communities.

With the workshop, the MvBZ takes steps towards an international network. In the course of the digital event, various topics will be presented and discussed by a group of participants. The agenda ranges from reflection on the inner-university structures and power gaps in knowledge production to questions of how solidarity can be created and shaped. The workshop creates a space in which ideas can be explored, new connections can be made and first steps of planning projects together can be taken.



Program:

Introduction

3-3.15 pm: Welcome, Organization, Technical Advices (Sabina García Peter and Nina Lawrenz)

Part I: Inputs

- #4GenderStudies in Germany

3.15-3.30 pm:

Paula-Irene Villa Braslavsky (Ludwig-Maximilians Universität München, Germany): *'Gendergaga' & #4genderstudies - Populist diffamation and how to confront it from within academia*

Margreth Lünenborg (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany): *How to Address a Wider Audience with Public Knowledge from Gender Studies in Germany?*

- International Perspectives on the Current Challenges for Gender Research

3.30-3.45 pm:

Chelsea Schieder (Aoyama Gakuin University, Japan): *The Current State of Gender Studies in Japan: Conflicts, Co-optations, Cooperation's.*

3.45-4 pm:

Erzsébet Barát (University of Szeged, Hungary): *Illiberal Threats for Gender Studies and Critical Thinking in Hungary*

4 -4.15 pm Q&A

Break

4.15-4.30 pm

Part II: Discussion Rooms*

4.30-5 pm: Round 1 (choose between Rooms 1 to 5, see List below)

5-5.30 pm: Round 2 (choose between Rooms 1 to 5, see List below)

Summary

5.30-6 pm: Short Summary and Conclusion: Foundation of a Transnational Feminist Solidarity Network for Academics?



***Notes for Part II: Discussion Rooms:**

There will be 5 parallel discussion groups on different subjects and 2 discussion rounds á 30 minutes, so that each participant can visit 2 of them. Everyone is free to choose her*his preferred topic for each round, but we kindly ask you not to change rooms during the 30-minutes discussion rounds. In each group, there will be a responsible person that guides the process and summarizes the discussion.

To help us with the organization, we ask you to indicate in the following [List](#) which 2 discussion rooms you would prefer to participate during the second part of the workshop.

Room 1: Science Day #4GenderStudies 2020 (18.12)

Moderation: Magdalena Beljan (Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Frauen- und Geschlechterforschungseinrichtungen Berliner Hochschulen)

In this room the concrete planning for the Science Day #4GenderStudies on 18.12.2020 will take place. We want to initiate projects, concretize ideas and exchange ideas about our communication strategies.

Room 2: Transnational Feminist Solidarities

Moderation: Inga Nüthen (Philipps-Universität Marburg)

In this room we would like to explore the theoretical and empirical challenges of transnational feminist solidarity. What does feminist solidarity mean in different regional contexts? How do concepts of solidarity differ - within academia and in coalition with other social actors? Which strategies and concepts can we use to express transnational feminist solidarity? How can we challenge transnational and intersectional power relations within (feminist) academia?

Room 3: Attacks from the Far-Right and Defense Strategies

Moderation: Heike Pantelmann (Freie Universität Berlin)

In the third room, we take a look on the attacks Gender Studies scholars have been experiencing in the past years that came from various societal actors and we focus on possible strategies for action that have been developed so far in different national contexts. We especially want to tackle the question how to deal with the threats against Gender Studies in countries as e.g. Hungary, Poland, Turkey, Brazil, or the US where also political measures are threatening Gender Studies and freedom of research. We welcome experiences from all contexts and hope to come up with strategies and ideas that inspire and can be adopted if needed.

Room 4: Power Gaps in Knowledge Production in (the reception of) Gender Studies

Moderation: tbc

In this room group, we will focus on the question on how can scholars in the Global North engage with scholars in the Global South without reproducing colonial patterns? When discussing this topic in a German university context, it is essential to reflect while BIPOC perspectives rarely find their way into the German canon of Gender Studies and feminist debate. Dealing with this shortcoming should also become part of the discussion.

Room 5: Gender Studies in the Neoliberal University

Moderation: Stefanie Boulila (Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts)

In this last room, we want to look at what knowledge is labeled "useful" knowledge at the university and how this question becomes relevant for gender research in particular. Where does the current focus on academic productivity come from, and are we turning research topics into a commodity for third-party funding? How is it to be assessed that gender perspectives must be incorporated into externally funded projects? How can research resources be distributed in such a way that marginalized communities that we research and with whom we build careers benefit?