

***Genders on the Move:***  
***Transdisciplinary Discussions across and between Gender Studies***  
***Departments from Lund and Berlin***

## ***Program***

### **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>**

15:00 First Get Together

*Axel Springer Str. 54 b, 3. Floor, Room 340*

**Short presentation of the participants.**

Presentation of the departments, institutional conditions, organization, history, education and research – heads of departments responsible:

**Kerstin Sandell, Irina Schmitt** (Lund)

**Karin Aleksander, Gabi Jähnert, Ilona Pache** (Berlin)

17:30 Dinner at *Cum Laude*, Universitätsstraße 4

### **Friday 25<sup>th</sup>**

9:00-11:00 Session I

*Axel Springer Str. 54 b, 3. Floor, Room 340*

*Research Presentations and Discussions: **Difference, Equality and Social Change***

**Sara Goodman:** Session Chair

**Evelyn Hayn:** *Equality Through Difference: A Feminist Model to Analyze Pejorative Conceptualizations*

**Kristin Linderoth:** *The Municipal Workers' Union Strike in 2003*

**Irina Schmitt:** *Logics of Inclusion and Exclusion: Academic Gatekeepers and their Praxes of Equality and Diversity Policies in Sweden*

**Katrine Scott:** *Gender, Education and Social Change in Kurdistan (Iraq)*

11:00-11:30 Coffee

11:30-13:00 Session II, Group A

*Axel Springer Str. 54 b, 3. Floor, Room 340*

*Research presentations and discussions: **Narration, Belonging***

**Eli Haschemi Yekani:** Session Chair

**Susanne Gehrman:** *Gender in African Autobiographical and Migrant Writing*

**Ina Knoblock:** *Indigenous People and Feminism*

**Ulrike Vedder:** *Gendered Objects*

11:30-13:00 Session II, Group B

*Axel Springer Str. 54 b, 3. Floor, Room 347*

*Research presentations and discussions: **Feminist Technoscience***

**Ulrike Klöppel:** Session Chair

**Corinna Bath:** *Diffractional Design on Intelligent Machines: How to Shift Practices of Modelling the Human in Computer Science?*

**Bettina Bock von Wülfigen:** *Economies and the Cell – Conception and Heredity around 1900 and 2000*

**Kerstin Sandell:** *Agency in Relation to Depression and the Use of Antidepressants*

13:00-14:30 Lunch *Ristorante Diverso*, Hausvogteiplatz 10

14:30-16:00 Session III

**Teaching**

Emancipatory teaching methods: inclusion and exclusion (e.g. regarding racialization, gender identities, abilities, age) through teaching methods as debated by students as well as by us.

Input: **Irina Schmitt, Sarah Goodmann (Lund); Beate Binder, Ilona Pache (Berlin).**

16:00-16:30 Coffee

16:30-18:00 Session IV

*Research presentations and discussions: **Political Activism and Gender Studies***

**Irina Schmitt:** Session Chair

**Ulrike Klöppel:** *Lessons from the Intersexed, Revisited*

**Mia Liinason:** *Study on Feminist Activist Groups*

**Jens Rydström:** *Gay Marriage in Scandinavia*

18:00-18:30 Summing Up, Future Collaboration



## Session II

### Group A: "Narration and Belonging"

Friday 25th, 11:30 – 1:00

Axel Springer Str. 54 b, 3. Floor, Room 340

**Elahe Haschemi Yekani**, Humboldt University: Session Chair

### Gender in African Autobiographical and Migrant Writing

*Susanne Gehrman, African Literatures and Cultures, Humboldt University Berlin*

I will try to combine my research questions regarding two issues. On the one hand, I am working on a monograph about the autobiographical serial writing of Senegalese author Ken Bugul (Mariétou Mbaye) dealing with her challenge of the Western canonical genre of autobiography as a great White man's tradition, her stance on feminism and the construction of gender roles in her narration. At the same time, I am preparing a research project on the category of gender within the literary field(s) of African literature of migration (belonging to both European and African *champs littéraires* (Bourdieu)). In both projects, questions of a sociological or historical view about shifting gender concepts are important, but at the same time, I am dealing with literature, with artifacts that must be acknowledged in their own fictional and esthetic right. The negotiation of differences, that is gender in combination with other categories like race or religion, is important in the two fields of my research. Through their texts, autobiographical and migrating subjects re-present and/or question and/or challenge shifting gender concepts in postcolonial and intercultural contexts.

#### *Main Research Topics:*

- Gender and other differences in African literature
- Autobiographical writing in Africa
- Migration literature
- Colonial and postcolonial discourse about violence

#### *Susanne Gehrman:*

Professor in African Literatures and Cultures, Humboldt University Berlin  
[susanne.gehrmann@rz.hu-berlin.de](mailto:susanne.gehrmann@rz.hu-berlin.de)

Susanne Gehrman studied Romance studies (French and Spanish), German studies, comparative literature and African studies in Bochum, Paris and Cologne. She completed her Magister (equivalent of an MA) in 1996 with a Thesis on urban polygamy as a cultural sphere of conflict in the francophone Senegalian novel. She earned her PhD from Bayreuth University in 2001 with a dissertation on the literature of the Congo-Gruel around 1900. Since 2011 she has been a Professor of African Literature and Cultures at Humboldt University, Berlin.

<http://www2.hu-berlin.de/asaf/Afrika/Mitarbeiter/Gehrman.html>

## **Indigenous People and Feminism**

*Ina Knobblock, PhD Candidate, Centre for Gender Studies, Lund University*

My doctoral thesis will focus on indigenous people and feminism, taking as a starting point the Sami women's movement and its issues and activities. The Sami people, indigenous people traditionally living in northern Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia, and the Sami women's movement have long been marginalised in the Nordic context (Eikjok 2007, Kuokkanen 2007)

Through an ethnographic study with a focus on interviews with self-identified Sami feminists and activists working with issues of gender equality I aim to analyse the Sami women's movement in relation to feminism(s) and other women's movements in the Nordic context.

In my presentation, I wish to introduce and discuss aspects of a relatively new intervention in feminist theory, namely indigenous feminism. Within indigenous feminism, it is argued that the perspective of indigenous women and scholars has been absent in gender and postcolonial theory and that it is a necessary contribution to understandings of issues such as gender relations, identity and decolonization, particularly in relation to indigenous contexts (Green 2007, Suzack 2010). Current questions for me are in what ways insights from indigenous feminism can be theoretically useful in my PhD-project and, in a broader perspective, what indigenous feminism can contribute to a more general feminist debate.

### *Selected Bibliography:*

- Eikjok, Jorunn (2007). "Gender, Essentialism and Feminism in Samiland". In: Green, Joyce (ed.) (2007). *Making Space for Indigenous Feminism*. London: Zed Books
- Green, Joyce (ed.) (2007). *Making Space for Indigenous Feminism*. London: Zed Books
- Kuokkanen, Rauna (2007). "Myths and Realities of Sami Women: A Post-Colonial Feminist Analysis for the Decolonisation and Transformation of Sami Society". In: Green, Joyce (ed.) (2007). *Making Space for Indigenous Feminism*. London: Zed Books
- Suzack, Cheryl et al. (ed). (2010). *Indigenous Women and Feminism*. Vancouver: UCB Press

### *Ina Knobblock:*

Doctoral student, Centre for Gender Studies, Lund University  
[Ina.Knobblock@genus.lu.se](mailto:Ina.Knobblock@genus.lu.se)

## **Gendered Objects**

*Ulrike Vedder, Professor, Modern German Literature, Humboldt University*

“Things” have attained a new scientific and historical relevance and are no longer seen as a mere instrument but as agents that constitute cultural and epistemological processes. Until now gender aspects have not really been considered, although the aesthetics and semiology of things has touched upon the gender codification of these in specific cases. Literature can function as a privileged medium for reflecting these processes when describing power and the independent existence of things as Gendered Objects.

*Ulrike Vedder*

Senior Lecturer

[ulrike.vedder@german.hu-berlin.de](mailto:ulrike.vedder@german.hu-berlin.de)

<http://www.gender.hu-berlin.de/zentrum/personen/ma/vedder/>

Studied German and Romance studies, and pedagogy in Münster and Hamburg, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> National Exams. Professor at the Institute for German Literature at Humboldt University, Berlin since 2009. Focuses on: literatures of the 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> centuries, gender research, genealogy and gender, cultural transformation of things, the afterlife and the museum, media in/and literature.

<http://www.literatur.hu-berlin.de/institutsmitarbeiter/1683381/werdegang>

## Session II

### Group B: "Feminist Technoscience"

Friday 25th, 11:30 – 1:00

Axel Springer Str. 54 b, 3. Floor, Room 340

Ulrike Klöppel, University of Lund: Session Chair

#### **Diffraction Design of Intelligent Machines:**

##### **How to Shift Practices of Modelling the Human in Computer Science?**

*Corinna Bath, Post-Graduate Fellow, The Center for Transdisciplinary Gender Studies' Research Program "Gender as a Category of Knowledge," Humboldt University*

My research is located at the interface of feminist theory, computer science, and – to bridge these hardly compatible perspectives – science and technology studies. I am focussing on current "technologies-in-the-making" that undermine traditional boundaries between humans and machines, particularly on intelligent machines that promise profound changes of how we will think, feel and interact socially. Provocative artefacts of this kind include, e.g., semantic web technologies and ontologies that pre-structure our knowledge and search findings, robots that move around autonomously in physical environments to take care for elderly and sick people, or software agents that talk with us like our best friend or serve us like a butler while recognizing and showing feelings.

The research & development of such artefacts is often based on fairly reductive models of the human, informed by cognitive science or socio-biology. In most cases, it moreover starts from the assumption that copying the human is the best model for successfully building intelligent machines. Combined these two strategies are suspected of transforming Cartesian epistemology into IT. They are furthermore in danger of reproducing the existing normative binary sex-and-gender system and its hierarchies by the design and use of human-like technologies.

As a computer scientist I do not only aim at analysing the gendering processes of such technologies. My goal is rather to intervene in modelling and design processes and the basic research, on which intelligent machines are built upon. Diffraction Design is a vision of a methodology that extends design approaches available from the field of Critical Computing (such as participatory or reflective design) to a new design practice aiming to interrupt a perpetuation of the existing gender order by technologies. It is inspired by Karen Barad's ethico-onto-epistemological approach to 'diffraction' intended to replace the metaphors of 'reflection' and 'reflexivity'.

*Corinna Bath:*

Post-PhD-student, Graduiertenkolleg "Geschlecht als Wissenskategorie," Humboldt Universität zu Berlin

[corinna.bath@staff.hu-berlin.de](mailto:corinna.bath@staff.hu-berlin.de), [corinna.bath@gmail.com](mailto:corinna.bath@gmail.com)

Corinna Bath (Dr. ing. des.) is a postdoctoral researcher at the Center for Interdisciplinary Women's and Gender Research at the Technical University, Berlin. She was also a postdoctoral researcher in the graduate school 'Gender as a Category of Knowledge' at Humboldt-University Berlin, where she started her new project about the gendered order of knowledge in the Semantic Web. She got her first degree in math/logic (Free University Berlin) and defended her doctoral thesis on the gendering

and de-gendering of computational artefacts in May 2009 (Bremen University). She worked at several German and Austrian universities in research and teaching and published articles and book editions on feminist technoscience theory and gender studies in computer science. She is particularly interested in ‘intelligent’ (e.g. ‘social’, ‘emotional’ and ‘semantic’) artefacts.

### **Economies and the Cell: Conception and Heredity around 1900 und 2000**

*Bettina Bock von Wülfingen, Assistant Professor, Institute for Cultural History and Theory, Humboldt University*

This project follows the idea that the relationship between conception, growth and development on one hand and heredity on the other is conceived corresponding to the historically contingent concepts of economy of the respective times.

Accordingly, the idea of the (gendered) division of labor in a productive and a reproductive force as discussed since the 1850s latest, enters the cell around 1900: many models of heredity started to attribute a productive part to the nucleus and a reproductive part to the cell plasma (which goes hand in hand with the contemporaneous talk about a supposed split between early genetics and other scientific fields that work on reproduction).

In contrast, the end of the 20th century proclaims the end of the separation of economic labor division into production and reproduction. Contemporary analyses indicate a falling together of production and reproduction. This can be aligned with the modeling in fields such as stem cell research, synthetic biology and especially reproductive genetics, which supposedly appear to bring together genetics/genomics and the reproductive sciences.

*Bettina Bock von Wülfingen:*

Assistant professor at the Institute for Cultural History and Theory of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

[bettina.bock.v.wuelfingen@staff.hu-berlin.de](mailto:bettina.bock.v.wuelfingen@staff.hu-berlin.de)

Dr. Bettina Bock von Wülfingen is at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin since 1/2007, first as postdoc at the Post Graduate Research Group „Gender as a Category of Knowledge“ and since 10/2008 as assistant professor at the Institute for Cultural History and Theory of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin; teaching in Cultural Studies and Gender Studies. 2004-2007 she was visiting research fellow at different international Institutes: at the Department for the History of Public Health, University of California in San Francisco/USA; at the Department for the History of Public Health, University of California in San Francisco/USA; at the Science and Technology Studies Unit (SATSU), University of York/Great Britain (as EU Marie Curie Fellow); at the Institute for Advanced Studies of Science and Technology Studies, Graz/Austria; at the BIOS, London School of Economics/Great Britain; She did her Dissertation in Public Health, University of Bremen/Germany 2006 (summa cum laude) after studies in biology (diploma, grade „excellent“), philosophy, history and political sciences in Regensburg/Germany, Córdoba/Argentine and Bremen/Germany.

*Current Second Book Project:*

“Economies and the Cell – Conception and Heredity Around 1900 and 2000“. She is founder member of the EU-COST Action “Bio-objects and Their Boundaries” ([www.univie.ac.at/bio-objects/](http://www.univie.ac.at/bio-objects/) running from 2010 to 2014) and of the research network “Economies of Reproduction” ([www.economies-of-reproduction.org](http://www.economies-of-reproduction.org); funded by the German Research Foundation from 2010 to 2012).

### **Agency in Relation to Depression and the Use of Antidepressants**

*Kerstin Sandell, Associate Professor, Centre for Gender Studies, Lund University*

I want to briefly discuss agency in relation to depression and the use of antidepressants. I am currently doing an interview study on users of antidepressants (SSRIs), and have made a preliminary pilot study consisting of ten interviews. Recruitment was through the snow ball method. Characterizing the participants was that they suffered from depression, or depression like problems, and that for most the antidepressants worked in some sense. My object here is to discuss their understanding of their situation, the description of the state of depression, and how SSRIs came to be perceived as a way of acting in a locked, closed and hopeless situation. My study is part of the larger project AFTER THE SUCCESS WITH THE NEW GENERATION ANTIDEPRESSANTS: EXPERIENCES, PRACTICES, DISCOURSES AND CHANGES OF THE SELF conducted with Anna Bredström, Shai Mulinari and Marianne Winther Jörgensen.

*Kerstin Sandell:*

[Kerstin.Sandell@genus.lu.se](mailto:Kerstin.Sandell@genus.lu.se)

PhD, Head of Department, Associate Professor  
<http://www.genus.lu.se/o.o.i.s/23532>

I am a teacher and researcher at the Centre for Gender Studies since 2007. My main research area is within feminist science studies. I have explored medical practice from the vantage point of questioning the boundaries between the normal and the pathological through several research projects. I am inspired by Donna Haraway, and have a special interest in how bodies are lived, experienced and formed within medicine. I also have a vested interest in feminist theory and enjoy working in the tradition of feminist ethnography, involving mainly field work in medical settings and interviews. My current research project After the success with the new generation antidepressants: Experiences, practices, discourses and changes in the self.

### **Session III: “Teaching”**

Friday 25<sup>th</sup>, 2:30 – 4:00

Axel Springer Str. 54 b, 3. Floor, Room 340

Emancipatory teaching methods: Inclusion and exclusion (e.g. regarding racialization, gender identities, abilities, age) through teaching methods as debated by students as well as by us.

Input: **Irina Schmitt, Sarah Goodmann (Lund); Ilona Pache and Beate Binder (Berlin).**

### **Session IV: “Political Activism and Gender Studies”**

Friday 25<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 – 6:00

Axel Springer Str. 54 b, 3. Floor, Room 340

**Irina Schmitt**, Lund University: Session Chair

#### **Lessons from the Intersexed, Revisited**

*Ulrike Klöppel, Graduate Fellow, Center for Transdisciplinary Gender Studies’ Research Program “Gender as a Category of Knowledge,” Humboldt University*

Suzanne Kessler's well-known book *Lessons from the Intersexed* stands for a critical discussion of the medicalization of intersexed persons in gender studies. Yet, the debate is dominated by problematic accounts. Often, the alleged evidence of intersex bodies is used as an explanatory example of the social construction of gender. For this purpose intersex is presented as a biological fact proved by medico-biological descriptions, case histories, and the number of affected life births. I argue that this account is based on a theoretical asymmetry: While the two gender system is viewed as an effect of social construction, the category of sexual "ambiguity" becomes naturalized. Along with this goes the ahistoric assumption that modern biology and medicine are bound to a rigid dichotomous model of sex and gender preventing the true scientific recognition of intersexuality. This approach either ignores biological and medical continuum-models of sex/gender or – on the contrary – uncritically celebrates such models instead of analysing them. With that historical alliances between the continuum-model and, for example, eugenics are dismissed. Also the gender studies' debate largely disregards the problematic legacy of the genealogy of the gender-concept which is rooted in medio-psychological intersex studies of the 1950s. Still another big problem is that academic gender researchers often speak about intersex but rarely speak with intersexed persons on equal terms. Therefore, the gender studies' debate on intersex needs to be critically revisited.

*Ulrike Klöppel:*

[ulrike.kloeppe@hu-berlin.de](mailto:ulrike.kloeppe@hu-berlin.de)

Associated graduate student, Graduiertenkolleg “Geschlecht als Wissenskategorie”, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin

Ulrike Klöppel has been an academic assistant at the Institute for the History of Medicine at the Charite – University Medical Center in Berlin since 2006. She is

currently working on the DFG-Project “Psychochemicals Crossing the Wall: The Introduction of Psychopharma in the GDR, 1952-1989”

<http://www.charite.de/medizingeschichte/mitarbeiter/kloepfel.htm>

*Research Interest:*

Geschlechtswechsel im Sozialismus: Transsexualität in der DDR (Gender Change in the Land of Real Existing Socialism: Transsexuality in the GDR)

### **Study on Feminist Activists Groups**

*Mia Liinason, PhD Candidate, Centre for Gender Studies, Lund university*

My question to the discussion is related to fieldwork and the collection of data. I will start a new research project in the spring (abstract of research project enclosed below), where I study feminist activist groups. The activist groups use different methods in their work, such as producing a journal, being a resource centre for women at the job market, or arrange and participate in events as lobby organizations. The activist groups are working with an intersectional agenda and focus on anti-sexism in combination with rights for LGBTQ-people, anti-racism and/or against capitalism. I will use different methods for collecting data such as analysis of texts and images, participant observation and interviews. Since I only have been working very little with fieldwork before, I would be very grateful for a discussion about this, for example around how I should handle my own position/ality in relation to the groups, what kind of events that can be useful to participate in (such as more public, or more internal in the organizations), and how I can use the interviews to give me a deeper insight into the activities and agendas of the groups. I am also grateful for any other issues that you think are important to take into account in relation to fieldwork!

*Feminist critique, feminist resistance, feminist hopes. Exploring practices, strategies and visions within third wave feminist activism in Sweden.*

Mia Liinason (together with Marta Cuesta)

Interested in exploring the performances of third wave feminism in their struggles for transformation, this research project purpose to carry out a study of the visions, practices and strategies within third wave feminism. We want to, on the one hand, explore feminist activism in relation to Sweden as a geo-political context that often is referred to as a feminist utopia, and on the other hand, analyze feminist performances in relation to conceptualizations of the past, present and future of feminism. As an overall-arching aim we want to analyse and expand the understandings of feminism that take shape through the various performances of third wave feminism. We understand feminism as a project where theory and activism interact, and where theoretical understandings are further developed through the actions performed and vice versa. This project uses an ethnographic approach in the collection of data, using in-depth interviews, participant observations, analysis of texts- and images. Data consists of case studies of feminist activist groups, among them *Bang*, *Interfem*, *Kvinnopolitiskt Forum*, *Riksföreningen för hbtq*, *Konstförening JA*, *Tidskrift för genusvetenskap*.

*Mia Liinason:*

PhD-student, lecturer

[Mia.Liinason@genus.lu.se](mailto:Mia.Liinason@genus.lu.se)

I am a PhD-student and student and junior teacher in gender studies and write a dissertation about the institutionalisation of gender studies in Sweden. In addition to that, I work as the book review editor of NORA – Nordic Journal of Feminist and Gender Research and am also a member of the Junior Editorial Board at the journal. My main research interest is in the field of transnational gender studies, which includes queer studies and anti-racist knowledge production. Here, I am particularly interested in feminist epistemology and method/ology, focusing on issues of feminist knowledge practises within areas such as academic writing, feminist teaching practises, inter- and transdisciplinarity and feminist story telling.

*Current Research:*

In my dissertation about the institutionalisation of gender studies in Sweden, I analyse the use and understanding of key concepts in gender studies, central debates and feminist history production. I am also a member of a number of nordic and international networks working on the institutionalisation of gender studies and feminist knowledge production, for example the Travelling Concepts Interdisciplinarity Group, a collective of teachers who developed and taught a MA teaching module for interdisciplinary and intercultural gender studies, financed by the European Union Socrates Programme for Lifelong Learning, the London School of Economics and Political Science and Nijmegen University. At the moment, we are working on a collective publication on issues of feminist learning. Moreover, I am a member of the nordic network Tófa – nettverk for nordisk kvinne- og kjønnsforskningshistorie, and WeAVE/Athena – a network for PhD-students and young reserachers in gender studies in Europe. I am also a member of a new international network, aiming to initiate, parttake in and further develop an academic intercultural and interdisciplinary culture in gender studies in a European context, financed by Riksbankens Jubileumsfond 2010-2013.

### **Gay Marriage in Scandinavia**

*Jens Rydström, Associate Professor, Centre for Gender Studies, Lund University*

Why did gay marriage originate in Scandinavia? What happened next? What are the dangers of assimilation? The concept of marriage as a union of man and woman was fundamentally challenged by the introduction of registered partnership in Denmark in 1989. This paper will trace the origins of the laws which initially caused great controversy but have since gained broad popular and political support. It will also discuss the positive effects and risks involved in state recognition of lesbian and gay couples. The different experiences in Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Norway, Sweden, Iceland, and Finland will be investigated in order to present a nuanced understanding of a fascinating political process that began in the 1960s and continues to change the way we see family, sexuality and nation.

*Jens Rydström:*

[Jens.Rydstrom@genus.lu.se](mailto:Jens.Rydstrom@genus.lu.se)

PhD, Director of Studies, Associate Professor

<http://www.genus.lu.se/o.o.i.s/23399>

Assistant professor at the Centre for Gender Studies. My main fields of interest are gender history, medical history, gay and lesbian studies, disability studies, crip theory, and queer theory. Current research: My next book, *Odd Couples*, will be published in the spring of 2011. It is the first comprehensive history of registered partnership and gay marriage in Scandinavia. Among other things, it studies the interaction between gay activism and traditional party politics and traces the origins of laws which initially were extremely controversial – inside and outside the gay community – but have now gained broad popular and political support. I also discuss the effects of the laws and the dangers of assimilation and homonormativity.