Research:

My PhD dissertation – 'a narrative investigation of queer separation,' investigates the act of storytelling and asks how stories of kinship and sexuality deviancy are constructed. The work explores relationships' dissolution stories of Jewish Israeli lesbian women and combines qualitative methodology with poststructuralist, critical and cultural inquiry. In particular, I examine how belonging is reworked and negotiated once the life/stories cannot adhere to neoliberal convictions of proper queerness and proper storytelling of progress and redemption. Rather than explaining LGBT relational failure, or fixing the ‘problem’ of a ‘disqualified’ identity, I take lesbian ‘drama’ and affect as the analytic vantage point from which to explore the implications as well as potential of damage, violence and injuries on belonging.

My postdoctoral project seeks to expand the inquiry of the intersection between kinship, sexuality and belonging by turning to one ethnographic site – the Jewish-Israeli lesbian community in Berlin. Berlin is a site of diasporic longing among Jewish-Israeli queers, which is an unexplored phenomenon. Investigating kinship transgressions in the context of migration, ‘Belonging Travels’ asks what kinds of stories, cultural scripts and subjectivities are produced and consumed; and how belonging is negotiated, produced and imagined once Jewish-Israeli lesbians are 'outside' the nation.

CV:

Ruth Preser is a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute for European Ethnology and the Interdisciplinary Center for Gender Studies at Humboldt University, Berlin. She graduated her MA and PhD in Gender Studies (2012) at Bar-Ilan University.

Contact:

Email: preserru@hu-berlin.de
Phone: +49 173 825-4029
Office: Institut für Europäische Ethnologie, Mohrenstr. 41, 10117 Berlin, room 108