Contested Truths: Re-Shaping and Positioning Politics of Knowledge

The central topic of the conference is the politics of knowledge and its entanglement with issues of epistemics, power, and gender. Focusing on a deeper understanding of the knowledge-power-nexus, the conference particularly aims to analyze social and epistemological categories, configurations, orders and hierarchies of knowledge. Thereby, a wide range of issues dealing with different sites of knowledge production, objects of inquiry, and fields of research will be addressed. The conference seeks to contribute to debates concerning the situatedness of knowledge. This topic was first addressed in the humanities, science and technology studies, and gender studies by Foucault, Bourdieu, Latour, Haraway, Harding, Barad, among others.

The conference particularly seeks to engage with the following questions from this vast and heterogeneous field of study: How is knowledge socially and epistemically formed and positioned? What are the consequences of certain practices and techniques of knowledge formation? Where and how does knowledge legitimate power relations? How can the hegemonic politics of knowledge be destabilized and re-shaped? Finally, what are the conditions of possibility for truths to be contested? The three panels will address these central questions by (1) uncovering the implicit knowledge politics in the formation of disciplines and the process of canonization, (2) discussing the impact of classifications and infrastructures, and (3) questioning and destabilizing universal and neutral knowledge.

Keynote-speakers will be Geoffrey C. Bowker (University of Pittsburgh, USA), Kavita Philip (University of California, Irvine, USA), and Bonnie Smith (Rutgers University, New Brunswick, USA). Additionally, 15 scholars from countries such as Austria, Botswana, France, India, Poland or the USA will present their research on the multiple facets of knowledge production and politics.

Convened by
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
‘Graduiertenkolleg Geschlecht als Wissenskategorie’ (PhD Research Training Group ‘Gender as a Category of Knowledge’)
History of Medicine at Charité (Volker Hess)
Technical University Braunschweig (Bettina Wahrig).

Organization
The conference is organized by Corinna Bath, Jens Borcherding, Lukas Engelmann, Lisa Malich, Falko Schnicke, and Pat Treusch of the Graduate Research Group ‘Gender as a Category of Knowledge’, in collaboration with the Institute of the History of Medicine at Charité (Volker Hess) and the Technical University Braunschweig (Bettina Wahrig).

Registration
Registration fees are € 20,- (€ 10,- for students) and it includes entry to the presentations and keynote speeches. Early-bird-registration is open to May 15th 2011, later on the price increases to € 30,- (€ 20,-). Participants may apply for a reduction or exemption from conference fees. You can register at: http://www2.hu-berlin.de/gkgeschlecht/contestedtruths

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Venue
Humboldt Graduate School
Luisenstr. 56, 10099 Berlin
Room: ‘Festsaal’, 2nd Floor

International Conference
Contested Truths
Re-Shaping and Positioning Politics of Knowledge
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
16 - 18 June 2011

Organized by the ‘Knowledge Research Group’ of the PhD Research Training Group ‘Gender as a Category of Knowledge’, HU-Berlin, the Department for the History of Medicine, Charité Berlin and the Department for the History of Science, TU Braunschweig.
# Contested Truths: Re-Shaping and Positioning Politics of Knowledge

16 - 18 June 2011

Humboldt-University Berlin

An international conference organized by the Graduate Research School 'Gender as a Category of Knowledge' in cooperation with Charité Berlin (Volker Hess) and Society for the History of Science (Bettina Wahrig)

<table>
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<th>Thursday, 16 June 2011</th>
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| 16:00 Registration     | 10:00 **Keynote and Discussion**  
Peter Frensch (Vice President for Research, Humboldt University)  
Volker Hess (Graduate Research School 'Gender as a Category of Knowledge')  
Bettina Wahrig (Society for History of Science)  
Introduction by the Conference Team  
**Keynote and Discussion**  
Geoffrey C. Bowker (Pittsburgh)  
Emerging Configurations of Knowledge and Power  
Chair: Corinna Bath (Berlin)  |
| 17:00 Welcome and Opening Remarks:  
Lisa Malich (Berlin)  
**Keynote and Discussion**  
Bonnie Smith (New Brunswick)  
The Gender of History Past and Present  
Chair: Folke Schnicke (Berlin)  | 11:30 Coffee Break  
12:00 **Panel I: Forming Disciplines and Canonization** (First Part)  
Chair: Jens Borcherding (Berlin)  
Helga Satzinger (London)  
Concepts of Gender Difference in the Biological Sciences, early 20th Century  
Tanja Paulitz (Graz)  
Contested Knowledge of the Mechanical Machine and the Forming of German Academic Mechanical Engineering Gender and the Nature/Technology Boundary around 1900  
Martina Erlemann (Uppsala)  
Risk Discourses and Governance of Nanotechnologies – Entanglements of Knowledge and Gender Orders  |
| 17:15 **Panel II: Classification and Infrastructure** (First Part)  
Chair: Lisa Malich (Berlin)  
Cornelia Schadler (Wien)  
Classified Babies. How Children and Parents Are Fabricated  
Ulrike Klöppel (Berlin)  
Politics of the Medical Continuum-Model of Gender  
Bradley Fidler (Los Angeles)  
Manufacturing Positioned Subjects: New Techniques of Pharmaceutical Knowledge and the Gendered Clinical Encounter  | 17:45 Coffee Break  
18:15 Lunch Break  |
| 19:30 Dinner and Cultural Event  | 15:15 – 16:45 **Panel I: Forming Disciplines and Canonization** (Second Part)  
15:15 Diane Gu (Los Angeles)  
Partial Perspectives in Astronomy: Gender, Ethnicity, Nationality, and Networks in Building Glocal Knowledge Infrastructure  
15:45 Joana Coppi (Berlin)  
Whose Epistemologies are we talking about? On the Tensions between Theory and Practice in Women and Gender Studies  
16:15 Bettina Wahrig (Braunschweig)  
Commentary and Discussion of Panel I  |
| 15:00 Registration     | 09:00 **Panel II: Classification and Infrastructure** (Second Part)  
Chair: Lukas Engelmann (Brno)  
Martina Kampichler (Brno)  
Contextualized Frame Analysis as a Tool for Examining Situated Knowledges  
Annika Wellmann (Bielefeld)  
Analyzing the Production of Sexual Knowledge in Popular Media  
Toin Kolawole (Mau)  
14:15 – 15:45 **Panel III: Localizing and Positioning Knowledge** (Second Part)  
Chair: Pat Treusch (Berlin)  
Kavita Philip (Irvine)  
Proper Knowledge: Reflections on Postcolonial Technoscience  
Beate Binder (Berlin)  
Commentary and Discussion of Panel III  | 14:15 Federica Timeto (Plymouth)  
Articulating Representation: Haraway’s Semiotics and the Politics of Diffraction  
Thibault Polge (Paris)  
Erehwon I speak from? On Subjective Positions in Acts of Discourse  |
| 17:00 Welcome and Opening Remarks:  
Kavita Philip (Irvine)  
Proper Knowledge: Reflections on Postcolonial Technoscience  
Chair: Pat Treusch (Berlin)  | 16:15 **Keynote and Discussion**  
Kavita Philip (Irvine)  
Proper Knowledge: Reflections on Postcolonial Technoscience  
Chair: Pat Treusch (Berlin)  
18:00 End of Conference  |
| 17:45 Coffee Break  | 16:15 Coffee Break  |
| 18:00 End of Conference  | 18:00 End of Conference  |

[www.geschlecht-als-wissenskategorie.de](http://www.geschlecht-als-wissenskategorie.de)