

## 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 legitimize 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 Borchering, Lukas Engemann, 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>

### Contact

Corinna Bath  
Part of the organizing team  
[contestedtruths@googlemail.com](mailto:contestedtruths@googlemail.com)  
[www2.hu-berlin.de/gkgeschlecht/](http://www2.hu-berlin.de/gkgeschlecht/)

Viola Beckmann  
Coordinator Graduiertenkolleg  
'Geschlecht als Wissenskategorie'  
email: [gradkollgeschlecht@hu-berlin.de](mailto:gradkollgeschlecht@hu-berlin.de)  
[www.geschlecht-als-wissenskategorie.de](http://www.geschlecht-als-wissenskategorie.de)

### Venue

Humboldt Graduate School  
Luisenstr. 56, 10099 Berlin  
Room: 'Festsaal', 2nd Floor

S

# 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)

Conference Venue  
Humboldt Graduate School  
Luisenstr. 56  
10099 Berlin

Conference Website  
(coming soon)

### Thursday, 16 June 2011

16:00	Registration
17:00	<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks:</b>
	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
17:45	<b>Keynote</b> and Discussion Geoffrey C. Bowker (Pittsburgh) <i>Emerging Configurations of Knowledge and Power</i> Chair: Corinna Bath (Berlin)
19:30	Reception

### Friday, 17 June 2011

10:00	<b>Keynote</b> and Discussion Bonnie Smith (New Brunswick) <i>The Gender of History Past and Present</i> Chair: Falko Schnicke (Berlin)
11:30	Coffee Break
12:00–13:30	<b>Panel I: Forming Disciplines and Canonization</b> (First Part) Chair: Jens Borcharding (Berlin)
12:00	Helga Satzinger (London) <i>Concepts of Gender Difference in the Biological Sciences, early 20th Century</i>
12:30	Tanja Paulitz (Graz) <i>Contested Knowledge of the Mechanical Machine and the Forming of German Academic Mechanical Engineering: Gender and the Nature/Technology Boundary around 1900</i>
13:00	Martina Erlemann (Uppsala) <i>Risk Discourses and Governance of Nanotechnologies – Entanglements of Knowledge and Gender Orders</i>
13:30	Lunch Break
15:15 – 16:45	<b>Panel I: Forming Disciplines and Canonization</b> (Second Part)
15:15	Diane Gu (Los Angeles) <i>Partial Perspectives in Astronomy: Gender, Ethnicity, Nationality, and Networks in Building Glocal Knowledge Infrastructure</i>
15:45	Joana Coppi (Berlin) <i>Whose Epistemologies are we talking about? On the Tensions between Theory and Practice in Women and Gender Studies</i>
16:15	Bettina Wahrig (Braunschweig) <i>Commentary and Discussion of Panel I</i>
16:45	Coffee Break
17:15 – 18:45	<b>Panel II: Classification and Infrastructure</b> (First Part) Chair: Lisa Malich (Berlin)
17:15	Cornelia Schadler (Wien) <i>Classified Babies. How Children and Parents Are Fabricated</i>
17:45	Ulrike Klöppel (Berlin) <i>Politics of the Medical Continuum-Model of Gender</i>
18:15	Bradley Fidler (Los Angeles) <i>Manufacturing Positioned Subjects: New Techniques of Pharmaceutical Knowledge and the Gendered Clinical Encounter</i>
20:00	Dinner and Cultural Event

### Saturday, 18 June 2011

09:00 – 10:30	<b>Panel II: Classification and Infrastructure</b> (Second Part)
09:00	Rosmin Mathew (Tromsø) and Anup Sam Ninan (Bremen) <i>Politics in Brick and Mortar: Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) as a Spatial Artifact</i>
09:30	Judith Simon (Wien) <i>Knowledge Politics, Reputation &amp; Authority: The Role of Quantitative Quality Indicators in Academia</i>
10:00	Sabine Hark (Berlin) <i>Commentary and Discussion of Panel II</i>
10:30	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:30	<b>Panel III: Localizing and Positioning Knowledge</b> (First Part) Chair: Lukas Engelmann (Berlin)
11:00	Martina Kampichler (Brno) <i>Contextualized Frame Analysis as a Tool for Examining Situated Knowledges</i>
11:30	Annika Wellmann (Bielefeld) <i>Analyzing the Production of Sexual Knowledge in Popular Media</i>
12:00	Toyin Kolawole (Maun) <i>Soils, Science and the Politics of Knowledge: Some Critical Issues in the Global Debates on Integrated Soil Fertility Management in Sub-Saharan Africa</i>
12:30	Lunch Break
14:15 – 15:45	<b>Panel III: Localizing and Positioning Knowledge</b> (Second Part)
14:15	Federica Timeto (Plymouth) <i>Articulating Representation: Haraway's Semiotics and the Politics of Diffraction</i>
14:45	Thibault Polge (Paris) <i>Erehwon I speak from? On Subjective Positions in Acts of Discourse</i>
15:15	Beate Binder (Berlin) <i>Commentary and Discussion of Panel III</i>
15:45	Coffee Break
16:15	<b>Keynote</b> and Discussion Kavita Philip (Irvine) <i>Proper Knowledge: Reflections on Postcolonial Technoscience</i> Chair: Pat Treusch (Berlin)
18:00	End of Conference