

## Queer Again? Power, Politics and Ethics

The concept of queer is volatile and, at times, difficult to grasp. As a result, we need a continuous review of the fields and directions of Queer Studies (as for instance, in the Social Text issue of 2005 with the programmatic title What's Queer About Queer Studies Now?). In recent debates the ethical impetus of queer criticism has been confronted and challenged by the dominance of the so-called antisocial thesis. In his 2004 study No Future: Queer Theory and the Death Drive, Lee Edelman manoeuvred queer theory into a kind of aporia and thus deep crisis that persists to this day. Subscription to an 'ethics of futurity,' as Edelman suggests, signals that the borders of ethical thinking have been reached. This prevalence of the antisocial thesis in its different manifestations reveals a pressing need to reflect anew the relationship between queer, theory, art, ethics and politics.

Taking this as a starting point for the conference, we want to take up the iterative moment that seems inherent in the concept of queer: queer is regularly in a state of crisis that needs to be made productive, and in this way it can be continuously reworked and reshaped. We want to open a space to further the debate about sexuality and gender and their multiple interwoven connections in fields of power in contemporary contexts. Consequently, the following questions will be at the centre of attention: How can queer theory be situated in current academic and activist spheres? What does the focus on interdependent relationships (of sexuality, gender, race, ethnicity, class, age, (dis)ability etc.) mean for the formation of a queer ethics? How can we rethink concepts of temporality and generation or community? And what does queer mean in different geographical and temporal contexts?

The panels will be organised along two thematic strands. The first, Affect, Space and Temporality, is concerned with the ethical and political potential of queer and the different political conceptions of queer that arise as a result. The second strand, Limits and Boundary Crossings, takes up current theoretical debates with regard to boundaries and crossings of these boundaries. Which limits and/or transgressions of these limits occur when different theoretical fields collide (e.g. queer theory and transgender theory or postcolonial theory or crip theory/disability studies)? In addition, we want to critically examine the limitations of queer and the concurrent inclusions and exclusions with regard to privileges that queer produces in specific contexts and that demand new critical/queer interventions.

### Convened by

Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik  
(Department of English and American Studies)  
Graduiertenkolleg „Geschlecht als Wissenskategorie“  
(PhD Research Training Group “Gender as a Category of Knowledge”)  
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

### Organised by the “Queer Research Group” of the PhD Research Training Group “Gender as a Category of Knowledge”

Eveline Kilian | Maja Figge | Vojin Saša Vukadinovic |  
Jens Borcherding | Elahe Haschemi Yekani |  
Adrian de Silva | Beatrice Michaelis |

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### Further Information

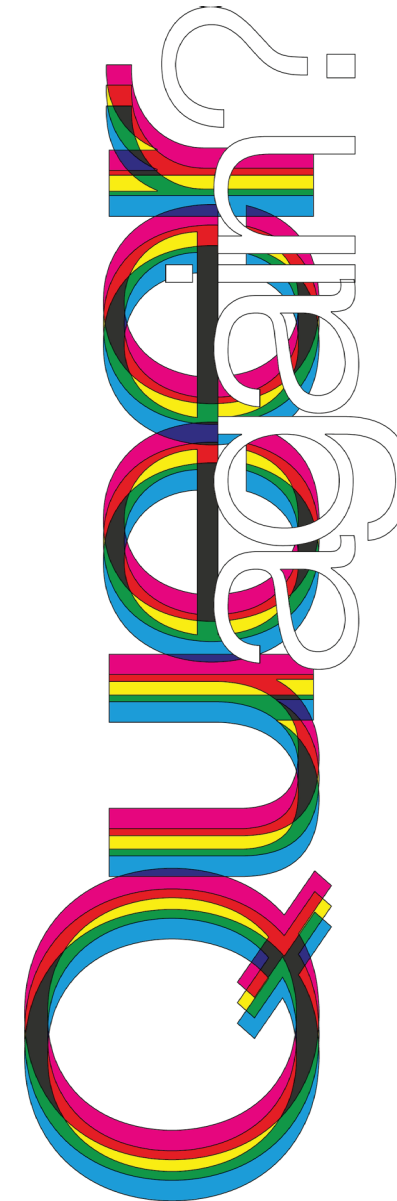
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### Venue

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin  
Unter den Linden 6  
10099 Berlin  
| Kinosaal / Room 1115 |  
| Room 3038 |  
| Room 3075 |



Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft



Power,  
Politics  
and Ethics

23-25 September 2010  
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin  
Unter den Linden 6

## Thursday, 23 September 2010

- 15:00 h | Between rooms 3038 & 3075 |  
Registration
- 16:15 h | Room 3038 |  
Welcome
- 16:30 h | Room 3038 |  
Keynote **José Esteban Muñoz** (New York): The Impossibility of Gay Politics and the Incalculable Sense of Queerness  
Commentary: **Vojin Saša Vukadinović**
- 18:00 h  
Coffee Break
- 18:30 h | Kinosaal / Room 1115 |  
Film Programme "queer again? \*freaky film club special"  
Curated by: **Karin Michalski**; Presented by: **Renate Lorenz & Karin Michalski** (clipclub Berlin) & guests  
Films/Videos by: Sharon Hayes, High Heel Sisters, Oliver Husain, Klara Liden, Pauline Boudry & Renate Lorenz, Ulrike Müller, Wu Ingrid Tsang and others  
Host: **Maja Figge**
- 20:30 h  
Reception

## Friday, 24 September 2010

- 09:30 h | Room 3038 |  
Introduction **Eveline Kilian**
- 10:00 h | Room 3038 |  
Keynote **Susan Stryker** (Bloomington): "Freedom's Just another Word for Nothing Left to Lose": Transgender Theory Covers Punk Rock, Alt-Country, and Queer Futurity  
Commentary: **Adrian de Silva**
- 11:30 h  
Coffee Break
- 12:00 – 13:45 h PANELS

### STRAND 1: Affect, Space and Temporality *Equality and Diversity Politics*, Chair: **Gabriele Dietze** | Room 3075 |

- Sally Hines** (Leeds): Stirring it Up – Again: Politics of Difference in the New Millennium
- Moritz Konradi** (Berlin): The Sexuality of Justice. Reconsidering Drucilla Cornell's Queer Liberalism
- Jan Hutta** (Milton Keynes): Paradoxes of Governmentality and Micropolitics in Brazilian Anti-Homophobic Politics

### STRAND 2: Limits and Boundary Crossings

#### *Queer Body Politics*, Chair: **Marc Siegel** | Room 3038 |

- Heike Raab** (Innsbruck): Disability as Queer Culture (Politics)
- Rachel White** (London): No Fat Future?: The Uses of Anti-Social Queer Theory for Fat Activism
- Lena Eckert** (Berlin): Countering Intersexualization with Queer Activism?

- 13:45 – 15:15 h Lunch  
15:15 – 16:30 h PANELS

### STRAND 1: Affect, Space and Temporality

#### *(Artistic) Interventions*, Chair: **Maja Figge** | Room: 3075 |

- Sara Davidmann** (London): Queer Conceptions: Procreation Beyond Gender - A Photographic Essay

### STRAND 2: Limits and Boundary Crossings

#### *Beyond the Human?*, Chair: **Simon Strick** | Room 3038 |

- Anthony Clair Wagner** (Vienna): Monster, or Messenger? – Queer Interventions as a Beast and an Elf

- Theodora Danylevich** (Washington, D.C.): Lady Gaga, the Queer Fame Monster

- 16:30 h Coffee Break

- 17:00 h - 18:30 h | Room 3038 |  
Keynote **Jeffrey Jerome Cohen** (Washington, D.C.): The Sex Life of Stone. Queering Nonhuman Life  
Commentary: **Beatrice Michaelis**

- 19:00 h Dinner

## Saturday, 25 September 2010

- 9:30 h | Room 3038 |  
Keynote **Roderick Ferguson** (Minneapolis): The Queer Ethic and the Spirit of Normativity  
Commentary: **Elahe Haschemi Yekani**
- 11:00 h  
Coffee Break

- 11:30 – 13:15 h PANELS

### STRAND 1: Affect, Space and Temporality *Queer Postcolonial Space*, Chair: **Julia Roth** | Room 3075 |

- Encarnación Gutiérrez Rodríguez** (Manchester): How To "Queer" feminized Racialized Labour – On Decolonial Ethics and The Politics of Affect
- Vanessa Agard-Jones** (New York): What the Sands Remember: Revisiting Tropes of Queer Invisibility in Martinique

### STRAND 2: Limits and Boundary Crossings

#### *Queer Generations*, Chair: **Wibke Straube** | Room 3038 |

- Katrina Roen** (Oslo): Viable Lives? Gender Variant Youth, Suicide, and Self-Harm
- Irina Schmitt** (Lund): How Childish! Queering 'Youth' and some other of the Mutual Challenges of Queer and Education Research
- Janne C.H. Bromseth and Fanny Ambjörnsson** (Stockholm): "When you are married and have children..." Elderly LBT-Women and Queer Youth Negotiating Heteronormative Life Scripts, Gender and Age

- 13:15 – 14:45 h Lunch

- 14:45 – 16:00 h PANELS

### STRAND 1: Affect, Space and Temporality

#### *Time and Affect*, Chair: **Nanna Heidenreich** | Room 3075 |

- Dominique Grisard** (Basel): Pink Prisons, Rosy Future? An Alternative Genealogy of the Color Pink
- Ingeborg Svensson** (Umeå): Love and Death – On Queer Resistance and Strategies of Resistance on Queer Funerals

### STRAND 2: Limits and Boundary Crossings

#### *Limits of Queer*, Chair: **Carsten Junker** | Room 3038 |

- Robert Kulpa and Joanna Mizielińska** (London/Warsaw): Con-Temporal Peripheries: Disjunctions in Space and Time, Knowledge and Activism, between Central-Eastern European and Western Sexualities
- Aidan T. A. Varney** (London): The Socio-political (Un)intelligibility of Barebackers' Bodies

- 16:00 – 16:30 h Coffee Break

- 16:30 – 17:45 h PANELS

### STRAND 1: Affect, Space and Temporality

#### *Kinships*, Chair: **Sabine Meyer** | Room 3075 |

- Léo Perier** (Paris): Theory Facing Reality: About Transgressive Relationships
- Susanne Jung** (Tübingen): "Gay, But Not-Gay": Queer Visions of Sexuality and Kinship in Amy Fox' Heights

### STRAND 2: Limits and Boundary Crossings

#### *Economies*, Chair: **Amy Villarejo** | Room 3038 |

- Jennifer Moos** (Saarbrücken): Queer in Bed?, or: The Dialectics of Sleep
- Kathrin Ganz and Do. Gerbig** (Hamburg): Tales of Deconstructing Capitalism

- 17:45 h Coffee Break

- 18:15 h | Room 3038 |  
Keynote **Judith Jack Halberstam** (Los Angeles): "The Killer in Me, Is the Killer in You": Homosexuality and Fascism  
Commentary: **Jens Borchering**

- 19:45 h | Room 3038 |  
Closing Remarks **Eveline Kilian**

- 20:00 h End of Conference