



## Wissenschaftliches Kolloquium des ZtG

# Inter\* and bio-political regulation of gender in the 20th and 21st centuries

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Unter den Linden 6, Raum 2103

Donnerstag, der 12.06.2014, 14-18 Uhr

Cultural studies and social sciences highlight the repressive treatment of intersex people in medicine, law and society. And yet, is this analysis enough for a critical understanding of the approach to inter\* in the 20th and 21st centuries? What brought doctors and parents since the 1950s to believe that early hormone therapy and surgical procedures to assign a gender is the best thing for their intersex children? And how can the current situation, where governing and medical authorities open dialogue with inter\* advocacy organizations and make suggestions for changes intended to appease their radical stances, be analyzed? How can non-repressive power mechanisms also be viewed critically? Michel Foucault's concept of biopower offers approaches to the topic. It points to the fact that modern practices of disciplining are wrapped up with the power techniques of life optimization, surveillance of the population and stimulation of integrative normalizing self-regulation. Along these theoretical lines, social practices come into focus that determine our horizons of perception and conception in such a way as to render it unthinkable and unlivable not to fulfill gender norm expectations. On the other hand, intersex people see medical interventions conducted during early childhood as violently bending their bodies to fit into a norm. In addition the increasing use of prenatal diagnostics leads to abortions and thus to eugenic selection. The workshop brings presentations on various topics relating to Inter\* together, in order to discuss how selection, paternalism over intersex people, and violent bending of their bodies to conform, converge with subtle biopolitical power mechanisms of self-regulation.

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U6 (Friedrichstraße)  
Bus 100, 147, 200, TXL (Unter den Linden)  
Tram M1, 12 (Hegelplatz)

14:00 Uhr  
Begrüßung/Welcome

14:05 – 14:40 Uhr  
*Ulrike Klöppel (HU Berlin):*  
**Introduction: Intersex Between „Making Live“ and „Letting Die“: Biopolitics and the Medicalisation of „Ambiguous“ Sex**

14:40 - 15:40 Uhr  
*Erika Alm (University of Gothenburg):*  
**The Biomedicalization of Intersex: the U.S. and Sweden as case studies**

15:40 – 16:40 Uhr  
*Janik Bastien Charlebois (Université du Québec à Montréal):*

**Doctors and Intersex Activists: Examining the Conditions of their Interactions**

*Moderation: Todd Sekuler (Berlin)*

16:40 – 17:00 Uhr  
Kaffeepause/Coffee Break

17:00 – 18:00 Uhr  
*Anja Gregor (Universität Jena):*  
**„Das ist mein Körper!“ - Zur Bedeutung von Zurichtungserfahrungen und Emanzipationsstrategien in intergeschlechtlichen Biographien.**

18:00 – 19:00 Uhr  
*Michaela Koch (Universität Oldenburg):*  
**„As an intersexual...“: Intersex Testimonials zwischen Identität und Intervention**

*Moderation: Eveline Kilian (HU Berlin)*