



SYMPOSIUM

# Writing and Theorizing the Queer Subject

on the occasion of the 65<sup>th</sup> birthday of Eveline Kilian

**19 April 2024**

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Senatssaal  
Unter den Linden 6, 10099 Berlin

[https://hu.berlin/writing\\_and\\_theorizing\\_the\\_queer\\_subject](https://hu.berlin/writing_and_theorizing_the_queer_subject)

# Writing and Theorizing the Queer Subject

10:00 - 10:20

## Welcome Address

Helga Schwalm, Eva Boesenberg,  
and Anne Enderwitz (HU Berlin,  
Department of English and American  
Studies)

Beate Binder, Ulrike Vedder,  
and Gabi Jähnert (HU Berlin, Center for  
Transdisciplinary Gender Studies)

10:20 - 11:50

## Panel 1: Queer Subjectivities

Elahe Haschemi Yekani (HU Berlin)  
and Beatrice Michaelis (Berlin)  
A Brief History of Lesbians on TV

Katrin Röder (HU Berlin)  
Humour and Comedy in  
Contemporary Life Storying at the  
Intersection of Gender, Queerness  
and Disability

Aileen Jorena Behrendt (University of  
Potsdam):  
Camp and Kitsch Kindness:  
Questioning Masculinity and  
Leadership in Contemporary  
TV Comedies

Chair:  
Konstantin Helm (HU Berlin)

Coffee break

12:15 - 14:15

## Panel 2: Modernism and Postmodernism

Barbara Wünnenberg (Avaaz)  
The Lost City: Berlin Nostalgia in  
Christopher Isherwood's *Goodbye to  
Berlin* and Sabahattin Ali's *Madonna in  
a Fur Coat*

Tamara Radak (University of Vienna)  
Virginia Woolf and Queer/Modernist  
Temporalities

Katrin Frisch (Berlin-Brandenburg  
Academy of Sciences and Humanities)  
The Modernist Animal:  
Configurations of Gender and Class  
from a Dog's Perspective in  
Woolf's *Flush*

Julia Braga (Federal University of Rio  
de Janeiro) (online)  
Dialogues Between Modernism  
and Postmodernism:  
Representations of History in  
Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse*  
and Toni Morrison's *Beloved*

Chair:  
Johanna Fokken (HU Berlin)

Lunch break

# Symposium on the occasion of the 65<sup>th</sup> birthday of Eveline Kilian

15:45 - 17:15

## Panel 3: Queer Crossing Borders

Áine McMurtry (King's College London) (online)  
Greetings from KCL

Susanne Hochreiter (University of Vienna)

What if ...? Conversations about Literature and Theory

Tomasz Basiuk (University of Warsaw)  
Small Beginnings, Greater Ends.  
On Queer Temporalities,  
Class Assignments,  
and Traveling Queer Theory

Kaye Mitchell (The University of Manchester)  
Queer Experiments

Chair:  
Anna Kurowicka (University of Warsaw)

Coffee break

17:45 - 19:00

## Readings

Maria Alexopoulos (University of British Columbia) (online), Krystyna Mazur (University of Warsaw) and Tijana Ristic Kern (HU Berlin)  
Queer Friendships and Desires in *Bear*

Kathrin Tordasi (Berlin)  
Literary Forays Through London

Chair:  
Ulrike Vedder (HU Berlin)

## Eveline Kilian

- Since 2006: Professor for English Cultural Studies and Cultural History, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HU Berlin)
- Since 2012: Visiting Professor at the School of Arts and Humanities, King's College London
- Various guest professorships at the Universities of Frankfurt/Main, Tübingen, Freiburg, Saarbrücken and Göttingen
- 1996 and 2002: PhD and habilitation, Universität Tübingen
- Involvement in self-administration and academic policy: Managing Director of the Department of English and American Studies (2011–2013); member of the Philosophy II Faculty Council (2008–2010); co-spokesperson for the Center for Transdisciplinary Gender Studies (ZtG) with Beate Binder (2008–2011); member of the ZtG's Joint Commission/Center Council (since 10/2006); Chair of HU Berlin's Commission for the Advancement of Women (2015–2019)

## Research Areas

Queer and transgender theory | Queer autobiographies | Modern and postmodern theory | Metropolitan cultures (London) | Discourse analysis (Foucault)

## Research Projects

- Long-standing cooperation with King's College London; developing a joint PhD
- Circle U. Academic Chair of 'Democracy under Pressure then and now? Political and Cultural Entanglements during the Interwar Years'; international, interdisciplinary summer school (2022)
- Queer Theory in Transit: Reception, Translation, and Production of Queer Theory in Polish and German Contexts': financed by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and the National Science Center Poland (2023–2026)

## Selected Publications

- *Life Writing and Space*. London/New York, 2016. (ed. with Hope Wolf)
- *Queer Futures: Reconsidering Ethics, Activism, and the Political*. Farnham, 2013. (ed. with Elahe Haschemi Yekani, Beatrice Michaelis)
- *Travelling Gender Studies: Grenzüberschreitende Wissens- und Institutionentransfers*. Münster, 2011. (ed. with Beate Binder et al.)
- *London. Eine literarische Entdeckungsreise*, Darmstadt 2008.
- *GeschlechtSverkehrt. Theoretische und literarische Perspektiven des gender-bending*, Königstein 2004.

For detailed information, see: <https://www.angl.hu-berlin.de/departement/staff-faculty/professors/kilian>

# Writing and Theorizing the Queer Subject

Symposium on the occasion of the 65<sup>th</sup> birthday of Eveline Kilian

The Symposium "Writing and Theorizing the Queer Subject" is an occasion to celebrate Professor Eveline Kilian's 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, paying tribute to her legacy and expressing deep appreciation for her work. Colleagues from around the world will gather to acknowledge her academic accomplishments and contributions to the fields of queer, gender, and feminist theory, cultural studies, and literary criticism. The symposium's broad international line-up highlights Eveline Kilian's ongoing engagement for inter-university and international collaborations and networking, as well as her significant role in establishing queer theory and gender studies at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, bringing together colleagues at HU and internationally. Contributions to the programme, spanning scholarly papers to literary readings, underscore the profound impact of Eveline's work on the intellectual pursuits of her students and peers and her influential mentorship of students, PhD candidates, and Postdocs.

We extend a warm invitation to join the Department of English and American Studies and the Center for Transdisciplinary Gender Studies in honouring a career devoted to guiding students, fostering inclusivity, and expanding the boundaries of academic discourse on gender and sexuality.

## Information

### Center for Transdisciplinary Gender Studies (ZtG)

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

### Department of English and American Studies

Faculty of Language, Literature and Humanities

### Concept and Organisation

*Gabriele Jähnert*

Center for Transdisciplinary Gender Studies (ZtG)

*Tijana Ristic Kern*

Department of English and American Studies

*Elahe Haschemi Yekani*

Department of English and American Studies

### Contact

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### Date

Friday, 19 April 2024

### Venue

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Main Building, Senatssaal

Unter den Linden 6

10099 Berlin

Please register for the event [online](https://hu.berlin/writing_and_theorizing_the_queer_subject).



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