

NEWSLETTER
NETHERLANDS
SCHOOL OF
STUDIES (NOV)

RESEARCH
WOMEN'S



Dear all,

Please find below three announcements for conferences/lectures in the coming two weeks.

The NOV-team

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CONFERENCES / LECTURES

• **Technologies of Belonging. Biology, Race and Ethnicity in Europe (University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands)**

Date: Thursday June 2 and Friday June 3, 2011

Location: Amsterdam - Allard Pierson Museum

Subject: In many European countries the discussion of race as a biological phenomenon has long been an anathema. Recent changes in the life sciences and other disciplines (i.e. archaeology) have, however, put race and biology globally back on the agenda in sometimes all too familiar and sometimes novel ways.

Developments in the new genetics and beyond have promoted a renewed willingness to discuss self, kin and group in biological terms. This biologisation takes place across a variety of fields, ranging from medical practice and biomedical research, behavioral genetics and forensic policing, to population genetics and genealogy. Race is an often shadowy and always contested presence in these developments which cannot be dismissed as a return to scientific racism. For example, racial and ethnic categories typically feature in new life sciences as hybrid objects bridging the social and the biological and combining objective systems of classification and subjective identifications.

Our workshop aims to examine the ways in which race is made and remade across these different domains. The workshop will bring together scholars from the history of science, anthropology, science and technology studies and post-colonial studies. The format of the workshop is such that it invites the engagement and debate as to help unravel the similarities and differences between these fields and specifically what race is made to be in them. Rather than aiming at an ultimate answer to what race is, we seek to understand the multiple effects of race thinking and doing. The workshop is intended to the start of a series of events on this and related themes. Speakers: Mike Fortun, Susan Legène, Marianne Sommer, Gísli Pálsson, Peter Wade, Sebastian Abrahamsson, Annemarie Mol, Susanne Bauer, Stefan Beck, Staffan Mueller-Wille, Maarten Derksen, Catherine Nash, Markus Balkenhol, Huub Dijkstra, Alexandra Widmer, Geertje Mak, Torsten Heinemann, David Skinner, Katharina Schramm and Amade M'charek.

Application details: <https://sites.google.com/site/technologiesofbelonging>

More information: <https://sites.google.com/site/technologiesofbelonging>

• **Doing Gender Lecture by Professor Moira Gatens (Utrecht University, the Netherlands)**

Date: Thursday June 9, 2011; 15.00 hrs – 17.00 hrs

Location: Utrecht – Kromme Nieuwegracht 80, room 1.06

Subject: Prof. Moira Gatens (University of New South Wales, Australia) will give a lecture on *Two Readings of Feuerbach: Luce Irigaray and George Eliot on the Divine*. In 'Divine Women' Luce Irigaray claims that woman has no gender (*genre*) through which she can become and that before woman can become free, autonomous, sovereign, she needs a god. 'Divine Women' is, in part, a re-reading and appropriation of Feuerbach's views in *The Essence of Christianity*. George Eliot was the translator of Feuerbach's *Essence* and was greatly influenced by his ideas. However, whereas Irigaray uses Feuerbach as support for her call for a god in the feminine gender (*genre*) Eliot appropriates his philosophy for the development of a project of an immanent 'I-Thou' ethical relationship between the sexes. Is there any common ground between Irigaray's and Eliot's projects? I shall consider this question through an account of the different senses in which each theorist understands the imagination, narrative identity, and gender (*genre*).

Professor Gatens is a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia and of the Academy of Humanities in Australia. She has held several ARC grants; most recently she was awarded an Australian Professorial Fellowship (2006-2010). Professor Gatens'

work centers on social and political philosophy, ethics, 17th century philosophy (especially Spinoza) and feminist theory. Her publications include *Collective Imaginings: Spinoza, Past and Present* (1999, with Genevieve Lloyd), *Imaginary Bodies: Ethics, Power and Corporeality* (1996) and *Feminist Interpretations of Benedict Spinoza* (2009).

Application details: free entrance, but please register at nov@uu.nl

• **L'Homme congress: 'Gender and the politics of auto/biographical memory: new directions' (University of Groningen, the Netherlands)**

Date: Friday June 10, 2011; 9.00 hrs - 18.00 hrs

Location: Groningen - Oude Boteringestraat 38 (Old Court of Justice)

Subject: The program of this L'Homme-congress includes a key lecture by Liz Stanley (University of Edinburgh) and three sessions.

The first addresses 'Biography and the gender politics of memory in specific cultural contexts'. In this session the uses of auto/biographical memory in (professional) contexts such as science, politics, the medical profession are explored by Kaat Wils (University Leuven), Birgitte Possing, and Krassimira Dashkalova (St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia).

In the second session, 'Collective Biography and the politics of Group Memory', two projects are reviewed and discussed in which the first generation of women's studies professors in Sweden and in Germany have been interviewed with the intention of preserving their memory for future feminism and feminists. Kirsti Niskanen & Christina Florin (Stockholm University), Ulrike Vogel (Emeritus TU Braunschweig), and Hana Havelková (Charles University, Prague) will address the questions: What were the conceptual starting points for the projects, what were outcomes and new analytical insights for such politics of collective memory? How does this collective biography differ from group biography such as family biography?

In the last session, 'Politics and culture of auto/biographical collections and publications' the politics and histories of collecting and publishing women's autobiographical texts today are discussed and compared with nineteenth-century interests in publishing women's personal narratives. What was/is the role of different interest groups: women (readers), historians, the booktrade? What is the meaning of collecting, inventorising women's autobiographical memory. What is a good publishing strategy and how should it be done? Papers are presented by Li Gerhalter & Christa Hämmerle (University Vienna) and Gudrun Wedel (Freie Universität Berlin), with comments by Arianne Baggerman (University of Amsterdam).

Round table discussion by: Caroline Arni (Bern University), Barbara Henkes (University Groningen), Regina Schulte (Universität Bochum), Claudia Ulbrich (Freie Universität Berlin), Mineke Bosch (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen).

Application details: entrance is free, but please register with Kirsten Kamphuis:

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