

NOG



Netherlands Research School of Gender Studies

PhD Masterclass with Professor Gloria Wekker

Date: **Friday April 24, 2015**

Time: **13.15-17.00h**

Location: **Utrecht University**

Organizer: **Netherlands Research School of Gender Studies**

Subject: This seminar discusses feminist methodologies, specifically the various ways of gathering and analyzing data (archival materials, oral histories, texts, interviews, ethnography/auto-ethnography, etc.) from a feminist perspective. The focus will be on qualitative research methods on a broad inter- and multidisciplinary level, including but not limited to methods of interviewing and using focus groups. Prof. Wekker is guided in this masterclass by the question what kinds of contributions her research aims at making. Therefore she will discuss her book *Politics of Passion* (2006) and her new book *White Innocence, Paradoxes of Race and Colonialism* (forthcoming 2015).

Prof. Gloria Wekker is a social and cultural anthropologist (University of Amsterdam, 1981; UCLA 1992). Her specializations are in the fields of Gender Studies, Sexuality Studies, African American Studies and Caribbean Studies. Since 2001, she occupied the Aletta (IIAV)-chair Gender and Ethnicity at the Faculty of Humanities of Utrecht University. She also was director of GEM, Expertise Center for Gender, Ethnicity and Multiculturality in higher education. This organization advised, developed instruments and conducted research in the area of gender-sensitivity and interculturality of higher education. Recently (March 2015), she spoke to the University of Colour at the Maagdenhuis, about precisely these topics.

She defended her dissertation *I Am a Gold Coin; The Construction of Selves, Gender and Sexualities in a Female, Working-Class, Afro-Surinamese Setting* (UCLA 1992), a research on the sexual subjectivity of Creole working-class women in Paramaribo, Suriname. In 1994, an adaptation of her thesis was published in Dutch under the title *Ik ben een gouden Munt! I'm a gold coin*. The transcontinental follow-up study is entitled *The Politics of Passion; Women's sexual Culture in the Afro-Surinamese Diaspora* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2006), for which she received the Ruth Benedict Prize of the American Anthropological Association in 2007.

Gloria Wekker published on a wide range of areas, among others about the sexual subjectivity of women in the black Diaspora, knowledge systems in the Dutch academy and in Dutch multicultural society, on diversity in the Language and Literature curriculum and on the history of the black, migrant and refugee women movement in the Netherlands. She also writes short stories and poetry. She is on the Scientific Board of NiNsee, the Dutch Institute that studies the slavery past and present, and on the editorial board of several journals in the fields of Queer, Race and Gender Studies.

The masterclass will start with a lecture by Gloria Wekker. The second part will be devoted to students' work in progress, who will have the opportunity to present their research and ask specific questions to Prof. Wekker and the other participants.

Participation: PhD students and research master students who want to present short papers or questions & reflections on work in progress (any format) connected to this theme.

Note: there is a maximum of 18 participants and 6 presentations of PHD and/or RMA work in progress.

Deadline for application: Tuesday April 14, 2015 by sending the following to nog@uu.nl (mentioning 'Masterclass Gloria Wekker' in the subject):

- A one page description of your research project and problems
- One formulated question pertaining to methodology or aim of the research
- Mark your application with either participant or presenter

Required reading:

- Chapter 2 'Feminist Empiricism'; Chapter 3 'Feminist Standpoints'; and Chapter 4 'Postmodern, Poststructural and Critical Theories'. In: Sharlene Nagy Hesse-Biber *Handbook of Feminist Research: Theory and Practice*. Sage publication, 2007.

Suggested reading:

- Wekker, Gloria. *The Politics of Passion: Women's Sexual Culture in the Afro-Surinamese Diaspora*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2006.