



NETHERLANDS RESEARCH SCHOOL OF GENDER STUDIES

DOING GENDER Spring 2014 Lecture Series

In the spring of 2014 the Netherlands Research School of Gender Studies (NOG) in cooperation with the Graduate Gender Programme (GGeP) at Utrecht University organises the twelfth round of the **DOING GENDER Lecture Series**. These lectures stress the importance of doing gender work combined with an active involvement in the practice of gender theory and research. The concept of **DOING GENDER** supports a hands-on approach to gender issues in the sense of social and political engagement with the new forms of gender inequalities that are taking shape in the world today. The lecture series wants to give space to the new generations of gender theorists and practitioners and to perspectives that innovate the field and do gender in new ways. Key is the notion of doing gender: what is the state of the art definition of gender? How do contemporary scholars and activists utilise this definition?

The **Doing Gender Lecture Series** takes place in Utrecht and is free of charge.

For more information: www.graduategenderstudies.nl.

Registration is not compulsory, but highly appreciated: nog@uu.nl or 030 - 253 6001.

Upcoming Doing Gender Lectures on Media, Art and Activism

- **Tuesday March 25, 2014: Ala'a Basatneh (Loyola University of Chicago) and Inna Shevchenko (FEMEN)**
- **Lecture:** *How to start a Revolution?*
- **Time:** 16.00 - 17.30 hrs
- **Location:** Utrecht, Drift 21, room 0.05
- **Chair:** Prof. Dr. Rosemarie Buikema

The Syrian Ala'a Basatneh is a 21 year old student pursuing her Bachelor Degree in political sciences at the Loyola University of Chicago. Next to her academic activities, she is also a human rights and political activist, playing an important role in the Syrian Revolution. From behind her computer, she has been helping coordinating the revolution through diverse forms of social media. And with 1,200 Facebook friends and 2,000 followers on Twitter, she has built up an impressive network. She posts demonstrations as Facebook events, plots escape routes using Google Maps and uploads footage shot by demonstrators. She also ensures that all kinds of recording equipment get to her friends, once ordinary students who now want to overthrow the rule by terror of President Bashar al-Assad.

During the lecture, Ala'a will talk about her personal experiences and explain how she organizes this revolution using social media. She will discuss social media as a new form of activism, by telling something about her goals of social media activism, her tools and obstacles. And moreover, she will reflect on her own role in the revolution and what she can change by using this type of activism.

Inna Shevchenko will also discuss new forms of activism in her lecture. Inna is a member of the Ukrainian feminist protest group FEMEN (founded in 2008), which often makes headline news across the world for demonstrating topless against what they perceive as manifestations of patriarchy, especially dictatorship, religion, and the sex industry. Shevchenko has a higher profile than the other members of the group. She was the leader of the three FEMEN activists reputedly kidnapped and threatened by the Belarus KGB in 2011. She achieved attention in Ukraine by cutting with a chainsaw and then bringing down a 13 feet high Christian cross erected in memory of the



millions of victims of the Holodomor (the man-made famine in the Ukrainian SSR in 1932 and 1933) in central Kyiv in 2012.

FEMEN describes itself as "fighting patriarchy in its three manifestations - sexual exploitation of women, dictatorship and religion" and has stated that its goal is "sexism serving to protect women's rights". FEMEN activists have been regularly detained by police in response to their protests. The FEMEN office in their native Kiev was closed and the organization's leadership left Ukraine ("Fearing for their lives and freedom") in August 2013. In 2013, Shevchenko was granted political asylum in France, and now continues her activism by leading FEMEN France from a training base she has established in Paris.

- **Wednesday May 7, 2014: Prof. Dr. Marie-Luise Angerer (Academy of Media Arts Cologne)**
- **Lecture:** *When we move, who is it moving? On time gaps, plasticity, and the question of affect*
- **Time:** 16.00 - 17.30 hrs
- **Location:** Utrecht, location to be announced
- **Chair:** Prof. Dr. Rosemarie Buikema

In recent years it has become more and more noticeable that the libidinal economy based on sexuality and the unconscious has been replaced by a new one grounded on the affect. This substitution entails major shifts touching questions of gender, desire, human and non-human species. The lecture will portray this new emerging mode of affective existence.



Marie-Luise Angerer is Professor of Media and Cultural Studies at the Academy of Media Arts Cologne, Germany. She has been a guest professor at the University of Art in Berlin and professor of Media Studies at Ruhr-University Bochum. Angerer was a visiting academic at the universities of San Diego and Santa Cruz (USA), Ottawa (Canada), Sydney (Australia), Budapest and Zürich. She is currently working on the relationship of affect & media technology.

Among her publications are the following books *Vom Begehren nach dem Affekt* (2007; will be translated into English as *Desire and Affect* in 2014) and *Gender goes Life. Die Lebenswissenschaften als Herausforderung für die Gender Studies* (2008; with C. König) and articles like 'Feeling the Image: Some Critical Notes on Affect' (in: O. Grau, eds., *Imagery in the 21st Century*, 2011) and 'Affective Modulation in Politics, Theory and Art' (in: G. Brandstetter, eds., *Touch and to Be Touched*, 2013).

Forthcoming in June 2014: Sunny Bergman

Dutch filmmaker Sunny Bergman will give the last Doing Gender Lecture of Spring 2014. In 2013 Bergman published the book and film *Sletvrees* and she previously made *Over the Hill* (Beperkt Houdbaar; 2007), a film challenging the beauty industry and criticising how it distorts the image women have of themselves.

Bergman has won the Dick Scherpenzeel Prize 2012 for her film *Sunny side of sex* (2011): a four-part documentary on sexuality, femininity and the female body in non-Western parts of the world. Sunny Bergman filmed women in Cuba, India, China and Uganda, revealing the positive side of sexuality in their cultures.



Renowned Doing Gender speakers of the past years were:

Saskia Sassen (Columbia University), Judith Butler (University of California, Berkeley), Antjie Krog (University of Western Cape), Susan Lindquist (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Claire Hemmings (London School of Economics), Jasbir Puar (Rutgers University), Joanna Regulska (Rutgers University), Maria Serena Sapegno (University of Rome La Sapienza), Ursula Biemann (video artist on gender and globalisation, Zurich), Marguerite Waller (University of California, Riverside), Rebecca Gomperts (Women on Waves), Rosi Braidotti (Utrecht University), Linda Alcoff (Syracuse University), Rebecca Walker, Yana Rodgers (Rutgers University), Catherine Hakim (London School of Economics), Gloria Wekker (Utrecht University), Elizabeth Grosz (Rutgers University), Henrietta Moore (London School of Economics), Saba Mahmood (University of California, Berkeley), Azar Nafisi (Johns Hopkins University), Asma Barlas (Ithaca College), Anne Brewster (University of New South Wales), Sneja Gunew (University of British Columbia), Hyekyung Lee (Yonsei University, South Korea), Pil Wha Chang (EWha Women's University, South Korea), Marja Vuijsje, Moira Gatens (University of New South Wales, Australia), Vicki Kirby (University of New South Wales, Australia), Joanna Bourke (Birkbeck College, London), Patricia MacCormack (Anglia Ruskin University, United Kingdom), Genevieve Lloyd (University of New South Wales,

Australia), Inderpal Grewal (Yale University), Bracha L. Ettinger, Griselda Pollock (Leeds University), Femke Halsema, Ella Shohat (New York University), Robert Stam (Tisch School of the Arts), Rutvica Andrijasevic (University of Leicester), Joan Scott (Princeton University), Elleke Boehmer (Oxford University), Soledad Falabella Luco (University of Chile), Estelle Barrett and Susan Stryker (University of Arizona), Geertje Mak (Radboud University Nijmegen), Bishnupriya Ghosh (University of California, Santa Barbara), renée hoogland (Wayne State University, Detroit).