



Newsletter

Dear all,

With this newsletter we wish to inform you about relevant events, fellowships/vacancies, calls for papers and new releases.

The NOG-team,

Prof. dr. Rosemarie Buikema, Trude Oorschot and Vibeke Otter

Conferences / Courses / Lectures / Events

EDGES Conference and Doing Gender Lecture (Utrecht University, NL)

In the context of the EU LLP programme EDGES the conference 'The politics of gendered difference, civil rights and the workplace' takes place in Utrecht on Friday January 23, 2015.

EDGES is a Lifelong Learning Programme Project that involves eight academic and non-academic European institutions with a longstanding collaboration and expertise in Women's and Gender Studies. EDGES aims to shape and develop a model for a European PhD in Women's and Gender Studies.

In the morning (9.30 – 11.45 hrs) Professor Susan Stanford Friedman (University of Wisconsin-Madison) will give a Doing Gender Lecture on 'Religion, Secularism, and Migration in the Post 9/11 World: Feminist Intersectionality'. Responses by Professor Rosemarie Buikema and Dr. Marta Zarzycka (both UU). Background reading is available at genderstudies@uu.nl. This lecture will be followed by a talk of Professor Sandra Fredman (University of Oxford) on 'Pregnancy and Parenting: Bringing Men into the frame'.

In the afternoon (14.15 – 18.00 hrs) there will be short presentations of international Stakeholders and a Round Table that aims at the development of collaboration with non-academic institutions and international stakeholders with the objective of establishing a network which should consolidate previous collaborations and partnerships with public and private associations, organizations and foundations. The Round Table will be organized by means of short presentations and a set of preset questions. Those questions will concern the kind of academic and professional training in the Higher Education they would either encourage us to develop within the EDGES-consortium or to which they would be able to contribute.

Registration via email: genderstudies@uu.nl

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PhD Tutorial Rosi Braidotti (Utrecht University, NL)

In April/May 2015 the NOG organizes a PhD tutorial at Utrecht University with Professor Rosi Braidotti. This interdisciplinary tutorial provides an excellent opportunity for PhD students to work with one of the major scholars working on feminist theory, posthumanism, gender studies, and philosophy. The format of the tutorial (in English) consists of four sessions with Braidotti and three preparatory working sessions run by the participating students themselves. Each session with Braidotti will start with a lecture by professor Braidotti.

PhD students can send an email with their motivation and background to NOG@uu.nl before February 15, 2015. The tutorial is also open to Research Master students.

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One-Year PhD Training in Gender Studies (Utrecht University, NL)

The Netherlands Research School of Gender Studies (NOG, Utrecht University) offers a one-year interdisciplinary programme (10 months) for graduated MA students and PhD students from abroad. The training package consists of NOG courses and research seminars. All courses are taught in English from multicultural, (Western) European perspectives. A certificate is issued after completion of each individual course. Please note that this training doesn't officially constitute a MA or PhD degree, although an ECTS system is in place. The Dutch academic year runs from September to the end of June. The one-year PhD Training starts yearly in September.

Pre-requisite for admission: a Master's degree or the equivalent of a M.A. in gender or gender-related areas. The NOG Board will make a profound evaluation about the global value of your foreign higher education.

Deadline for registration is February 1 (early bird), and April 1 (last call), 2015.

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Postcolonial Film Series 2014-2015 (Utrecht University, NL)

The Postcolonial Initiative (PCI, Utrecht University) hosts its fifth postcolonial film series with a selection of films shown monthly that draw on a variety of different contexts in our postcolonial world. The series is organized annually and invites all interested in our European postcolonial present and the representation of its political, cultural and aesthetic realities and challenges. We want to explore, through visual representations and cinematographic narratives, how these realities are analyzed and re-imagined in contemporary film. Each film will be introduced briefly by scholars connected to the PCI. This series opened on September 16, 2014, with a tribute to Stuart Hall, the father of cultural studies. The programme is as follows:

- February 17: Concerning Violence (Göran Olsson, Sweden/USA/Denmark/Finland, 2014) Introduced by Doro Wiese.
- March 3: Half of a Yellow Sun (Biyi Bandele, Nigeria/UK, 2014) Introduced by Sandra Ponzanesi.
- March 17: Queen (Vikas Bahl, India, 2014) Introduced by Barnita Bagchi.

The PCI is sponsored by and connected to Utrecht University's research focus area [Culture, Citizenship and Human Rights](#).

The screenings will take place in Utrecht (time and location plus duration of the movies can be found on the website) and are free of charge.

Registration via the website.

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ARC-GS Lecture Dr. Paul Boyce (University of Amsterdam, NL)

On January 23, 2015, Dr. Paul Boyce (Lecturer in Anthropology and International Development, University of Sussex) will give a lecture [at the University of Amsterdam](#) (NL) from 15:30-17:00 hrs. The lecture is entitled "Envisioning Sexual Rights and Embodying Non-Normative Sexualities and Genders in the Context of Socio-Economic Transformation in Nepal". The presentation is based on a paper co-authored with Daniel Coyle, who is an independent researcher based in Nepal. Over the last decade or more Nepal has made significant legal advances in respect of rights for

sexual and gender minorities. Sexual rights activism in Nepal has in many ways been predicated on asserting and placing sexual and gender minorities' bodies within the "natural/ traditional" functioning of society. Against this background this paper explores everyday experiences of rights-based actions and socio-economic transformation in the lives and life-worlds of gender and sexual 'non-normative' people in Nepal.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Registration is not required.

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ACMES research convention (University of Amsterdam, NL)

On Wednesday January 28, 2015, the first ACMES Research Convention will be held. ACMES Associates from a great variety of fields will present (part of) their current research to their colleagues. We cordially invite all those interested in recent developments in research on the Middle East to attend this convention. Apart from ACMES associates and other scholars in our field, we also extend a warm welcome to students, policy makers and the interested public.

During the convention, ACMES Associates will present their research in thematic panels consisting of three or four papers. These panels, organised in three parallel sessions, will address topics varying from life in modern Middle Eastern cities to premodern linguistics, and from the Arab uprisings to Islamic art, and so on. This will offer all ACMES associates an excellent opportunity to discuss paper topics in an interdisciplinary setting, share ideas, and to become more familiar with their colleagues' research. In addition, the programme will include a keynote lecture by Michiel Leezenberg, entitled "Iraq, ISIS and the Kurds: Redrawing Boundaries through Sex, Religion and the Nation" and the day's programme will be concluded with a drinks reception. The convention will be a full-day event. Please register as an attendant via [this website](#).

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Summer Programme "New Forms of Realism in Contemporary Philosophy" (Ohrid, MK)

The Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities from Skopje and in cooperation with the International Institute of Studies of Humanities and Social Sciences (based in Athens) announces the organization of for a summer school program, with the following speakers: François Laruelle, Anne Françoise Schmid, Svetlana Slapšak, Katarina Kolozova, Gil Anidjar (TBC) and Ray Brassier (TBC). The first part of the Summer Programme entitled "New Forms of Realism in Contemporary Philosophy", will be held in Ohrid (Macedonia) from June 26 – July 3, 2015. This first part of the joint summer school program for 2015, carried out by ISSHS-Skopje and IISHSS (an international, European institution based in Athens), focuses on the recent trends of realism in contemporary philosophy which has been labeled often erroneously under a single and vague category such as "speculative realism" or "new materialism" etc. Unpacking such generalizations and aiming at specific authors who have generated distinct strands of thought that nonetheless constitute what we have vaguely termed "new realisms in philosophy," we conceptualized the sub-courses:

- "The non-standard philosophy of François Laruelle"; sub-course leader: François Laruelle (Ohrid)
- "Non-standard epistemologies"; sub-course leader Anne Françoise Schmid (Ohrid)
- "Magic Realism and Socialist Realism: Arts and Persuasion"; sub-course leader Svetlana Slapšak (Ohrid)
- "Exploration of possibilities for realist readings in contemporary feminist philosophy in line with non-standard philosophy and the writings of Marx"; sub-course leader and course director: Katarina Kolozova (Ohrid-Athens).

Deadline for early bird registration with discount is February 20, 2015.

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Fellowships / Vacancies

Special call Erasmus Mundus Master GEMMA scholarships (for non-EU students)
A SPECIAL CALL for applications for participation in the 9th edition of GEMMA with the ERASMUS+

scholarships is open until January 31st, 2015 to candidates from the following countries:

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, South Africa, Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates.

GEMMA: Erasmus Mundus Master's Degree in Women's and Gender Studies is a two-year postgraduate interdisciplinary study programme that provides high quality education and professional competencies for personnel working or intending to work in the areas of Women's Studies, Gender Studies and Equal Opportunities across Europe and beyond. Universities involved in GEMMA are: University of Granada (Spain), University of Bologna (Italy), Central European University of Budapest (Hungary), University of Hull (United Kingdom), University of Łódź (Poland), University of Oviedo (Spain), University of Utrecht (the Netherlands) and Rutgers The State University of New Jersey (USA).

Deadline for application is January 31, 2015.

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The Humanity in Action Fellowship (Amsterdam, Berlin, Copenhagen, Paris and Warsaw)

Intensive and demanding, the Humanity in Action Fellowship brings together international groups of university students and recent graduates to explore national histories of discrimination and resistance, as well as examples of issues affecting different minority groups today. Each program is highly interdisciplinary and features daily lectures and discussions with renowned academics, journalists, politicians and activists, as well as site visits to government agencies, non-profit and community organizations, museums and memorials. The programs seek to highlight different models of action to remedy injustice. The objective of the Humanity in Action Fellowship is to facilitate a collective exploration of the social and political roots of discrimination, as well as to provide a forum where potential solutions to some of today's most challenging issues can be considered and discussed. The programs are also intended to instill a responsibility among Humanity in Action Fellows to recognize and address the need to protect minorities and promote human rights - in their own communities and around the world.

Eligibility: students and recent graduates from universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Poland, Turkey, Ukraine and the United States. Programme dates: May 25 – June 28, 2015 (US Fellows only) and May 30 - June 28, 2015 (All Other Fellows).

Deadline for application is February 23, 2015.

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Calls for Papers

World Conference on Women's Studies (Colombo, LK)

Call for papers for the TIIKM's 1st Annual World Conference on Women's Studies 2015 (WCWS-2015), which will be held on March 24-25, 2015, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The organizing committee of WCWS-2015 devotes itself to supply the most cutting-edge updated information to you. During the conference, we will set up a series of activities such as Scientific Program, Exhibition, key note sessions, posters and so on. TIIKM's 1st Annual World Conference on Women's Studies attempts to form a discussion to address discrimination against women. Hence we selected "Elimination of Discrimination Based on Gender" as conference theme for WCWS 2015. All accepted abstracts and full papers (for those who register for the conference) will be published in the refereed conference proceedings with ISSN and also will be published electronically after the conference. You have the option for including either abstract only or full paper in the proceedings.

We will submit the proceedings to be indexed in the Thomson Reuters, SCOPUS, Mendeley, CiteULike and Google scholar for possible Indexing.

Deadline for submission of abstracts is January 30, 2015.

[Read more -->](#)

Digital Material/ism: How Materiality shapes Digital Culture and Social Interaction

Call for papers for the newly founded international peer-reviewed academic journal "Digital Culture and Society". The topic of the first issue is titled "Digital Material/ism: How Materiality shapes Digital Culture and Social Interaction".

The idea of a society, in which everyday smart objects are equipped with digital logic and sensor technologies, is currently taking shape. Devices connected as learning machines to the “Internet of Things” necessitate further research on issues related to digital media and their materiality. In this context, media, culture and social theories, dealing with the materiality of digital technology, have gained increasing relevance.

Investigations of digital material have given rise to a wide range of (new) research questions, approaches, and issues. From the early 2000s onwards, we can identify two major strands of research that developed: (1) from the technological and material conditions of hardware and software towards (2) the social/political/economic/legal infrastructures and power relations of proprietary networks and platforms. The eventual establishment of research fields such as software studies, critical code studies, media archaeology and the notion of the post-digital – represented by scholars such as David Berry, Wendy Chun, Alexander Galloway, Mark Hansen, Katherine Hayles, Friedrich Kittler, Lev Manovich, William Mitchell, Anna Munster, Adrian Mackenzie, Jussi Parikka, Eugene Thacker, and others, – can also be understood as indicators of an institutionalisation of ‘media-materialistic’ research. For the first issue “Digital Material/ism”, the newly founded Digital Culture & Society journal calls for further methodological and theoretical reflection on issues of digital materiality and digital materialism.

Deadline for submission of abstracts is February 1, 2015.

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The LOVA/Marjan Rens MA Thesis Award 2015

In the spring of 2015 LOVA and the Marjan Rens Foundation will award the sixth LOVA/Marjan Rens MA Thesis Award. This award is for the best MA thesis in the field of women- and gender studies in anthropology in the Netherlands. The award consists of 500 euro. The three nominated award winners will be invited to publish an article based on their thesis in LOVA: Journal for Gender Studies and Feminist Anthropology. The criteria for submitting a thesis are:

- The thesis has been finished between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2014.
- The thesis received an 8 or higher
- The thesis is written from a feminist anthropological perspective (that means that the relationship between gender and power, in one or more of its manifestations, is central)
- The thesis is written in Dutch or English
- The thesis was written for a Dutch university or institute.

Deadline for submission is February 1, 2015.

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Call for Papers for the Yearbook of Women’s History

The Yearbook of women’s History 2015 will be dedicated to *Gender and Democracy: Women’s Activism in a Long-Term Political Perspective*.

In the year of the Arab Spring, UN Secretary Ban Ki-Moon remarked in his opening address to a UN Roundtable on Gender Equality and Democracy: “It is no coincidence that the revolutionary fervor sweeping North Africa and the Middle East began in Tunisia – and that women played such a role. Tunisia was among the first Arab countries to grant women the right to vote, in the late 1950s. Tunisian women have also made important gains in the professions and parliament. Girls growing up with such role models quite naturally expect to follow suit.” He went on to conclude: “While women’s political participation improves democracy, the reverse is also true: democracy is an incubator for gender equality” (UN Roundtable, 4 May 2011). Such a strong public statement suggesting a self-evident connection between women’s empowerment and democratic politics may be read as an auspicious indication of ways in which feminist aspirations have become acknowledged in high places. However, it also raises questions. Most importantly: does every kind of women’s activism really automatically improve democracy? The 2015 *Yearbook of Women’s History* will devote itself to this issue.

For more information please send an email to Mieke Aerts (guest editor): m.aerts@wxs.nl or [check out the Facebook page](#).

Deadline paper abstract (maximum 300 words): 10 February 2015 to Evelien Walhout (editorial secretary): e.walhout@let.ru.nl

Conference “Upholding Gendered Peace at a Time of War: Academics and Activists Speak

Out on the Shifting Places of Women in the Arab World” (Beirut, LB)

Call for papers for the conference “Upholding Gendered Peace at a Time of War: Academics and Activists Speak Out on the Shifting Places of Women in the Arab World”, hosted by the Institute for Women’s Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) at the Lebanese American University Beirut. The conference will take place from June 2-4, 2015, in Beirut (Lebanon). From December 2010 to December 2013, an unprecedented wave of protests known as the Arab Spring spread through the Arab world, forcing rulers out of power in some countries (Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen, Libya), upheavals elsewhere in Bahrain, Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Sudan, and demonstrations in Mauritania, Western Sahara, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Djibouti, Palestine (West Bank). The Syrian uprising led to a most tragic ongoing civil war with grave consequences affecting its citizens, neighboring Arab countries, as well as minorities in the region such as the Kurds, Yazidis, and Christians.

The wars and unrest in the Arab region, the ongoing wars raging presently in Syria, Iraq, Kurdistan, Libya, and on the borders of Lebanon, have proven lethal to women’s rights. Not to mention that the Arab region is witnessing the largest refugee crisis that has affected Lebanon and Jordan to a great extent. Every aspect of this conflict has a fierce gender component built into it. The gender dimension is at the core of both the struggle during armed conflict and the social reconstruction that follows. For that purpose June 2-4, 2015 entitled “Upholding Gendered Peace at a Time of War: Academics and Activists Speak Out on the Shifting Places of Women in the Arab World”. Proposals should consist of a 250-word abstract in English, Arabic, or French that includes the paper’s title and a short bio data with the author’s affiliation and contact information. **Deadline** for submission of abstracts is February 20, 2015.

[More information -->](#)

Platform Issue “A Manifesto for Cyborgs thirty-years on: Gender, Technology and Feminist-Technoscience in the twenty-first century”

In her iconic essay *A Manifesto for Cyborgs: Science, Technology and Socialist-Feminism* in the 1980s, Donna Haraway introduced the metaphor of the cyborg as an “ironic political myth” to critique the so far troubling narratives of the West. Published in the *Socialist Review* in 1985, it brings together a broad spectrum of literacies—from socialist-feminism, to cybernetics and biopolitics—to proffer a cutting criticism of Enlightenment humanism, gender essentialism, and military technoscience. Her provocations created a useful framework to destabilise rigid boundaries and make fluid the borderlines between human and animal, organism and machine, natural and artificial, semiotic and material. Today the Manifesto sits comfortably as part of the canon of feminist-technoscience and postmodern theory. Although as an oppositional figure the cyborg is bounded by a historical specificity, it has certainly found new significance and politics in the contemporary age of ubiquitous media. To mark the 30th anniversary since its publication, [Platform](#) invites authors whose work resonates or responds to themes expounded in this seminal essay. With the benefit of thirty years’ hindsight, what new observations or critical assessments can be made in regards to the cyborg as a feminist, tropic figure? Did the cyborg fulfill its promise of an “historical transformation”? Is the figure of the cyborg still as useful today, given contemporary technological developments? Or, conversely, do we need myths like Haraway’s now more than ever? We encourage the submission of theoretical or empirical work engaging with applications of, or criticisms of, frameworks used by Haraway, and are particularly interested in critical papers that provide novel insights into the relation between gender and technoscience.

Deadline for submission of abstracts is February 27, 2015.

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Summer School for Sexualities, Cultures and Politics (Singidunum Univeristy, Belgrade, RS)

Call for participation for the Summer School for Sexualities, Cultures and Politics, which will be held from August 16-23, 2015, in Belgrade, Serbia.

The general aim of the School is to gather young post-graduate students, scholars and teaching staff from both Eastern and Western Europe and promote a shared platform for research and trans-disciplinary theoretical reflection on the complex modes of interweaving sexuality, culture and politics, and consequently of exchanging and questioning geopolitically determined discourses in the research of sexualities, gender studies, and queer theory. Our idea is to provide students, scholars and teachers with the opportunity to question, decenter and democratize these areas by way of deferring the notion of theoretical and geopolitical privilege which is often implied by these research areas, and

thus to introduce new models of rethinking context-specific phenomena related to sexualities and, vice versa, to enrich theoretical paradigms with context specific phenomena and research. The school consists of the following 4 elements: Obligatory Courses, Optional Courses (in 2 Streams), Workshop, and Open Programme. An ECTS system is in place.

Deadline for early [application](#) (10% discount) is April 20, 2015.

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New Releases

Book: *Transformations of Religion and the Public Sphere: Postsecular Publics*

Transformations of Religion and the Public Sphere: Postsecular Publics (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014), contributes a counter-discourse to the myth of secularism. This myth is a strongly-held belief, predominantly advocated in the westernised world, that progress and modernity is intimately linked to secular politics and social relations. This book develops a range of critiques of this myth through discussions on the current political, social, and technological conditions in which we find ourselves. It explores the political implications of the myth, as well as exploring postcolonial relations, liberal-secularism and religious sentiments, and the mediated public sphere, with an in-depth focus on the Dutch case. *Transformations of Religion and the Public Sphere: Postsecular Publics* takes issue with the secular condition and accepted beliefs of its liberal emancipatory foundations.

Edited by Rosi Braidotti, Bolette Blaagaard, Tobijn de Graauw, Eva Midden.

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New Journal “Catalyst: Feminism, Theory, Technoscience”

Catalyst: Feminism, Theory, and Technoscience serves the expanding interdisciplinary field of feminist science and technology studies (STS) by supporting theoretically inventive and methodologically creative scholarship incorporating approaches from critical public health, disability studies, sci-art, technology and digital media studies, history and philosophy of science and medicine.

The journal *Catalyst* publishes peer-reviewed critically and theoretically engaged feminist STS scholarship that reroutes the gendered, queer, raced, colonial, militarized, and political economic beings and doings of technoscience. Its mission is to support innovation in feminist STS and related areas of study, as well as to provide a venue for the publishing of activist feminist and critical theory. The editorial board welcomes submissions at any time.

The first issue of *Catalyst* will launch in the spring of 2015.

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