

NOG



Netherlands Research School of Gender Studies

## Newsletter

Dear all,

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

The NOG-team,  
Prof. dr. Rosemarie Buikema, Trude Oorschot and Vibeke Otter

## Conferences / Courses / Lectures / Events

### 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 MA 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), 2016.

[Read more -->](#)

### Associate Professor Denise Ferreira da Silva visits Utrecht University (NL)

Associate Professor Denise Ferreira da Silva (Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice, University of British Columbia) will visit Utrecht University for the following two events, in collaboration with [Terra Critica: Interdisciplinary Network for the Critical Humanities](#) and the [Art Manifestation Hacking Habitat: Art of Control](#):

1. February 15, 2016 (from 17.00-21.30 hrs): Associate Professor Denise Ferreira da Silva will join the **Terra Critica ReadingRoom**, second series on 'relationality - envisioning new wor(l)dings', with film screening of *From Left to Night* (Wendelien van Oldenborgh, 2015).

2. February 16, 2016 (from 11.00-13.00 hrs): Associate Professor Denise Ferreira da Silva will give a **Doing Gender Lecture on 'Hacking the Subject: Black Feminism, Refusal and the Limits of Critique'**. This lecture is also part of the 3-part lecture series 'Society Must Be Hacked', organised by Lindsay Grace Weber for Hacking Habitat.

Other Doing Gender lectures:  
- January 26, 2016: Professor Emeritus Gloria Wekker (Utrecht University, NL). This event is fully booked, registration is closed.  
- March 14, 2016: Professor dr. Shanon Winnubst (Ohio State University, USA)  
- May 18, 2016: Professor dr. Tina Chanter (Kingston University London, UK)

Registration [via email](#) for the Doing Gender Lecture is compulsory.

---

### Postcolonial Film series 2015-2016 (Utrecht University, NL)

The Postcolonial Studies Initiative is happy to announce its 6th 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. The PCI Film series started on September 15, 2015, with *Those who feel the fire burning* (Morgan Knibbe, NL, 2014). The film was introduced by Christine Quinan and film director Morgan Knibbe was present for Q&A. The series will take place every third Tuesday of the month until April (in Drift 21, room 0.32, from 19.15-21.30 hrs). Admission to the screenings is free of charge.

Programme of the Postcolonial Film Series 2015-2016:

January 12: *The missing picture* (Rithy Panh, Cambodia, 2014). Introduced by Sandra Ponzanesi.  
February 16: *Aferim!* (Radu Jude, Romania, 2015). Introduced by Laura Candidatu.  
March 15: *Drone* (Tonje Hessen Schei, Norway, 2014). Introduced by Doro Wiese.  
April 19: *The Act of Killing* (Joshua Oppenheimer, Indonesia, 2013). Introduced by Susanne Knittel.

[Read more -->](#)

---

### International Symposium 'The Role of (Post)colonial Public Intellectuals in Europe: Figures, Ideas and Connections' (Utrecht University, NL)

This international symposium on 'The Role of (Post)colonial Public Intellectuals in Europe: Figures, Ideas and Connections' will be held on January 28-29, 2016, at Utrecht University (NL). Confirmed keynote speaker is Prof. Engin Isin, Professor of Citizenship, Politics and International Studies (Open University, UK). Convenors are: Sandra Ponzanesi, Umr Ryad, Remco Raben and Bert van den Brink. Public intellectuals such as Franz Fanon, Edward Said, Stuart Hall, Gayatri Spivak, Paul Gilroy or Tariq Ramadan among others have played a key role in the shaping of public opinion and contributing to a more balanced and nuanced understanding of the relation between Europe and its others, often present for centuries within. This two-day symposium investigates the role and impact of '(post)colonial' public intellectuals in Europe. By choosing a (post)colonial framework, and by focusing on intellectuals with networks across the globe and in Europe, this symposium attempts to analyse how postcolonial intellectuals contributed to new conceptions of the role of intelligentsia, and of concepts of equality, emancipation and transnational citizenship. This academic event will pay attention to issues that epitomize the tensions between dominant concepts of citizenship and the role immigrant intellectuals: freedom of speech; tensions between 'objective' civic institutions and processes ethnic identification; gender and ethnic relations; and the transnational and viral character of social networks. The attendance to the conference is free of charge, but registration [via email](#) is encouraged.

[Read more -->](#)

---

### PCI Annual Conference. New Publications and Projects (Utrecht University, NL)

The Postcolonial Studies Initiative organizes its annual conference on February 17, 2016. The event will focus on recent publications and projects of the PCI members. Confirmed speakers are: Barnita Bagchi, Rosemarie Buikema, Gianmaria Colpani, Jolle Demmers, Birgit Kaiser, Koen Leurs, Sandra Ponzanesi, Christine Quinan, Mireille Rosello, Kathrin Thiele, Milica Trakilovic, Doro Wiese. If you wish to have more information about the conference or to participate, please [contact Prof.](#)

Sandra Ponzanesi.

The conference will be closed with a book launch of the book *Postcolonial Transitions in Europe* (Rowman & Littlefield International, 2015, edited by Sandra Ponzanesi and Gianmaria Colpani).

---

**Conversation with Elleke Boehmer (Utrecht University, NL)**

Postcolonial theorist and novelist Professor Elleke Boehmer (Wolfson College, University of Oxford, UK) will have a conversation with Prof. Rosemarie Buikema (Utrecht University, NL) about her latest novel *The Shouting in the Dark* (Sandstone Press, 2015) and the performance of white citizenship in South Africa. This conversation will be held on February 18, 2016 (from 13.30 hrs). Internationally known for her research in postcolonial writing and theory and the literature of empire, Elleke Boehmer currently works on questions of migration, identity and resistance in both postcolonial literature and writing of the colonial period, in particular of sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Her main supervisory interests include anti-colonialism since 1870; life-writing and autobiography; modernism, masculinity and empire; and the cross-overs between feminism and nationalism in colonial and postcolonial writing. Elleke Boehmer is Professor of World Literature in English, a Professorial Governing Body Fellow at Wolfson College, and Deputy Director of the Oxford Centre for Life-Writing at Wolfson. She writes both fiction and non-fiction, cultural history and criticism. **Registering via email** is compulsory.

---

**Book Seminar: 'Warped: Gay Normality and Queer Anti-Capitalism' by Peter Drucker (University of Amsterdam, NL)**

On January 15 (from 15.00-17.00 hrs) Peter Drucker will discuss his book at the University of Amsterdam (the Netherlands).

Recent victories for LGBT rights, especially the spread of same-sex marriage, have gone faster than most people imagined possible. Yet the accompanying rise of gay 'normality' has been disconcerting for activists with radical sympathies. Global in scope and drawing on a wide range of feminist, anti-racist and queer scholarship and analysis, *Warped: Gay Normality and Queer Anti-Capitalism* shows how the successive 'same-sex formations' of the past century and a half, corresponding to different phases of capitalist development, have led both to the emergence of today's 'homonormativity' and 'homonationalism' and to ongoing queer resistance. The book's second half summarises different sexual rebellions and the queer dimension of multifarious movements for social justice and transformation, seeing in them harbingers of a unified and powerful queer anti-capitalism. In this book seminar, Peter Drucker will discuss his book with three scholars working in the field of feminism, sexuality and politics: Gloria Wekker (Emerita Professor, Utrecht University), Jan Willem Duyvendak (Professor of Sociology, University of Amsterdam) and Sara Salem (PhD-candidate, International Institute of Social Studies, ISS, The Hague). The lecture is free and open to the public. Registration is not required.

[Read more -->](#)

---

**Lecture by Prof. Éric Fassin on French Gender (University of Amsterdam, NL)**

On January 28 (from 15.30-17.00 hrs) Prof. Éric Fassin will talk about 'French Gender: The Languages of National and Racial Politics from PaCS to "Marriage for All" in Amsterdam (NL). Gender is supposed to be alien to French culture. However, sexual politics have been at the center of French politics since the 1990s – from PaCS (and *parité*) to "marriage for all" and the attacks against the so-called "theory-of-gender." This presentation attempts to retrace this history by focusing on the question of national identity: while the rejection of gender in the 1990s relied on a transatlantic contrast with "America," the embrace of sexual democracy in the 2000s implicitly or explicitly resonated with the (sexual) "clash of civilizations." The most recent developments, in the 2010s, have complicated the story as opponents to equal rights hesitated between these two versions – one that emphasizes the politics of sex and the other focusing on racial politics. This historical argument opens onto a theoretical one: while there is no such thing as "the-theory-of-gender," it becomes possible to develop a theory of gender and thus rethink "intersectionality" not as a matter of groups, or properties, or even identities, but rather as a question of language, with gender translating (and being translated into) class, race, religion, and national identity. Éric Fassin is professor of sociology in the Political Science Department and co-chair of the Gender Studies Department at Paris 8 University, affiliated with the new Research Center on Gender and Sexuality Studies (LEGS, CNRS / Paris 8 / Paris 10). His work focuses on contemporary sexual and racial politics, including immigration issues, in France, in Europe, and in the United States – often in

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

[Read more -->](#)

---

### **Ir/relevance of race seminar: lecture by Leonor Faber-Jonker (University of Amsterdam, NL)**

In the upcoming ir/relevance of race seminar of February 1, 2016 (from 15.30-17.00 hrs, at the University of Amsterdam, NL) Leonor Faber-Jonker will give a lecture titled: 'More than just an object': race in the practices of collecting, studying and repatriating Namibian skulls from Germany. In September 2011 twenty Namibian skulls were repatriated from the collection of the Charité university hospital in Berlin. The remains had been in Germany for more than a hundred years: they belonged to victims of the German-Herero war (1904-1908) in German South-West Africa, a genocide that cost the lives of eighty per cent of the Herero and half the Nama population. Despite the triumphant return of the skulls, not everything went smoothly. The Charité was criticized for failing to answer questions about the identity of the remains, and the Namibian government and Nama and Herero representatives failed to agree on their final resting place. In the practices of collecting (1904-1910), studying (1910-1924) and repatriating (2011), the heads/skulls - remains of individuals - became trophies, specimens, and evidence, symbols and relics. How they were handled, why, by whom, and in what context determined what they were. This presentation explores how practices surrounding the skulls determined their racial identity, then and now.

Leonor Faber-Jonker (1987) is a historian and independent author. She recently graduated with honors from the research master Modern History (1500-2000) at the University of Utrecht, specializing in body history and the colonial history of Southern Africa.

[Read more -->](#)

---

### **Addressing Gay and Bisexual Men's Mental Health: Time to Act (University of Amsterdam, NL)**

Gay and Bisexual Men's Health will be addressed in this event on February 11, 2016 (from 9.00 – 16.00 hrs at the University of Amsterdam (the Netherlands).

Despite progress in acceptance and equal rights for LGBT people in general, mental health among gay and bisexual men in the Netherlands remains surprisingly poor. Anxiety and mood disorders are three times more common than among heterosexual men – inequalities that are also found in North America and elsewhere in northern Europe. Sequential epidemiological studies have shown little or no improvement in these disparities over the last 20 years. How can one understand poor mental health among gay and bisexual men in the Netherlands? How does it show? What are the underlying reasons? Why has this issue received little or no attention or intervention? Moreover, what can be done to remedy the problems? What can be learnt from approaches abroad?

Important topics of concern that stem from mental health include sexual behaviour, HIV/AIDS, substance use, subcultures, youth, and aging. While highlighting some tough realities, the goal of the day is to work towards solutions. Academics, activists, policy makers, and health care professionals have often worked in isolation from one another. In bringing these groups together, the conference aims to build multidisciplinary networks to facilitate future collaboration.

Attending is free, registration required via the website.

[Read more -->](#)

---

### **Call for applications for post-graduate course 'Reclaiming the Future. Feminist Engagements for the 21st Century' (Dubrovnik, HR)**

The 10th IUC Postgraduate Course 'Feminisms in a Transnational Perspective': Reclaiming the Future – Feminist Engagements for the 21st Century, will be held on May 16-20, 2016, in Dubrovnik (Croatia).

IUC courses are conducted at postgraduate level. All interested postgraduate students may apply to participate, although the course targets young scholars and postgraduate students with a defined interest in women's studies, transnational studies, philosophy, sociology, literary and cultural studies, postcolonialism, or anthropology. The course will be limited to 25 participants (15 students) in order to provide sufficient space for discussion, seminar work and student presentations. Participants must seek funding from their own institutions for the costs of travel, lodging and meals. Limited financial support is available for participants from parts of Eastern Europe and some third countries. The working language of the course is English. We welcome not only papers, but also new formats and methodologies of sharing knowledge. The proceeding of the 2016 course will be published in an edited volume together with the papers presented at the 2015 course.

**Deadline** for applications is January 15, 2016

[Read more -->](#)

---

### **Call for applications for 2016-2017 Research Associateship Program (Five College Women's Studies Research Center, USA)**

Located in a geographic area with one of the largest concentrations of scholars dedicated to feminist scholarship and teaching in the world, the Five College Women's Studies Research Center encourages engaged, critical feminist scholarship from diverse perspectives. To support this work, the Center established its Associates Program more than 20 years ago. Scholars come to the Center from around the world, seeking a supportive environment to carry out their research. Given an office with access to extensive consortium resources, associates gather regularly to discuss their research with each other and interested local faculty in a variety of settings. Applicants should complete our online application that includes a project proposal (up to three pages in length), curriculum vitae and contact information for two professional references. Project proposals should include 1) a statement about the contribution to and significance of the project or dissertation for research and teaching in women and gender studies, 2) a detailed description of the project or dissertation and timeline, and 3) how a stay in the Five Colleges will advance the project or dissertation.

Travel, housing and living expenses are the responsibility of the associate in this unpaid residency. It is important that associates remain in residence for the duration; beyond this requirement for the facilitation of community, associates define the scope of their research program for the semester or year. The Center's director will help identify conversation partners and resources as requested.

**Deadline** for applications is February 15, 2016

[Read more -->](#)

---

### **Inaugural Lecture Prof. Sandra Ponzanesi (Utrecht University, NL)**

Sandra Ponzanesi is Professor of Gender and Postcolonial Studies at the Department of Media and Culture Studies/Graduate Gender Programme (Utrecht University). She is also Head of Department Humanities at University College Utrecht (UCU). Her expertise is gender and postcolonial critique from a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective. Her research areas include postcolonial studies, transnational feminist theories, comparative literature, Italian colonial history, European migration studies, visual culture, postcolonial cinema, media and conflict studies. She studied English and Commonwealth Studies at the University of Bologna (Italy) and University of Sussex (UK) and received her PhD, in Comparative Literature and Gender Studies at Utrecht University. She was Visiting Professor at the University of California Los Angeles Women's Studies Program and visiting scholar at the University of California, Riverside and Gemma Scholar at Rutgers University. She is founder and coordinator of the Postcolonial Studies Initiative (PCI) and principal investigator of PEN (Postcolonial Europe Network), the NWO internationalization grant for the humanities. **Save the date:** Prof. Ponzanesi will give her inaugural lecture on April 15, 2016 at Utrecht University.

---

### **City tour app 'Nimweegse vrouwen' (Nijmegen, NL)**

As one of the oldest cities in the Netherlands Nijmegen has a rich history. The Institute for Gender Studies (Radboud University Nijmegen, NL) invites you to discover a number of women from Nijmegen. Honoring their thirty year anniversary, they developed the city tour app 'Nimweegse Vrouwen'. This tour takes you around the center and the downtown of Nijmegen, and introduces you to famous, infamous and everyday women from the history of Nijmegen. You can download the app for iPhone and Android in either Dutch or English. There is also a PDF document available with text and pictures of the city tour.

[Read more -->](#)

---

## **Vacancies**

**KNAW - China research cooperation funding: Proposals Strategic Alliance Phase**  
Call for the KNAW (Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen) programme that funds research cooperation between the Dutch and (mainland) Chinese researchers. KNAW is pleased to invite applications for projects in the Strategic Alliance Phase of PSA.

Please note: The Strategic Alliance Phase of PSA is open to applications from Sino-Dutch teams and remains limited to research proposals in these priority research fields: material sciences, biotechnology and drug research, and environmental science. Project Leaders are invited through this Call for Proposals to submit a full research proposal for a project in the Strategic Alliance Phase of PSA. Proposals need to be submitted in twofold: in English to the KNAW and in Chinese to the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST). The proposal submitted to the KNAW serves to apply for the Dutch funding. The proposal submitted to MOST serves to apply for the Chinese funding.

**Deadline** for submissions is February 10, 2016.

[Read more -->](#)

### **Fully Funded PhD Studentship: Student Sex Work in the Netherlands: A Comparative Analysis with the UK (Swansea University, UK)**

This scholarship will enable the first investigatory and comparative study of student sex work in the UK and the Netherlands, providing an opportunity for the innovative/creative methods used in The Student Sex Work Project (TSSWP) to be implemented outside of the UK. The successful candidate will consider student sex worker experiences within different legal, cultural and social frameworks. Following a systematic review of the legislative and policy frameworks, data from TSSWP will be further analysed alongside data collated online or face to face from student sex workers in Amsterdam in relation to: Motivations; Experiences; Institutional responses. This work is particularly important given:

- the many vulnerabilities sex workers can face;
- the social stigma and social isolation experienced by many sex workers;
- the increasing mobility of students across Europe;
- associated risks including coercion and human trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation

The academic supervisors for this project are: Dr. Tracey Sagar (Associate Professor of Criminology, Swansea University) and Dr. Marie-Louise Janssen (Department of Sociology, University of Amsterdam) and Debbie Jones (Lecturer in Criminology, Swansea University).

The successful candidate will be expected to start their studentship no later than 30 September 2016. Candidates must have a Master's degree in Law, Criminology or Sociology. Experience of sex work research and a fluency in English is required. A knowledge of Dutch is desirable but not essential. Due to funding restrictions, this studentship is open to UK/EU candidates only. **Deadline** for application is March 31, 2016.

[Read more -->](#)

## **Calls for Papers**

### **National Research Day 2016 'Doing Gender in The Netherlands: TRANS\* approaches, methods & concepts' (Leiden University, NL)**

The Netherlands Research School of Gender Studies (NOG) would like to invite you to the annual National Research Day, held this year on Friday June 10, 2016. The day is dedicated to the cutting edge work of junior and senior researchers of Dutch universities in the field of Gender, Ethnicity, Sexuality and Diversity. The 2016 edition of the National Research Day will take place at the Leiden University Centre for the Arts in Society. Faculty, Postdoctorate fellows, PhD candidates and Research Master students are cordially invited to participate in this event.

The Doing Gender in the Netherlands Day is open for presentations by PhD students and Research Master students registered at Dutch universities as well as Postdocs and Faculty who would like to share some of their current research with other gender scholars. This year the National Research Day is called 'Doing Gender in The Netherlands: TRANS\* approaches, methods & concepts'. There are several options to participate: as a paper presenter, as a participant without paper presentation, and as a respondent.

The day will start with a welcome speech by the Vice-Rector of Leiden University, Professor Simone Buitendijk, who leads the Diversity Steering Group, followed by a brief opening address by NOG director Professor Rosemarie Buikema, Dr. Liesbeth Minnaard (NOG board member) and Dr. Eliza Steinbock (NOG curriculum committee member). Dr. Trish Salah (Queen's University, Canada) will then give an agenda-setting keynote speech, which outlines trans\* many productive possibilities. The second part of the morning as well as the afternoon will be dedicated to discussions of work-in-progress by means of paper presentations. Thematic parallel sessions on "doing gender research" and also "doing diversity work" will run in 90-minute slots. Presenters should prepare a 15 minute presentation based on their full paper, and 5 minutes of feedback for fellow presenters, for instance

linking to their research approach(es), method(s) and concept(s). Full papers will be distributed in advance among the panel participants and the moderator. Each session will be moderated by a NOG staff member, who will respond to the panel presentations and facilitate discussion. The academic program of the day will be concluded with a round table discussion on the (un)foreseeable future of doing gender and diversity from a trans\* (however interpreted) perspective, featuring position papers by Netherlands-based scholars, artists and activists. We invite you to continue the discussion over drinks. The language of the day is English. **Deadline** for submission of abstracts is March 4, 2016. Accepted papers are due May 20, 2016. **Deadline** for registration either as a paper presenter or as a participant is March 4, 2016.

[Read more -->](#)

Furthermore: on Thursday June 9, 2016 (from 14-17 hrs) Dr. Salah, scholar and poet, will conduct a workshop on the politics of cultural translation and the aesthetics of minority and diasporic literature, that will include a creative writing exercise. Maximum capacity is 25 people, open from Research Master to faculty level. NOG students can receive 1 EC for their active participation and by writing an essay. Register [by email](#), with a 200-word motivation for participating in the workshop before Thursday May 26. More information to follow.

---

### Conference 'Proud In Europe? LGBTI Emancipation in Comparative Perspective' (Amsterdam, NL)

Call for papers for the conference 'Proud In Europe? LGBTI Emancipation in Comparative Perspective', which will be held on August 4-5, 2016, in Amsterdam (The Netherlands). In August 2016 the city of Amsterdam will host Europride. In the two days preceding the canal parade an international scientific conference will take place in collaboration with the Amsterdam Research Center for Gender and Sexuality (ARC-GS) of the University of Amsterdam (UvA) and its partners. The conference takes Europride as an occasion to question and compare the state of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) emancipation within Europe.

This two-day conference will offer a space to reflect from different European contexts on gains made in the fight for LGBTI rights as well as blind spots and pitfalls encountered on the way. The focus of the conference will be on tracing developments regarding LGBTI politics throughout Europe from various perspectives and disciplines from the social and behavioural sciences, the humanities, and law.

Note that we will first organize a call for panels, to be followed by a call for papers. Paper proposals can be submitted from February 10, 2016 until April 15, 2016. Participants can register for the conference until July 1, 2016. **Deadline** for submission of panels is January 30, 2016.

[Read more -->](#)

---

### Bisexuality and (Inter)National Research Frontiers First European Bisexual Research Conference (EuroBiReCon) (University of Amsterdam, NL)

Call for papers for the First European Bisexual Research Conference (EuroBiReCon): Bisexuality and (Inter)National Research Frontiers, which will be held on July 28, 2016 at the University of Amsterdam (NL). EuroBiReCon is a conference for anyone with an interest in contributing to, or finding out about, current work on bisexuality. The conference aims to bring together academics, professionals, activists, and bisexual communities. It builds on BiReCons held in the UK every two years organised by BiU. This year's conference will be followed by a three day community organised event. Keynote speakers are Prof. Surya Monro's (University of Huddersfield) and Dr. Alex Iantaffi (University of Minnesota).

We welcome papers from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines including social sciences, health sciences, arts and humanities, therapeutic practitioners, activists and others. We encourage contributions from postgraduate students, early career academics and more senior academics from Europe and beyond. If you would like to present at EuroBiReCon, please provide a 250 word abstract and a brief biography (max. 100 words). We also welcome brief descriptions of session proposals, for example for facilitating a workshop, roundtable, or panel discussion, which can include data gathering for current projects or research.

**Deadline** for submission of proposed sessions is January 22, 2016. **Deadline** for submission of abstracts is January 26, 2016.

[Read more -->](#)

---

**Conference 'International Migration, Integration and Social Justice in Europe: Sharing perspectives between Academia and Civil society' (University of Deusto, ES)**

Call for posters and short documentaries for the INTEGRIM-Scribani Conference International Migration, Integration and Social Justice in Europe: Sharing perspectives between Academia and Civil society, which will take place on July 6-8, 2016 at the University of Deusto, Bilbao (Spain). Over the last few decades, questions concerning the governance of immigration and integration have become ever more pressing across European countries and European Union institutions. The development of restrictive immigration policies, constraining people's access to European territory and proceeding to a selective distribution of rights according to migratory status, has profound impact on the lives of migrants trying to settle in European societies. We invite NGOs, local associations, institutions, international organizations, scholars, activists, filmmakers and visual artists to submit a short documentary film and/or a poster proposal exploring various aspects of migration, integration and social justice. **Deadline** for submission of abstracts is February 26, 2016.

[Read more -->](#)

---

**Conference 'The Politics of Performance and Play, Feminist Matters' (Leiden University, NL)**

Call for papers for the conference 'The Politics of Performance and Play, Feminist Matters', which will be held on July 7 and 8, 2016, at University Leiden (the Netherlands). This conference explores the various 'worldmaking' practices of play and performance in their diversity - performance art, dance, sports, and games - from a feminist materialist perspective. How does play engender innovative and emancipatory social practices and invite us to rethink the social political challenges we are facing? Keynote speakers are: Prof. Dr. Claire Colebrook (Penn State University) and Dr. Simon O' Sullivan (Goldsmiths, University of London). We welcome proposals for individual papers and complete panels. We also strongly encourage contributions from artists and activists. Topics include but are not limited to the following: Performance philosophy; Feminist and queer aesthetics; Sport feminism; Philosophy of sport; Dance (theory); Performance art; Art in the Anthropocene; Game design and research; The political implications of new materialism for feminism (challenges and opportunities); Empirical research on play and performance (using materialist feminist frameworks). We welcome submissions from doctoral students, early career researchers, established academics and independent practitioners. We welcome paper proposals and are also interested in artistic contributions for which an artist's statement should be submitted along with a short biography and any other relevant materials. Conference attendance is free.

**Deadline** for submission of proposals via email is March 15, 2016.

[Read more -->](#)

---

**Conference on the New Materialisms: 'Performing Situated Knowledges: Space, Time, Vulnerability' (Warsaw, PL)**

Call for papers for the 7th Annual Conference on the New Materialisms: 'Performing Situated Knowledges: Space, Time, Vulnerability', which will be held on September 21-23 in Warsaw (Poland). The conference is organized by: New Materialism: Networking European Scholarship on 'How Matter Comes to Matter', European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST), Action IS 1307 and Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences. Keynote speakers are: Prof. Ewa Domańska, Prof. Arun Saldanha, Dr. Milla Tiainen, Prof. Joanna Zylińska.

This conference is one of a series of new materialism conferences that together aim to explore, through both theoretical and practical multiple transversal methodologies and approaches, the notion that vibrant, agential "matter" matters and further, to investigate the ontological, political, ethical, esthetical, and sociological implications this may carry. This year, whilst acknowledging the fast approaching thirtieth anniversary of the publication of Donna Haraway's groundbreaking essay on "Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective" (1988), we invite participants to explore, perform anew, and enliven the concept of "situated knowledges".

Furthermore, adopting new materialist lenses, and in the context of different practices of knowledge production, the conference explores the contemporary material-discursive ways in which academia poses questions about lines of oppression within the academic world as well as about issues of vulnerability and precarity associated therewith. With the above questions in mind, we would like to invite participants to reflect on the three main



concepts around which this conference is organized, namely space, time, and vulnerability. See the website for a detailed description of these concepts and for a list of topics for presentation. **Deadline** for submission of proposals is April 1, 2016.

[Read more -->](#)

## New Releases / PhD Defenses / Prizes / Awards

**PhD Defense Wei Gui (Utrecht University, NL)**

**Date:** Monday January 25, 2016, at 10.30 hrs

**Location:** Senaatszaal, Academiegebouw, University Utrecht (Domplein 29)

**Title:** 'Synchronizing the Self: Online Gaming, Avatars, and Identity'

**Supervisor:** Prof. dr. Rosi Braidotti

**Registration:** no registration; free entrance

This is a dissertation which employs the avatar, the virtual character in online games, as a research object; it upholds the perspective of embodiment; it scrutinizes the concepts of the body, sex, and gender, in online gaming; and unifies its finding through the prism of synchronicity. This dissertation also makes a contribution to feminist methodology. Through the construction of an interdisciplinary argument, it shows the potential of feminism as both a research field and a perspective.

---

### **Book: *Postcolonial Transitions in Europe* (Rowman & Littlefield International, 2015)**

In December 2015 the book *Postcolonial Transitions in Europe: Contexts, Practices and Politics* was published by Rowman & Littlefield International. The book is edited by Sandra Ponzanesi and Gianmaria Colpani. *Postcolonial Transitions in Europe* is a comparative and multidisciplinary exploration of Europe's colonial past in relation to present multicultural, cosmopolitan and/or neocolonial experiences, assessing political, cultural and mediatized transitions. Is the notion of postcolonial Europe an oxymoron? How do colonial pasts inform the emergence of new subjectivities and political frontiers in contemporary Europe? *Postcolonial Transitions in Europe* explores these questions from different theoretical, geopolitical and media perspectives. Drawing from the interdisciplinary tools of postcolonial critique, this book contests the idea that Europe developed within clear-cut geographical boundaries. It examines how experiences of colonialism and imperialism continue to be constitutive of the European space and of the very idea of Europe. By approaching Europe as a complex political space, the chapters investigate topical concerns around its politics of inclusion and exclusion towards migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, as well as its take on internal conflicts, transitions and cosmopolitan imaginaries. With a foreword by Paul Gilroy.

- This beautiful collection of essays, presenting and surpassing the state of the art in postcolonial thinking about Europe's troubled identity in the early 21st Century, makes it possible for us to understand the combined effects of cycles now meeting with their simultaneous ends: eurocentrism, nation-building and collective identification through stable borders. Clearly Europe is the Post-Colony par excellence. It could have invented a new, equalitarian Cosmopolitanism. Or will it? The authors ask this burning question through investigation and imagination. - Etienne Balibar, author of *We, the People of Europe?*

[Read more -->](#)

---

### **Special Issue The Point of Europe**

*The Point of Europe* (ed. Sandra Ponzanesi) is a special issue of *Interventions. International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*, Vol 18.2, 2016.

Contributors to this special issue are asking again, from a complementarity of points of view, whether or not Europe – what is called 'Europe' as a geographic, geopolitical, historical entity whose definition, as we know, was never unambiguous and will never be, but which signals nevertheless a unique crystallization of traditions and conflicts – has crossed in the last years a defining limit in its relationship to its own past, in particular its colonial past, which mirrors a radically altered relationship to the rest of the world, therefore its *relationship to itself*, inasmuch as this self was never anything else than the web of interactions, relations of forces, domination and resistances, articulating it with the non-European *Other*. (Balibar, 'Europe at the Limit', p. 165). With a preface by Étienne Balibar.

Among the contributors: Sandra Ponzanesi, Étienne Balibar, Bruce Robbins, Gurminder Bhambra,

Paulo de Medeiros, Kristin Kristín Loftsdóttir, Rosemarie Buikema, Birgit Kaiser & Kathrin Thiele.

[Read more -->](#)

---

**2015 ARC-GS MA Thesis Prize Awarded to Stephanie Stelko**

The ARC-GS MA Thesis Prize was formally awarded on Thursday December 10, 2015 at 15.30, during a short ceremony before the ARC-GS December lecture. This year's prize committee consisted of Bojan Bilić, Robby Davidson, Gert Hekma, Liza Mügge, and Rachel Spronk (chair). The committee read ten theses whose topics differed widely, from feminist squatting in Spain to LGBT parents in the Netherlands to male same-sex sex work in Kenya. The theses represented various disciplines in the social sciences and came from several universities. After a short debate the committee decided unanimously that Stephanie Stelko, with her thesis entitled "Doing Vaginismus: Activity and Self-Interpretation of Clenching Bodies" be awarded the prize. This thesis deals with a relatively unknown, and perhaps even silenced, topic. Vaginismus, sometimes called vaginism, is a female sexual pain disorder. Affected women themselves often describe it as clenching. It is a physical condition due to vaginal tightness caused by contractions of the pelvic floor muscles, affecting a woman's ability to engage in any form of vaginal penetration. Stephanie has, with great care and respect, analysed the narratives, practices and experiences of women's physical, emotional and relationship challenges.

[Read more -->](#)

---

Nederlandse Onderzoekschool Gender Studies - NOG | Netherlands Research School of Gender Studies | Faculty of Humanities | Utrecht University | Muntstraat 2A, 3512 EV Utrecht, The Netherlands | T. (+31)030 253 6001 | F. (+31) 030 253 6134 | Office is closed on Friday | [nog@uu.nl](mailto:nog@uu.nl) | [www.graduategenderstudies.nl](http://www.graduategenderstudies.nl)