



Varieties of Feminism

POST-SOCIALIST ENCOUNTERS

Cornelia Goethe Colloquien
Wintersemester 2014/2015

ZUM TITELMOTIV / ABOUT THE COVER ART



VLADO MARTEK

NEĆU (I Don't Want It)

Object, H 29 cm

1979, Collezione Zattoni

© Vlado Martek

Das Cornelia Goethe Centrum bedankt sich bei dem Künstler, Vlado Martek, für die freundliche Genehmigung zur Nutzung des Kunstwerkes in Verbindung mit unserer Vortragsreihe.

The Cornelia Goethe Centre would like to thank the artist, Vlado Martek, for the courtesy of allowing us to use his work of art in connection with our lecture series.

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Cornelia Goethe Centrum für Frauenstudien und die Erforschung der Geschlechterverhältnisse (CGC)

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Koordination: Stefan Fey, Daniela Müller



Varieties of Feminism: Post-Socialist Encounters

The transformation of gender relations in post-socialist Europe is rooted in the entangled histories of state- and post-socialism. Gender equality was the official goal of the socialist rule and a target achieved in particular with regard to women's participation in employment. However, after the end of the bipolar world order the post-socialist countries of Europe have not only been confronted with new transnational gender discourses, but also with stabilization of patriarchy and re-traditionalization of gender norms.

This colloquium addresses the transformation of gender relations and the new gender politics in post-socialist countries using the examples of Poland, Hungary, Ukraine, Russia and the successor states to the former Yugoslavia. Its aim is to discuss and reflect the influences of the socialist past on current gender politics in post-socialist Europe.

The speakers will provide an overview of various aspects of gender inequalities in both the past and the present. Presentations will deal with the political implementation and the (fierce) reactions to EU gender equality politics, will map out the problems and challenges resulting from this situation and investigate the emancipatory potential of transnational feminism. Finally, the 'Othering' of Eastern Europeans in the studies of gender relations will be targeted and questions how this can be avoided in methodology and theory will be addressed.

ANDREA PETŐ

CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY, BUDAPEST

The Haunting Ghost of „Gender Ideology”: State of the Art & Possible Counter Strategies

The ghost of „gender ideology” haunts feminist scholars and activist in Europe. Anti-feminist, anti-gender mainstreaming far-right websites have blamed gender studies for pedophilia and moral decay for over a decade. In the recent years, however, the term „gender ideology”, which was coined in Germany and is rapidly spreading as a constitutive part of the emerging anti-human rights discourse, is gaining a bigger momentum in different European countries. The repertoire of „gender ideology” advocates includes not only creating offensive content on web pages, sending hate mail to civil servants responsible for gender equality and lobbying to ban abortion and sexual education together with denying citizenship rights from non hetero-normative sexualities.

In my talk, I will first give a chronology of the emergence of „gender ideology”, followed by an analysis of possible counter strategies. I am arguing, that this discourse is the beginning of a renegotiating of the European post-1945 value consensus, as well as a mainstreaming of values previously labeled as “far right” to the centre of political discourse, creating new political cleavages in “post-democratic” Europe.



ANDREA PETŐ is an Associate Professor at the Department of Gender Studies at Central European University in Budapest. Presently she is working on gendered memories of World War II and political extremisms. She was awarded the *Officer's Cross Order of Merit of The Republic of Hungary* in 2005 and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences' *Bolyai Prize* in 2006. Her works have appeared in 12 languages.

OKSANA KIS

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF UKRAINE, LVIV

Feminism in Contemporary Ukraine: From the “Allergen” to the Last Hope

This lecture will explore the dynamic and peculiarities of the women's movement in post-soviet Ukraine. Three generations of women contributed to the progress of the women's movement, and their attitudes towards feminist ideas and practices differed. While maternalist and matriarchal discourses dominated the women's movement in the early 1990s, the feminist agenda started taking roots in women's activism after the *Fourth World Conference of Women* in Beijing in 1995. Cooperation with state authorities at all levels, a characteristic feature of the women's movement in Ukraine, proved to be mutually beneficial, but brought several shortcomings as well.

Several projects aiming at grounding feminist ideas and practices in the Ukrainian society will be discussed. Special attention will be paid to the annual celebration of the *International Women's Day*. The spontaneous feminist initiatives counteracting sexist discourse prevailing in the recent political protests in Ukraine allow to see the optimistic trend in a growing popularity of feminist ideas among the younger generation of women, as they claim their place in building the new Ukraine.

OKSANA KIS is a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Ethnology at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in Lviv and the President of the Ukrainian Association for Research in Women's History. Her current research focuses on women's everyday lives and experiences within the extraordinary historical circumstances of Soviet Ukraine. Areas of her expertise include women's history, feminist anthropology and oral history.



ANNA TEMKINA

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY, ST. PETERSBURG

Gender in Contemporary Russia:

Neotraditionalist Turn

Gender has never been a widespread concept both in Russian society and in Russian academia. Beginning from the mid 1990s, it was used by critically oriented, feminist scholars. In recent years, one can see dramatic changes related to a reinterpretation of gender issues and the reassessment of their social and political significance. Reproductive rights, issues of children's upbringing, homosexuality and the organization of intimate life — these areas have become subjects of strong government regulation, and gender, in general, has become a politicized issue in contemporary Russia.

These changes are often conceptualized by researchers as the “conservative turn” or neotraditionalist ideology and heterosexism. The politicization of gender in the current decade will be in the focus of the lecture.



ANNA TEMKINA currently holds the *Novartis Chair in Public Health and Gender* and is Co-director of the Gender Programme at the European University at St. Petersburg. Areas of her expertise include gender, reproductive health, sexuality, feminist theory, as well as gender relations in Soviet and Post-Soviet societies. She has taught at the universities of Tampere, Helsinki, Joensuu, Minsk and at the European Humanities University in Vilnius.

YEVGENIA BELORUSETS

KYIV/BERLIN

IN GERMAN

ART PERFORMANCE

The Coming of the Shadows:

Images of Women and the Logic of Violence

This art performance is an artistic conversation about the ongoing war in present-day Ukraine. It centers around the coexistence of the war and the people's everyday working life, and it deals with this theme on the basis of impressions from travels to the industrial cities in central and eastern Ukraine. In some of these cities the female workers give the last penny of their meagre wages to those of their friends who are fighting in the Ukrainian army. In others, the coal mines are still operating despite the continued heavy bombing and shelling, and in still others the factories are simply destroyed.

At the heart of this performance is an exploration of how the women relate to their everyday lives, to their work and to the rapidly changing world around them. It tells about the realities in the small industrial cities and villages in Ukraine, about emancipation in places where one would assume there is only one logic: that of defenseless people being pointlessly annihilated.

followed up by a ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION on Gender and Nationalism in the current Ukraine

with Anna Amelina and Marija Grujic, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main

YEVGENIA BELORUSETS is an artist and writer who lives and works in Kiev and Berlin. She is the founder of the journal *Pros-tory* and a member of the curatorial group *Hudrada*. Her works include video, photography and critical writing on the intersections of art, literature and social activism. For her largest project to date, *Gogol Street 32*, she was awarded the British Royal Photographic Society's *Joan Wakelin bursary* in 2010.



YEVGENIA BELORUSETS

KIEV/BERLIN

ART PERFORMANCE

Das Auftauchen der Schatten:

Frauenbilder und die Logik der Gewalt

Diese Art Performance ist ein künstlerisches Gespräch über den Krieg in der heutigen Ukraine. Im Mittelpunkt steht die Thematisierung der Ko-Existenz des Krieges und des Arbeitsalltags, die die Eindrücke der Reisen in die industriellen Städte im Zentrum und Osten der Ukraine verarbeitet. In manchen Städten geben die Arbeiterinnen trotz ihres winzigen Gehalts den letzten Grivna an die Freunde, die in der ukrainischen Armee kämpfen. In anderen Städten sind, trotz des ständigen Beschusses, die Schächte in Betrieb. In wieder anderen Städten sind die Fabriken schlicht zerstört. Das Verhältnis der Frauen zum Alltag, zur Arbeit und zu einer Welt, die sich rasant verändert, ist das Herzstück dieser Performance. Sie erzählt über die Realitäten der kleinen industriellen Städte und Dörfer in der Ukraine, über die Emanzipation an den Orten, von denen man angenommen hätte, dass hier nur eine einzige Logik herrsche, die Logik der sinnlosen Vernichtung der schutzlosen Menschen.

**mit einer anschließenden PODIUMSDISKUSSION
über Geschlechterverhältnisse und Nationalismus in der heutigen Ukraine**
mit Anna Amelina und Marija Grujic, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main



YEVGENIA BELORUSETS lebt als Künstlerin und Autorin in Kiev und Berlin. Sie ist Mitglied des Kurator_innenkollektivs *Hudrada* und Gründerin des Kunst- und Literaturmagazins *Prostory*. Mit ihren Filmen, Photographien und kritischen Texten arbeitet sie an den Intersektionen von Kunst, Literatur und sozialem Aktivismus. Ihr Projekt *Gogol Street 32* wurde 2010 mit dem *Joan Wakelin*-Stipendium der Royal Photographic Society ausgezeichnet.

AGNIESZKA GRAFF

WARSAW UNIVERSITY, WARSAW

A New Type of Backlash:

The 2013/14 War against „Genderism” in Poland in a Transnational Perspective

In the fall of 2013, the word “gender” hit the headlines of all major Polish newspapers and TV stations, much to the befuddlement of gender studies scholars and students. Since then, “genderism” has been consistently demonized by Poland’s bishops and conservative politicians, who portray it as a threat to the family, a source of perversion and cultural degradation.

This lecture deals with the anti-gender campaign in some detail, examining its myriad initiatives, its political and theological sources, its strategic significance for the nationalist right, as well as reactions of the liberal and feminist left and popular culture. It places this phenomenon in a broader context of today’s global backlash against gender equality, LGBT rights and women’s reproductive rights. Why and how has “gender” become the catch-all phrase for fears about sexual modernity in France, Germany and Russia? The Polish case will be illustrated with fragments of the feminist documentary *Women’s Underground State* (2009) on illegal abortion in Poland.

AGNIESZKA GRAFF is an Assistant Professor at the American Studies Center at the University of Warsaw. She has published extensively on Gender in Polish and American public life in both scholarly journals and the mainstream press. Her primary research interest is the interface between gender, race and national identity. She is co-editor of the journal *The Americanist*, as well as a member of the *Krytyka Polityczna* network.



SVETLANA SLAPŠAK

LJUBLJANA GRADUATE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES, LJUBLJANA

Anthropology of Balkan Women:

Feminist Concern, Methodologies and Theories

The presentation problematizes a meagre academic production on Balkan women in the humanities, compared to the production in Balkan studies, post-socialist transition in the Balkans, Balkan cultures (especially film and popular culture), and the decomposition of Yugoslavia. Possible reasons for this situation can be found in the current feminist and gender studies dynamism in Europe (with a view on the USA academic production and positioning) - in terms of cultural colonialism, in the ethical questioning of the Balkan women's activism before, during and after the war in Yugoslavia, which differs so much from the accepted and commodified views on Balkan communities. Whatever the reasons are, it is necessary to propose a model of research, which would combine an exact approach (historical anthropology), theoretical ground and methodologies appropriate to this interdisciplinary orientation, and to also propose a social, institutional and personal framework of cooperation in topics that typically demand a vast and profound local knowledge.

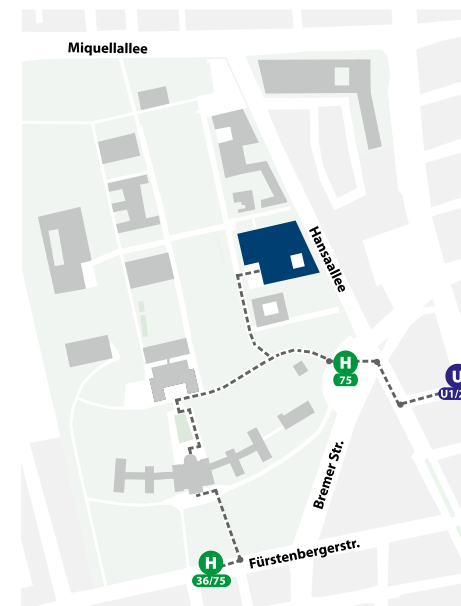


SVETLANA SLAPŠAK is a Professor of Anthropology at the Ljubljana Graduate School of Humanities. As a prominent dissident and anti-war activist, she had to flee Belgrade under threats in 1991 and settled in Ljubljana, where, together with her husband, she provided shelter for many refugees. She is Editor-in-Chief of the journal *ProFemina* and the recipient of the *Miloš Crnjanski Award* (1990) and the *PEN Freedom to Write Award* (1993).



Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main

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mit öffentlichen Verkehrsmitteln:

Nehmen Sie am Hauptbahnhof eine S-Bahn in Richtung Innenstadt und fahren Sie bis *Hauptwache*, steigen Sie dort um in eine U-Bahn der Linien 1, 2, 3 oder 8 Richtung Hedderheim und fahren Sie bis *Holzhausenstraße*, 5-minütiger Fußweg.

by public transport:

At central station take any S-train in the direction of the city (tracks 101/102) to the station *Hauptwache*, change to metro lines (U-Bahn) 1, 2, 3 or 8 (Direction: Hedderheim). Exit at the station *Holzhausenstraße*, short work to the campus.

Weitere Informationen: Further Information:

<http://www.cgc.uni-frankfurt.de>





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Eine Veranstaltung des Cornelia Goethe Centrums in Kooperation mit der Hessischen Landeszentrale für politische Bildung.