

InterGender – International Consortium for Interdisciplinary Feminist Research Training

For this course PhD students, but also advanced Master's students are eligible to apply.

Title of the Course: „Power & Subjectivation“

Time: 3-4-5 July 2023

Location: University of Innsbruck

Deadline for applications: 7 May 2023

Applications should be sent to:

InterGender Consortium Coordinator Edyta Just (edyta.just[at]liu.se)

Maximum number of participants: 30

Organized by:

Local InterGender Course Organizer: University of Innsbruck

InterGender, International Consortium for Interdisciplinary Feminist Research Training

Course coordinator:

InterGender Consortium Coordinator: Edyta Just (edyta.just[at]liu.se)

Teachers:

Gundula Ludwig, Professor, Gender Studies, University of Innsbruck

Flavia Guerrini, Assistant Professor, Gender Studies/ Education, University of Innsbruck

Lisa Pfahl, Professor, Disability Studies/ Education, University of Innsbruck

Denise Bergold-Caldwell, Assistant Professor, Gender Studies, University of Innsbruck

Kathrin Thiele, Associate Professor, Gender Studies, University of Utrecht

Course description:

The concept 'subjectivation' has become a core concept in social sciences, humanities, Gender Studies, Queer Studies, as well as Disability Studies. It helps us to clarify how power operates by constituting (human) bodies, and to understand how power materializes in a systemic, bodily and psychic way. It allows us to grasp how material and social systems such as patriarchy, heteronormativity, colonialism, ableism, capitalism and human exceptionalism require every-day-practices of subjectivation, and are therefore deeply – albeit differently – inscribed in how 'we' become subjects. As feminist theorists have pointed out, modes of subjectivation in a patriarchal society produce and naturalize a gendered hierarchy which is the condition for the reproduction of androcentric politics as well as gendered capitalism. As queer theory has argued, modes of subjectivation in a heteronormative society, is built upon normative violence that pathologizes non-binary

forms of genders and bodies or that makes them invisible and un-liveable. Decolonial queer/feminist and critical posthuman(ist) scholars have argued, that these violent modes of subjectivation are embedded in the coloniality of power, a human-exceptionalist and racialized capitalism. Black queer/feminist scholars have revealed the white Eurocentric bias of subjectivation: Black people, colonized and enslaved people have not been subjectivated as subjects, but rather as non-subjects, as non-humans. Thus, the subjectivation of many human and more-than-human lives as non-subjects and as non-agential not only served as legitimization of colonial genocide and violence in the context of slavery, but has been and still is also a foil against which the world, as we know it, has solidified. In Disability Studies the concept is also used to critique medical knowledge and to overcome the ableist-divide. Studies in subjectivation reveal, how disabled persons became objects of care and how they can gain agency.

It is therefore crucial to theorize the relation between power and subjectivation with a lens that allows us to capture multiple modes of power and to put the various modes in relationship to each other. Against this background, the seminar first aims at providing intersectional theoretical debates on the complex issue of power and subjectivation as relations of entangled agency, and zooming in also on this quest(ion) of relationality itself. The second aim is to investigate the concept of subjectivation by fleshing out multiple layers of its established and also potential dimensions: Whereas a huge variety of theories on subjectivation exist, its meaning is often less than clear. Depending on the line of reasoning being followed, subjectivation is either used to describe *subjection to* ideology, discourses, institutions, and government, or it implies the evolution of *subjectivity*, ways of feeling, thinking and communicating within and transcending situations. Last but not least it also describes the process of attaining *subjectness* – the capacity to act, and with it the question of its human(ist) and more-than-human dimensions.

The third aim of the seminar is to address empirical questions with regard to the relationship of power and subjectivation. How can we empirically grasp the complexity of subjectivation – considering both, subjection and agency? How are material structures transformed into social, bodily and psychic forms of being? How do individuals and collectives subjectivate themselves as subjects, as liveable subjects, as political subjects, as subjects of rights? How do individuals and collectives handle the ambivalences of interpellations? How can social transformations (e.g. neoliberalism) be grasped in empirical research on subjectivation? How can we *make* bodies and affects *visible* in empirical research on subjectivation? What forms of de-subjectification (Michel Foucault) and “dis-identification” (José Esteban Muñoz) do individuals and collectives develop as political strategies – in various social realms and political struggles.

Preliminary schedule of the course:

Day 1, 3 July 2023 University of Innsbruck

10.00-10.15 Introduction

10.15-11.00 Lecture by Lisa Pfahl and Flavia Guerrini
“Studies in subjectivation: How the conditions of agency shape the dis_abled self.”

11.00-11.15 Break

11.15-12.00 Seminar

12.00-13.00 Lunch break

13.00-15.00 Group work
Group work with feedback on course participants’ papers.

Day 2, 4 July 2023 University of Innsbruck

10.15-11.00 Lecture by Denise Bergold-Caldwell and Gundula Ludwig:

“State power and (non)-subjectivation. Black feminist and queer perspectives on how statehood and the constitution of (non)_subjects are intertwined.”

11.00-11.15 Break

11.15-12.00 Seminar

12.00-13.00 Lunch break

13.00-15.00 Group work
Group work with feedback on course participants’ papers.

16.30-18.30 Lecture by Kathrin Thiele (with discussion afterwards)

“Relation(al) Matters: Subjectivation, Power, Agency” (Working Title)

Day 3, 5 July 2023 University of Innsbruck

10.15-11.00 Lecture (tba)

11.00-11.15 Break

11.15-12.00 Seminar

12.00-13.00 Lunch break

13.00-16.00 Plenary

Final session: reflections, questions, and evaluation

Course readings: Will be provided after the acceptance to the course

Obligatory Preparations after the acceptance to the course:

- **Course readings**
- **Paper** (2–5 pages describing a research problem related to the course and the participant's PhD thesis project or MA thesis project) to be sent to the InterGender Consortium Coordinator Edyta Just (edyta.just[at]liu.se). The deadline will be 15 June 2023. Remember to mark it with your name and the course name.
- All participants are expected to read the paper of their fellow group members before the course and be prepared to offer constructive comments. The papers will be made available online.

Optional Essay after the end of the course:

- An essay of 6000-7000 words to be handed in no later than 3 months after the course. One copy should be sent to the teacher, who chaired the group in which the candidate/student presented the paper at the course and who is going to evaluate it, and one to the InterGender Consortium Coordinator Edyta Just (edyta.just[at]liu.se). The teacher has 3 months to evaluate the essay.
- The essay should strike a balance between addressing a theme that has been part of the course (lectures, discussions, reading material), and be relevant for participant's own research.
- The essay should, moreover, be considered as an exercise in doing a written presentation aimed at an academic readership not familiar with the author's research. The essay should constitute a whole and explain relevant contexts.

Accreditation and examination:

1. 7,5 ECTS credits are given for active participation and a short paper, 2-5 pages (graded pass/fail) for 3 days course.
2. 10 ECTS credits are given for active participation plus an optional essay (graded pass/fail) for 3 days course.

Course Certificate:

In order to request the certificate, please send an e-mail to Edyta Just(edyta.just[at]liu.se).

The Consortium Coordinator issues, upon request, a certificate indicating to how many ECTS credits course participation is considered equal. It is the candidate/student's own responsibility to ask her/his/their home institution about its accreditation rules and to obtain appropriate credit for participation in InterGender course within the enrolled curriculum.

Applications should be written in English and include:

- * name, affiliation, full address, e-mail, phone
- * name and affiliation of PhD supervisor or MA supervisor
- * brief CV
- * description of PhD project or MA project (1-2 pages)
- * motivation: why do you want to participate in the course (1-2 pages)
- * please, indicate if you are in the first/middle/last phase of your PhD research or if you are advanced MA student

Information on Admission:

1. Participants have to be registered as PhD candidates or advanced MA students.
2. The InterGender courses are open for PhD and advanced MA students from all disciplines and countries.
3. Participants will be selected on the basis of an evaluation of their CV, project description and a letter of motivation.
4. If there are more applicants who qualify for participation, than there are places, the places will be distributed along the following criteria:
 - a) Applicants registered as PhD candidates or advanced MA students at a Partner Unit will be prioritized for a maximum of 90% of places with approximately 25 % of the 90% open to MA-students. When the places are distributed among the Partner Units, a good spread between these units will also be ensured.
 - b) Applicants registered as PhD candidates in another unit at the Partner Higher Education Establishments will be prioritized for 10 % of the places. When the places are distributed among the Partner Higher Education Establishments, a good spread between these establishments will also be ensured. If places remain of the 90 % prioritized for PhD candidates and advanced MA students registered at a Partner Unit, these places will instead be prioritized for PhD candidates registered at a Partner Higher Education Establishments.
 - c) If the applicants according to a) and b) do not fill all the places, remaining places will be open for competition between all eligible and qualifying applicants from any higher education establishment.

5. If there are more eligible and qualified applicants for the available places, a selection process will take place, which, in addition to academic quality and motivation/relevance, will use non-discriminatory selection criteria, which will ensure a spread of nationalities, regions, institutions and disciplines.
6. An additional lot drawing procedure will be used, if several eligible and in all respects equally qualified applicants are competing for the limited number of places in the different categories.
7. In case of too many eligible and qualifying applicants, a waiting list will also be organized, and places will be offered to applicants on this list, should some of the selected participants cancels her/his/their participation.
8. The consortium coordinator (5.3) selects participants under the auspice of the Board, and is required to report to the Board how selection is distributed between the Consortium Partners. If the Board finds that the distribution is uneven, the Consortium Coordinator shall compensate for this in future selections.
9. Upon request of a Partner/Partner Unit/Partner Higher Education Establishment, the Consortium Coordinator (5.3) issues a certificate indicating how many ECTS credits should be awarded for the participation in a particular course. It is the candidate/student's own responsibility to ask her/his/their home institution about its accreditation rules and to obtain appropriate credit for participation in InterGender course within the enrolled curriculum.

InterGender Partner Units and Higher Education Establishments

1. Higher Education Establishment: **Linköping University**, Partner Units: **Unit of Gender Studies, Department of Thematic Studies**, Coordinating Partner
2. Higher Education Establishment: **Göteborg University**, Partner Unit: **Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Research**, Full Partner
3. Higher Education Establishment: **Karlstad University**, Partner Unit: **Centre for Gender Studies**, Full Partner
4. Higher Education Establishment: **Luleå University of Technology**, Partner Unit: **Department of Business Administration, Technology and Social Science**, Full Partner
5. Higher Education Establishment: **Lund University**, Partner Unit: **Department of Gender Studies**, Full Partner
6. Higher Education Establishment: **Mid Sweden University**, Partner Unit: **Research Subject Sociology and Forum for Gender Studies**, Full Partner
7. Higher Education Establishment: **The Norwegian National Research School in Gender Studies**, Full Partner
8. Higher Education Establishment: **Södertörn University**, Partner Unit: **Gender Studies**, Full Partner

9. Higher Education Establishment: **Umeå University**, Partner Unit: **Umeå Centre for Gender Studies**, Full Partner
10. Higher Education Establishment: **Goethe University Frankfurt**, Partner Unit: **Cornelia Goethe Center/GRADE Center Gender**, Full Partner
11. Higher Education Establishment: **University of Granada**, Partner Unit: **Grupo Investigación PAI Hum592 Recepcion, Modos y Géneros de la Literatura en Lengua Inglesa**, Full Partner
12. Higher Education Establishment: **Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin**, Partner Unit: **Center for transdisciplinary Gender Studies**, Full Partner
13. Higher Education Establishment: **University of Innsbruck**, Partner Unit: **Center for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies Innsbruck (CGI)**, Full Partner
14. Higher Education Establishment: **University of Lodz**, Partner Unit: **Women's Studies Centre**, Full Partner
15. Higher Education Establishment: **University of Oviedo**, Partner Unit: **Gender and Diversity PhD and MA Programmes**, Full Partner
16. Higher Education Establishment: **Utrecht University**, Partner Unit: **Graduate Gender Programme/Netherlands Research School of Gender Studies**, Full Partner
17. Higher Education Establishment: **University of Vienna**, Partner Unit: **Gender Research Office**, Full Partner