

Gender und ‚das Politische‘ in einer postkolonialen Welt: Aushandlungen von Normativität

Das Ziel dieser Vortragsreihe ist es, nach der Bedeutung ‚des Politischen‘ in einer postkolonialen Welt zu fragen. International bekannte Wissenschaftlerinnen werden die Folgen von ‚Rasse‘, Klasse, Gender und Sexualität, wie sie durch den Kolonialismus geformt wurden, für die gegenwärtige Verfasstheit einer Welt-politik erforschen, die ihrerseits nachhaltig mit dem Erbe des Imperialismus konfrontiert ist. Über eine feministisch-postkoloniale Perspektive auf Themen wie Kosmopolitismus, Global Governance, Demokratie, Menschenrechte, transnationale Gerechtigkeit, Entwicklungspolitik, Dekolonisierung, Krieg und Frieden werden die einzelnen Vorträge ihren Fokus sowohl auf Aushandlungen von Normativität in der Postkolonie, als auch auf das Potential normativer Gewalt legen. Gender und ‚das Politische‘ aus einer transnationalen Perspektive betrachtend werden die Vorträge einen Beitrag dazu leisten, das Wesen und die Praxis feministischer Politik neu zu bestimmen.

Gender and ‘the Political’ in a Postcolonial World: Negotiating Normativity

The aim of this international lecture series is to reflect upon the meaning of ‘the political’ in a postcolonial world. Internationally reputed scholars are invited to explore the implications of race, class, gender and sexuality as shaped through colonialism for the structuring of contemporary global politics, which continue to be confronted with the legacies of empire.

Addressing issues like cosmopolitanism, global governance, democracy, human rights, transnational justice, development politics, decolonisation, war and peace from a feminist-postcolonial lens, this lecture series will simultaneously explore how norms are negotiated in the postcolony as well as the potential for normative violence. Thinking about gender and ‘the political’ from a transnational perspective will contribute to rethinking the nature and practice of feminist politics.

Ort: Goethe Universität Frankfurt am Main
Campus Westend, Grüneburgplatz 1
Casino, Cas 1.801 (Eröffnungsvortrag 04.11.2009)
I.G.-Farben-Haus, IG 1.314 (Eisenhower-Raum)

Zeit: jeweils mittwochs, 18 bis 20 Uhr, c.t.

Telefon:
Fax:
E-Mail:
Homepage:

HochschullehrerInnen:

Ursula Apitzsch (Soziologie, Politikwissenschaft)
Geschäftsführung

Hille Haker (Ethik/Katholische Theologie)
Stellvertretende Geschäftsführung

Ulla Wischermann (Soziologie)
Stellvertretende Geschäftsführung

Nikita Dhawan *Politikwissenschaft*
Barbara Frieberthäuser *Erziehungswissenschaft*
Ute Gerhard *Soziologie*
Marlis Hellinger *Englische Sprachwissenschaft*
Susanne Komfort-Hein *Literaturwissenschaft*
Kira Kosnick *Kulturanthropologie*
Andreas Kraß *Germanistik*
Verena Kuni *Kunstpädagogik*
Thomas Lemke *Soziologie*
Katharina Liebsch *Soziologie*
Helma Lutz *Soziologie*
Susanne Opfermann *Amerikanistik*
Brita Rang *Historische Erziehungswissenschaft*
Birgit Richard *Kunstpädagogik*
Sigrid Roßteutscher *Politikwissenschaft*
Uta Ruppert *Politikwissenschaft*
Ute Sacksofsky *Rechtswissenschaft*
Heide Schlüpmann *Filmwissenschaft*
Joachim Schroeder *Erziehungswissenschaft*

Wissenschaftliche Koordinatorin:
Marianne Schmidbaur

Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterinnen:
Daniela Marx
Alexandra Nagel

Sekretariat:
Barbara Kowollik

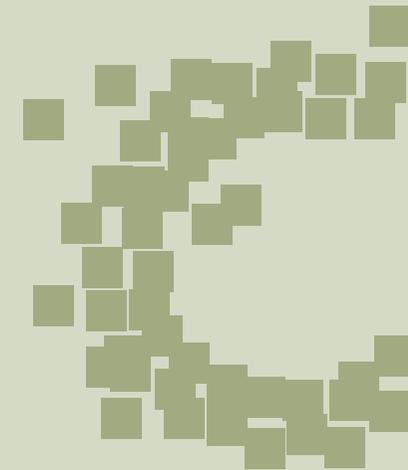
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Cornelia Goethe Colloquien

Gender and ‘the Political’ in a Postcolonial World: Negotiating Normativity

Wintersemester 2009/2010



04.11.2009
Cas 1.801

Prof. Dr. Chantal Mouffe (London)
Which Democracy in a Multi-Polar World?

I will examine the consequences of advocating a multi-polar world for the way we envisage democracy. I will argue that we need to question the idea that Western liberal democracy has a privileged claim to rationality and that it should be universalized. Other forms of inscriptions of the democratic idea in different historical and cultural contexts should be recognized as legitimate.



Chantal Mouffe is Professor of Political Theory at the Centre for the Study of Democracy at the University of Westminster in London. She has taught and researched in many universities in Europe, North and South America. Her most recent book is *'On The Political'* (Routledge 2005).

25.11.2009
IG 1.314

Dr. Nitasha Kaul (London)
What is the Gender of Democratic Normativity?

Using the example of Bhutan, I look at the way a recognisably political realm can emerge in states that have historically had a self-consciously non-modern understanding of politics but, except for religion, substantively modern gender relations in terms of the freedom of action available to women. The consciousness of gender and its integrality to the cultural fabric is reflected in economic questions over access to opportunities and livelihood much more than in the terms of conventional rhetoric of political participation. Over time, while the 'formal' political realm was gradually shaped by the cautiously modernising vision of successive monarchs, a process that resulted in the peaceful transition to parliamentary democracy with a constitutional monarchy in 2008, in what may be termed the 'informal' sector of politics, women have been significant in founding civil society organisations.



Nitasha Kaul has a joint doctorate in Economics and Philosophy. She has won many awards and recognition for her multi-disciplinary research in areas of critical social theory, identity, political economy and democracy. Her most recent book is *'Imagining Economics Otherwise: Encounters with Identity/Difference'* (Routledge 2007).

09.12.2009
IG 1.314

Prof. Dr. Pnina Werbner (Keele)
Towards a New Cosmopolitanism: Rooted, Feminist and Vernacular Perspectives

Contrary to the opinion that cosmopolitanism is an exclusively "Western", elitist ideal, I will draw on ethnographic research in countries beyond the North to trace how the universal commitments of cosmopolitanism are rooted and negotiated in local cultural milieus, particular communities and vernaculars.

13.01.2010
IG 1.314

This will allow for an understanding of varieties of cosmopolitanism, including feminist conceptions of cosmopolitanism, in a postcolonial world.



Pnina Werbner is Professor of Social Anthropology and Member of the Research Institute for Law, Politics and Justice at Keele University. The scope of her work is reflected in her published articles and collected volumes which engage with the challenges presented by the rise of Islamic radicalism, the translocation of culture in the course of migration, cultural hybridity, women, citizenship and difference. Recently she has edited *'Anthropology and the New Cosmopolitanism. Rooted, Feminist and Vernacular Perspectives'* (Berg Publishers 2009).

Prof. Dr. María do Mar Castro Varela (Berlin)
Prof. Dr. Nikita Dhawan (Frankfurt/M.)
"Solidarity across Borders?": Rethinking 'the Political' in a Postcolonial World

In recent discussions on transnationalism, there has been increasing focus on the principle of cosmopolitanism as hope for 'solidarity across borders'. In the face of growing global interdependence, the project of cosmopolitanism promises to facilitate a transnational citizen's movement, which could potentially galvanize the establishment of democratic global institutions, creating space for transnational political discourse. Against this background, our talk will critically engage with the discourses of global gender justice, development politics, human rights, decolonisation and democratisation from a feminist-postcolonial perspective.



María do Mar Castro Varela is Professor for Gender and Queer Studies at Alice Salomon University Berlin. Her research areas are queer diasporas, anti-discrimination politics and feminist postcolonial theory. Recently she published *'Untimely Utopias. Migrant Women between Self-Invention and Learned Hope'* (transcript 2007).



Nikita Dhawan is Junior Professor for Gender and Postcolonial Studies, Cluster of Excellence 'The Formation of Normative Orders' at Goethe-University. Her research areas are in the field of political philosophy and feminist postcolonial theory. Her most recent publication is *'Impossible Speech: On the Politics of Silence and Violence'* (Academia 2007).

27.01.2010
IG 1.314

Dr. Nadjé Al-Ali (London)
Women and War in the Middle East: A Postcolonial and Transnational Feminist Perspective

The importance of mainstreaming gender in (post-)conflict reconstruction and peace-building has been

stressed by various international forums, as well as women's and feminist groups. Simultaneously, studies of conflict and post-conflict contexts emphasise the role of diasporic and migrant communities in peace-building and reconstruction within their countries of origin. My talk will address the interrelationships between these two areas, namely 'gender and transnationalism' in the context of conflict, migration and (re)-construction with respect to the Middle East. Taking a feminist postcolonial and transnational approach, my empirical focus will be on the recent invasion and occupation of Iraq, but my wider theoretical reflections are based on a comparative project between Iraq and Palestine.



Nadjé Al-Ali is Chair of the Centre for Gender Studies, at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. Her main research interests revolve around gender theory, feminist activism, women and gender in the Middle East. She is the co-author (with Nicola Pratt) of *'What Kind of Liberation? Women and the Occupation of Iraq'* (UC Press 2009).

10.02.2010
IG 1.314

Dr. Fouzieyha Towghi (Zürich)
Representing Women: Producing Gendered Tribalism in Human Rights Discourse

Engaging transnational feminist theories (including coformations of gender, race, ethnicity, and postcoloniality) my talk will address how human rights and feminist arguments about universal rights for women end up re-invigorating primordial-biological notions that characterize tribal identity at the cusp of the 20th and 21st centuries. The paper traces how older colonial notions of tribalism re-emerge in transnational human rights discourse to frame links between tribal ways, gender relations in Baloch 'tribal' communities and the construction of Pakistani women as victims of 'tribal honour killings' thus requiring protection of the Pakistani state and human rights NGOs.

The paper argues and explicates how the discourse on 'honour killings' and the demands on states to apply stricter measures against 'tribal' men produce a series of racialized material effects including the indirect endorsement of the Pakistani state to perpetuate its exclusionary practices against particular groups of the nation.



Fouzieyha Towghi is an Anthropologist and currently a Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Zürich. Her research in Pakistan, India, the USA and Switzerland focuses on the global circulation of gynaecological research and therapeutics.