



Gender*Queer*Workshop

*June 30 – July 1, 2011



North American Literary and Cultural Studies (NamLitCult) at Saarland University is offering a two-day workshop on gender and queer theories as well as practices on June 30, 2011 and July 1, 2011. This interdisciplinary Gender*Queer*Workshop targets students working on their B.A., M.A., Staatsexamen and PhD theses.

In the mornings, we will have workshop sessions on “Identity, Politics and Ethics: Judith Butler and Queer Theory” led by Eveline Kilian (HU Berlin) and on “Queer Theory and The End of Everything: Race, Economies, Sexuality” led by Judith ‘Jack’ Halberstam (UCLA). In the afternoons, students will be able to present and discuss their projects. In the evenings, we will have a lecture by Judith Jack Halberstam as well as a screening of the documentary film “Travel Queeries.” Elliot Graney-Saucke (Berlin/Seattle), the director, will be present and will be happy to discuss the film with you. Afterwards, there will be a genderqueer performance by Sir La Muse.

*Speakers/Performers:

Judith Jack Halberstam (Los Angeles)

Eveline Kilian (Berlin)

Elliot Graney-Saucke (Seattle/Berlin)

*Program:

*Thursday, June 30, 2011

*Workshop: Eveline Kilian

Identity, Politics and Ethics: Judith Butler and Queer Theory

Judith Butler is certainly one of the key figures of Queer Theory. But there are striking differences between her and those scholars who focus their arguments on negativity and the anti-social. In this workshop we will explore Butler’s investment in Queer Theory, her positionings and repositionings over the past two decades, and her conceptualization of the nexus between queer, identity, politics and ethics as it has shaped itself in her more recent writings.

*Afternoon workshop:

Students’ project presentations

*Keynote lecture: Judith Jack Halberstam

Low Theory: Transdisciplinarity and Queer Studies

This talk uses “low theory,” (a term I am adapting from Stuart Hall’s work) and popular knowledge, to explore alternatives and to look for a way out of the usual traps and impasses of binary formulations;

low theory tries to locate all the in between spaces that save us from being snared by the hooks of hegemony and speared by the seductions of consumption. But it also makes its peace with the possibility that alternatives dwell in the murky waters of a counter-intuitive, often impossibly dark and negative realm of critique and refusal. And so the talk darts back and forth between high and low culture, high and low theory, popular culture and esoteric knowledge, in order to push through the divisions between life and art, practice and theory, thinking and doing and into a more chaotic realm of knowing and unknowing.

***Friday, July 1, 2011**

*Workshop: Judith Jack Halberstam

Queer Theory and The End of Everything: Race, Economies, Sexuality

This workshop will develop a queer theoretical conversation around questions of futurity, endings, beginnings, utopias and dystopias, temporality and spatiality. We will read new work in queer theory that addresses questions about political economy, race and sexuality, immigration and labor and that develops new critical tools for developing models of resistance. Readings will include work by: Dean Spade, Chandan Reddy, Fatima El Tayib, Rod Ferguson, Tavia Nyong'o, Kale Fajardo and Natasha Tinsley.

*Afternoon workshop:

Students' project presentations

*Film and Performance: Elliat Graney-Saucke

Travel Queeries

Performance by Sir La Muse

***Application:**

Deadline for applications: April 15, 2011

Application procedure: This two-day workshop is open to students working on their B.A., M.A., Staatsexamen, or PhD theses. If you'd like to present a paper or the project you're currently working on, please send a description of your project and intended presentation (max. 300 words) as well as a short CV to amerikanistik@mx.uni-saarland.de. Please include a contact address. Project presentations should be no longer than 15-20 minutes. We will be carefully reviewing all the submitted abstracts and will notify you concerning acceptance of your paper by the end of April.

The key note lecture as well as the film screening and performance are open to the public. The conference language is English.

For more information please visit: www.amerikanistik.uni-saarland.de

Organized by Astrid M. Fellner and Jennifer Moos (NamLitCult, Saarland University).

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