Queer Again? Power, Politics and Ethics

The concept of queer is volatile and, at times, difficult to grasp. As a result, we need a continuous review of the fields and directions of Queer Studies (as for instance, in the Social Text issue of 2005 with the programmatic title What’s Queer About Queer Studies Now?). In recent debates the ethical impetus of queer criticism has been confronted and challenged by the dominance of the so-called antisocial thesis. In his 2004 study No Future: Queer Theory and the Death Drive, Lee Edelman manoeuvred queer theory into a kind of aporia and thus deep crisis that persists to this day. Subscription to an ‘ethics of futility,’ as Edelman suggests, signals that the borders of ethical thinking have been reached. This prevalence of the antisocial thesis in its different manifestations reveals a pressing need to reflect anew the relationship between queer, theory, art, ethics and politics.

Taking this as a starting point for the conference, we want to take up the iterative moment that seems inherent in the concept of queer: queer is regularly in a state of crisis that needs to be made productive, and in this way it can be continuously reworked and reshaped. We want to open a space to further the debate about sexuality and gender and their multiple interwoven connections in fields of power in contemporary contexts. Consequently, the following questions will be at the centre of attention: How can queer theory be situated in current academic and activist spheres? What does the focus on interdependent relationships (of sexuality, gender, race, ethnicity, class, age, (dis)ability etc.) mean for the formation of a queer ethics? How can we rethink concepts of temporality and generation or community? And what does queer mean in different geographical and temporal contexts?

The panels will be organised along two thematic strands. The first, Affect, Space and Temporality, is concerned with the ethical and political potential of queer and the different political conceptions of queer that arise as a result. The second strand, Limits and Boundary Crossings, takes up current theoretical debates with regard to boundaries and crossings of these boundaries. Which limits and/or transgressions of these limits occur when different theoretical fields collide (e.g. queer theory and transgender theory or postcolonial theory or crip theory/disability studies)? In addition, we want to critically examine the limitations of queer and the concurrent inclusions and exclusions with regard to privileges that queer produces in specific contexts and that demand new critical/queer interventions.
### Thursday, 23 September 2010

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<td>15:15 – 16:30 h</td>
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| Keynote José Esteban Muñoz (New York): The Impossibility of Gay Politics and the Incalculable Sense of Queerness
  Commentary: Vojin Saša Vukadinović |                                                                      |
| 18:00 h            | Coffee Break                                                        |
| 18:30 h            | Kino saal / Room 1115                                                |
| Film Programme  “queer again? “freaky film club special”
  Curated by: Karin Michalski; Presented by: Renate Lorenz & Karin Michalski (clipclub Berlin) & guests
  Films/Videos by: Sharon Hayas, High Heel Sisters, Oliver Hüsain, Klara Liden, Pauline Boudry & Renate Lorenz, Ulrike Müller, Wu Ingrid Tsang and others
  Host: Maja Figge |                                                                      |
| 20:30 h            | Reception                                                            |

### Friday, 24 September 2010

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<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Eveline Kilian</td>
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| Keynote Susan Stryker (Bloomington): “Freedom’s Just another Word for Nothing Left to Lose”; Transgender Theory
  Covers Punk Rock, Alt-Country, and Queer Futurity
  Commentary: Adrian de Silva |                                                                      |
| 11:30 h            | Coffee Break                                                        |
| 12:00 – 13:45 h    | Panels                                                                |
| STRAND 1: Affect, Space and Temporality
  Equality and Diversity Politics, Chair: Gabriele Dieterz | Room 3075 |
| Sally Hines (Leeds): Stirring it Up – Again: Politics of Difference in the New Millennium |
| Moritz Konradi (Berlin): The Sexuality of Justice.
  Reconsidering Drucilla Cornell’s Queer Liberalism |
| Jan Hutta (Milan: Keyness): Paradoxes of Governmentality and Micropolitics in Brazilian Anti-Homophobic Politics | Room 3038 |
| STRAND 2: Limits and Boundary Crossings
  Queer Body Politics, Chair: Marc Siegel | Room 3038 |
| Heike Raab (Innsbruck): Disability as Queer Culture (Politics)
  Rachel White (London): No Fat Future? The Uses of Anti-Social Queer Theory for Fat Activism |
| Lena Eckert (Berlin): Countering Internalization with Queer Activism? | Room 3038 |

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| Keynote Roderick Ferguson (Minneapolis): The Queer Ethic and the Spirit of Normativity
  Commentary: Elahe Haschemi Yekani | Room 3075 |
| 11:00 h            | Coffee Break                                                        |
| 11:30 – 13:15 h    | Panels                                                                |
| STRAND 1: Affect, Space and Temporality
  Queer Postcolonial Space, Chair: Julia Roth | Room 3075 |
| Encarnación Gutiérrez Rodríguez (Manchester): How To “Queer” feminized Racialized Labour – On Decolonial Ethics and The Politics of Affect
  Vanessa Agard-Jones (New York): What the Sands Remember: Revisiting Tropes of Queer Invisibility in Martinique | Room 3038 |
| STRAND 2: Limits and Boundary Crossings
  Queer Generations, Chair: Wibke Straube | Room 3038 |
| Katrina Roen (Oslo): Viable Lives? Gender Variant Youth, Suicide, and Self-Harm
  Irina Schmitt (Lund): How Childish! Queering ‘Youth’ and some other of the Mutual Challenges of Queer and Education Research
  Janne C.H. Bromseth and Fanny Ambjörnsson (Stockholm): “When you are married and have children…” Elderly LBGT-Women and Queer Youth Negotiating Heteronormative Life Scripts, Gender and Age | Room 3075 |
| 14:45 – 16:00 h    | PANELS                                                               |
| STRAND 1: Affect, Space and Temporality
  Time and Affect, Chair: Nanna Heidenreich | Room 3075 |
| Dominique Grisard (Basel): Pink Prisons, Rosy Future? An Alternative Genealogy of the Color Pink
  Ingeborg Svensson (Umeå): Love and Death – On Queer Resistance and Strategies of Resistance on Queer Funerals | Room 3038 |
| STRAND 2: Limits and Boundary Crossings
  Limits of Queer, Chair: Carsten Junker | Room 3038 |
| Robert Kulpa and Joanna Miziołinska (London/Warsaw): Con-Temporal Peripheries; Disjunctions in Space and Time, Knowledge and Activism, between Central-Eastern European and Western Sexualities
  Aidan T. A. Varney (London): The Socio-political (Un)intelligibility of Barebackers’ Bodies | Room 3038 |
| 16:00 – 16:30 h    | Coffee Break                                                        |
| 16:30 – 17:45 h    | PANELS                                                               |

### Conference Schedule

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- **16:15 h** Room 3038
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  - Commentary: Vojin Saša Vukadinović
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  - Film Programme “queer again? ‘freaky film club special’”
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  - Host: Maja Figge
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  - Introduction
  - Eveline Kilian
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  - Keynote Susan Stryker (Bloomington): “Freedom’s Just another Word for Nothing Left to Lose”; Transgender Theory
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      - Rachel White (London): No Fat Future? The Uses of Anti-Social Queer Theory for Fat Activism
      - Lena Eckert (Berlin): Countering Internalization with Queer Activism?
- **13:45 – 15:15 h** Lunch
- **15:15 – 16:30 h** Panels

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    - **16:00 – 16:30 h** Coffee Break
    - **16:30 – 17:45 h** Panels
- **17:45 h** Coffee Break
- **18:15 h** Room 3038
  - Keynote Judith Jack Halberstam (Los Angeles): “The Killer in Me, Is the Killer in You”: Homosexuality and Fascism
  - Commentary: Jens Borcherding
- **19:45 h** Room 3038
  - Closing Remarks
  - Eveline Kilian
- **20:00 h** End of Conference

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[http://www.angl.hu-berlin.de/confslecs/queeragain](http://www.angl.hu-berlin.de/confslecs/queeragain)

[http://www2.hu-berlin.de/gkgeschlecht/](http://www2.hu-berlin.de/gkgeschlecht/)