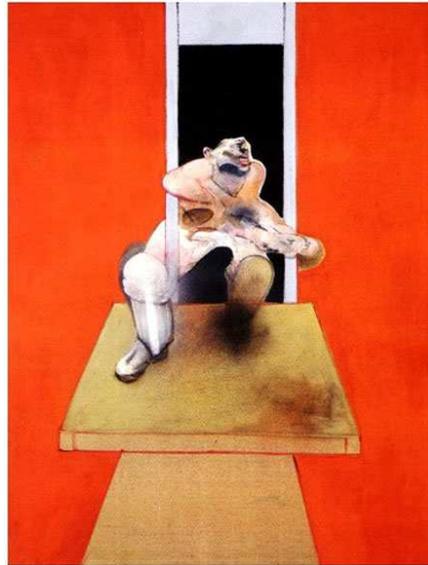


THOUGHT AS ACTION: Gender, Democracy, Freedom



Conference

***Center for Women's and Gender Research (SKOK)
University of Bergen***

August 16th, 17th & 18th, 2012

CALL FOR PAPERS

This conference marks the completion of a four-year international research project, *THOUGHT AS ACTION: Gender, Democracy, Freedom*, funded by the Norwegian Research Council. The project has had a theoretical focus, organized around three major themes: "Bodies and Sexualities", "Citizenship" and "New Technologies", themes that will also serve as an overarching structure for the conference. The program will consist of plenary sessions with keynote addresses as well as parallel sessions that will be organized around the three theme clusters, to which we will devote one day each. We invite scholars to submit abstracts for papers that will touch upon at least one of the theme clusters. Empirically based papers will be welcomed, provided that they touch upon theoretical questions.

www.uib.no/skok/en

BODIES AND SEXUALITIES:

This section will address key theoretical questions relevant to the overall problematic of gender, democracy, freedom, papers which explore how we can rethink the body and sexualities today. What are the main challenges, given some of the theoretical developments in our research field? How can we theorize the body and sexuality in the wake of post-humanist theories of corporality, affect theory, disability theory, post-colonial and transnational critiques of the hegemony of the white, middle-class perspective as well as critiques of constructionist theories?

In addition to the papers that will be presented in the parallel sessions, the following scholars have accepted the invitation to speak at our plenary sessions:

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Professor **Elizabeth Grosz**,
Rutgers University, USA
Professor **Sara Ahmed**,
Goldsmiths College, UK
Professor **Aihwa Ong**,
University of California,
Berkeley, USA
Professor **Malathi de Alwis**,
University of Colombo, Sri
Lanka
Professor **Sarah Franklin**,
Cambridge University, UK
Associate Prof. **Jenny Sundén**,
School of Gender, Culture and
History, Södertörn University,
Sweden

CITIZENSHIP:

In this section we will explore multi-dimensional approaches to citizenship, gender and sexuality. What are the consequences within these fields in light of recent transformations of the state, due to diminishing state sovereignty in the global North as well as the global South? We want to pursue the implications of these shifts for gender and sexuality. How do neo-liberal market rationalities impact on conceptions of citizenship? And how are the global forces of deterritorialization and reterritorializations connected to the way in which sexuality and gender are reconfigured? How do we understand the complex techniques pertaining to the governmentalization of the state, when sexuality and gender are taken into account? More generally, how are gender and sexuality implicated in the different aspects of citizenship?

DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACTS:

February 1st, 2012

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION:

MAY 1ST, 2012

Conference fee: NOK 500
(Including meals) / Banquet:
NOK 250

MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION:

www.uib.no/skok/en

NEW TECHNOLOGIES:

In this section we want to ask: How do current developments and innovations in (info/bio/reproductive) technologies shape our thinking on gender, democracy and freedom? Feminists theorizing technology have made obvious how technologies are intimately entwined with bodies. Hence, it becomes problematic to think of embodiment and difference (such as gender, sexuality, race, class, age, and ability) as intelligible 'before' or 'beyond' technology. In which ways do technologies form and transform bodies and their politics? What would the implications be if we approached intersectionality and embodiment through the lens of technology? In which ways do corporeal differences challenge or transgress the boundaries between natural and artificial, human and machine?

The conference will be held at Admiral Hotel, C. Sundts gt 9. SKOK has reserved a number of rooms at Admiral Hotel as well as at other hotels close by.

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