

Feminism, Gender, and (Historical) Science and Technology Studies

Workshop March 17-19 2021, Interdisciplinary Centre for Science and Technology Studies (IZWT) University of Wuppertal, Germany

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In 1978 the women's studies journal *Signs* published a special issue "women, science, and society" – a milestones in the formation of a broad and heterogeneous body of work dedicated to the role of gender in the production, dissemination, and application of "scientific knowledge" and "technology". This interdisciplinary workshop investigates the history of feminist science and technology studies, situating its emergence and development in the context of second wave feminism, Cold War social science, and critical environmentalism. At the same time, its participants examine for a variety of different fields and research objects, the impact of gendered distributions of labor, of heteronormative images of "nature", or of ideals of masculinity in the construction of scientists' bodies and "scientificity" itself. Moreover, they reflect how feminist perspectives provide tools and spaces for thinking and doing science and technology "otherwise". Topics of the different panels also include food (science), ecology, and disaster. A special focus will be on intersectional approaches that reflect how gender is co-constructed and interacts with other categories and axis of difference and inequality, such as race, age or able-bodiedness, and on queer, as well as post- and decolonial perspectives.

Preliminary Program

March 17

5 pm

Welcome and introduction

Sophie Charlotte Ebert (Equal opportunities & Diversity Staff Unit, University of Wuppertal)

Cécile Stephanie Stehrenberger (IZWT, University of Wuppertal)

5.30-7 pm:

Feminist ways of thinking and doing science and technology otherwise

Roundtable discussion with Christine Okoth (University of Warwick), Debottam Saha (Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi), and students from the University of Wuppertal (public event)

7 pm- 8pm:

reception

March 18

9 -10.30 am:

Ecology and Labor

Debottam Saha (Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi): "Gendered Labour, Ecology, and Knowledge"

Christine Okoth (University of Warwick): "Repurposing, Repetition, and the Form of Sustainability"

10.30-12.00 am:

Food (studies)

Nina Mackert (University of Leipzig): "Factor 0,8: Gendered Bodies in Calorimetric Science"

Isabella Schwaderer (University of Erfurt): "Revolution or Redemption through Slow Food? Trajectories of a Global Grassroots Organization"

12.00-1pm:

lunch

1pm-2.30 pm:

Gendered spaces of knowledge production

Dania Achermann (IZWT, University of Wuppertal): "Masculinity and Post-World War II Earth-sciences"

Christian Kehrt (TU Braunschweig): "Images of modern „explorers“. Paul-Émile Victor and the French Polar Expeditions in the Cold War"

3 pm-4.30 pm:

Disaster

Reena Shadaan (York University, Toronto) (via video): "'Dipped in Petroleum': From Petrochemicals to the Nail Salon"

Felicia Henry, (University of Delaware, Newark (DE)) (via video): "Race, Justice, and Disasters."

March 19

9.30-11.00 am:

Feminist science and technology-studies 1970-2021

Fabian Link (IZWT, University of Wuppertal): Feminist STS and Cold War social sciences

Urs Lindner (University of Erfurt): Philosophy of Science perspectives on Feminist STS

11.30 am-2 pm:

(Alternative) spaces and methods of (emancipatory) knowledge production

Lou-Salomé Heer (Zurich) and Bettina Stehli (Zurich): "women's centers" and feminist knowledge production: 1980-today

Ulla Hendrix (University of Duisburg-Essen): The “Open Women’s University” of Wuppertal

Julia Bee (University of Weimar): “Film as apparatus of knowledge production: documentary and feminist perspectives”

Anna Leuschner (IZWT, University of Wuppertal): “Agnotology as a Central Outcome of Feminist Science Studies”