

PROGRAM

14 November, 2023

18-20h, H8 - Main Building

InterAmerican Studies Colloquium

“BLACK TRANS FEMINISM: THE STORY BEHIND THE THEORY”

Marquis Bey

Comment: Gigi Adair

DE-HEGEMONIZING BINARIES

HOW TO TRANSCEND THE SOCIAL DIVIDE?

15 November, 2023

10-17h, X-Building B2-103

International Workshop

10-12h

“Contemporary Mayan sex-gender dissidents” - Rub(én) Solís (University of Coimbra, ASH Berlin)

“‘Gender Ideology’ as an Existential Threat: The Manichean Logic of Right-Wing Extremist and Conservative Narratives and ‘Bastard Feminist’ Contestations” - Julia Roth (Bielefeld University)

“Jailbreaking Gender” - Marquis Bey (Northwestern University)

13.30-15h

“From binaries to dualisms: Revolving the emotion/reason cleavage”

Ana Miranda Mora (TU Dresden, Yale University)

“Questioning dichotomies, deconstructing exceptionalisms: Nationalism, transnationalism, and hemispheric perspectives in the study of the Black Americas” - Matti Steinitz (Bielefeld University)

“The victim/perpetrator binary in a sociopolitical context”

Juliana González (Justus Liebig University Giessen, Instituto CAPAZ)

15.30-17h

“Antipunitivismo en Cuba: El tema pendiente del feminismo negro Cubano”

Sandra Heidl (Afrocubanas. La revista, Hannover/Cuba)

“Masculine solidarity? A contestation under de(s)colonial eyes”

Philipp Wolfesberger (Bielefeld University)

“Trans Rights and Right-Wing Oppositions in Contemporary Brazil: Law Under Contention”

Lígia Fabris (FGV Rio de Janeiro)

20.00h **BOOK PRESENTATION**

mondo buchhandlung, Elsa-Brändström-Str. 23, 33602 Bielefeld

FEMINISMS IN MOVEMENT: THEORIES AND PRACTICES FROM THE AMERICAS

(2023, TRANSCRIPT)

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INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

14 - 15 November, 2023

Organization: Julia Roth & Philipp Wolfesberger

DE-HEGEMONIZING
BINARIES

HOW TO TRANSCEND THE SOCIAL DIVIDE?

Binaries come into the focus of social debates and academic research in many ways. Whether in the sex/gender distinction between men and women, the racialized demarcation of nationals/foreigners in migration, or the capitalist class antagonisms: social plurality is increasingly sharpened into a partisan version of the friend/enemy schema in political polarization. The separation into at least two parts distinct from and simultaneously related to each other acts as a minimal understanding of hegemonic social order. However, bloc formation also represents a unique stabilization of social forces. In International Relations, some look back wistfully on the decades of supposedly clear boundaries of the East-West conflict. Binaries, however, are never equal parts of a common whole but are embedded in hierarchical relationships, as in Occidentalism-Orientalism. The divisions into a supposedly better, more desirable, or privileged part and a worse, avoidable, or disadvantaged part determine sectional demarcation dynamics. On the one hand, we currently observe the plurality of subject positions/ways of being and life worlds; on the other hand, actors and alliances across the globe fight for the maintenance or re-installation of binary orders and hierarchies of belonging (e.g., border and citizenship regimes, radical right-wing nationalism, and anti-gender/feminist/LGBTQ+ mobilizations).

Making hierarchical binaries visible is central to decolonial and postcolonial theory and practice. Capitalist exploitation and extractivism, as well as long processes of racialization, form the cornerstones of coloniality. The rhetoric of modernity cannot stand without domination, legitimizing coloniality and causing fundamental conflicts (Mendoza 2023). Knowledge production that does not actively oppose these relations fuels the mechanisms of subordination, marginalization, exclusion, and radical negation of the Other. The binary gender opposition is also embedded in colonial dynamics and Eurocentric cosmologies. Still, Silvia Marcos (2011) shows how dualism in Mesoamerica does not necessarily result in hierarchical binarity. In this line, *El mundo ch'ixi* (Rivera Cusicanqui 2018) resigns from demarcations and exclusions and builds on the indeterminacy of entities. The simultaneity of racial and gender divides and their questioning leads to dynamics that TRANScend borders. The neither-nor or the constantly-becoming defy the logic of conflicting binary entities. Defining categories of opposition becomes redundant, yet we need at least a rhetorical compass to make these counter-hegemonic understandings of binaries tangible.

What does non-binary or gender-queer mean in the interplay of the "cistem" (Bey 2022)? How to transcend the continuous social divide in racialized capitalism? How to conceptualize collectivity when not fixed in the demarcation to an outside? These questions are not only a status quo critique but also entail a vision of a world after binaries, which is not free from practical and conceptual contradictions or dilemmas. Heteronormativity, the hegemonic heterosexual order, can be overcome in one place while simultaneously the same practice reproduces elsewhere (Castro-Varela & Dhawan 2011). The state describes a similar paradoxical, strategic relationship that secures binary oppositions but also accompanies opening paths. Feminist movements of Latin America show how to mobilize protest and resistance against neoliberal, patriarchal, and colonial structures and actors without succumbing to the limits of conflict-ability in the diversity of transversal politics.

In this workshop, we want to make visible and question the hegemonic production of oppositions of binaries in the gendered and racialized contemporary neoliberal capitalist social order. The transdisciplinary debates will address the cross paths issues of the neoliberal capitalist mode of production, racialized violence, neo-colonization, and sex/gender dynamics. Specifically, we address questions of masculinities, conflict resolutions, trans and queer feminism, racialized capitalism, intersectionalities, anti-racist mobilizations, and feminist movements that critically engage with binaries. We focus on the Americas and transnational entanglements but want to remain open to fruitful connections to other local debates and situated strands of theory and equate differences in horizontal dialogues (Corona Berkin and Kaltmeier 2022).

The workshop will be held in English.

References.

- Bey, Marquis (2022). *Cistem failure. Essays on blackness and cisgender*. Durham.
 Castro-Varela, María do Mar/Dhawan, Nikita/Engel, Antke (Eds.) (2011). *Hegemony and Heteronormativity. Revisiting 'The Political' in Queer Politics*. Farnham.
 Corona Berkin, Sarah/Kaltmeier, Olaf (Eds.) (2022). *Producción de conocimientos en tiempos de crisis: dialogando desde la horizontalidad*. Guadalajara.
 Marcos, Sylvia (2011). *Tomado de los labios : género y eros en Mesoamérica*. Quito.
 Mendoza, Breny (2023). *Colonialidad, género y democracia*. Ciudad de México.
 Rivera Cusicanqui, Silvia (2018). *Un mundo ch'ixi es posible. Ensayos desde un presente en crisis*. Buenos Aires.



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