

Colloque Sophia Colloquium

Genderstudies : een genre apart ? Savoirs de genre : quel genre de savoir ?

Bruxelles-Brussel 17/18-10-2013

**Please note that no translation will be provided.
This conference will be held in English only.**

Keynote Sally Hines

Thursday, October 17th, 6.15pm-7.45pm

Transgendering the Matrix: Reconceptualising the Intersections of Sex, Gender and Sexuality

Normatively 'gender' speaks of the constructions of masculinity and femininity, and thus, substantively, to the experiences of 'man' and 'woman'. This paper explores the implications of 'gender' - as a categorising devise, as a political strategy, and as a way of articulating 'lived experience'. With these points in mind, 'transgender' is explored as site through which to explore the limitations of the persistence of a binary gender model. Drawing on three empirical research projects, which, in turn, have addressed transgender identities, intimacies, and issues political organisation and social and cultural recognition, the paper maps the ways in which trans narratives highlight the multifarious intersections across, and between, sex, gender and sexuality. The paper moves on to explore the challenges an intersectional account of (trans)gender brings to feminist theory and politics, and to medical understandings of transsexuality. Such challenges, I suggest, lead to contestations around 'transgender' within both feminist and trans communities - members of each have thus variously embraced and resisted 'transgender' as a signifier of gender transformation. I argue that for 'gender' to remain a meaningful theoretical concept and a fruitful political site, it needs to be pluralized in order to take account of multiple gendered expressions and identities. Such a project, I suggest, would further detach 'gender' from 'sex', and set in motion a more developed intersectional account of gendered lives and social positionings.

Biography Sally Hines.

Sally Hines is Associate Professor in the School of Sociology and Social Policy and Director of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies at the University of Leeds. Her recent research has focused on political and subjective meanings and significance of the UK Gender Recognition Act ('Gender Diversity. Recognition and Citizenship', ESRC, 2009-2012). She is currently working on an ESRC funded Knowledge Exchange project, which seeks to enable knowledge sharing and networking between academics, activists, policy makers, support groups and user groups working around gender and sexual diversity (Recognising Diversity? Equalities in Principle and Practice' (ESRC, 2012-2013). She is co-I (with Yvette Taylor) of the ESRC Seminar Series 'Critical Diversities' and co-editor of the Routledge book series 'Advances in Critical Diversities'. She has co-edited special journal editions of Sociology (Special Issue on Sexualities) and Gender, Place and Culture (Special Issue on Transgender). She has published in a wide range of journals including Sociology; Gender, Place and Culture; Sociological Research Online; Critical Social Policy; Journal of Gender Studies. Books include: *TransForming Gender: Transgender Practices of Identity and Intimacy* (Policy Press, 2007); *Transgender Identities: Towards a Social Analysis of Gender Diversity*, (ed. Routledge, 2009); *Theorizing Intersectionality and Sexuality* (ed. Palgrave MacMillan, 2011); *Sexualities: Reflections and Futures* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2012); *Gender Diversity, Recognition and Citizenship: Towards a Politics of Difference* (Palgrave MacMillan, forthcoming, 2013.) She is currently working on two book projects: *Exchanging Diversity: The Purchase of Difference* (Routledge, 2014) and *Gender, Society and Culture* (Sage, 2016). Sally is co-convenor of the British Sociological Association (BSA) Gender Study Group.

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Chia Longman: chair

Dr. Chia Longman is Associate Professor in Gender Studies at Ghent University and Director of CICI. She teaches, supervises and conducts research on the relation between gender, ethnicity, and religion from an anthropological and intersectional perspective.

Longman is the editor of the scientific journal 'Religion and Gender' and has published articles in the European Journal of Women's Studies, Citizenship Studies, Ethnicities, Social Compass en Social Anthropology, among others.

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