

NOI♀SE 2008 Summer School!

In Between Understanding and Practicing Gender: Intersectionality and Interdisciplinarity

18 August – 29 August, Utrecht, the Netherlands

- Have you always wanted to know what cutting-edge feminist thinking is about and how you yourself can learn to practice it? Are you dreaming of writing texts ‘that matters’?
- Do you want to develop your ideas about transnational feminism, identities and power? Do you want to reflect upon the ways in which identities are being negotiated in different settings?
- Do you want to explore what interdisciplinarity is in terms of knowledge production, feminist responsibility and academic practices?
- Are you curious about doing Gender Studies in Europe?

In the first interdisciplinary cluster *Intersecting Identities: Transnationalism, Gender and Power*, we will explore how transnational and intersectional feminist theory can help us to make sense of current developments with regard to identities, subjectivities, gender, power and knowledge. “Identities” will be central to our concern. Traditionally, “identity” was a concept that referred to a stable inner core of the true self, some real, authentic self, inside there, hiding inside the false selves that we present to the rest of the world. This discourse of identity, with its strong representations of inside-outside, true-false, self-other, subject-object, individual-society has, despite its lingering and persistent traces, run its course. Feminist studies has developed new ways of thinking about identity.

We will begin by looking at traditional ways of thinking and talking about identity and the ways in which feminism has helped us to go beyond such binaries as outlined above. We will explore identity as a way of understanding the interplay between our subjective experience of the world and the cultural and historical settings in which shifting subjectivities are formed. Identity is never fixed or completed, but instead always in formation. We will analyze identity then as a process, multiplicitous, contradictory and unstable, lacking coherence even. In addition, we have become aware that identity is always in part a narrative, always in part a representation. Lecturers from a variety of backgrounds will utilize approaches from the Humanities, the Social Sciences and Cultural Studies, focusing on representations and identity - formations in various bodies of texts like women’s own narratives, versions of feminist theory, gendered and ethnicized bodies, religion, the law and state policy regulations.

In the second cluster *Interdisciplinarity in Gender Studies: Poetics and Ethics*, we will attempt to understand the potential and problematics of interdisciplinarity in terms of knowledge production, academic practices and feminist ethics. The starting point of the cluster is the understanding that interdisciplinarity is a problematic concept, which nevertheless offers great potential, particularly for feminist researchers. While it has become the current standard in historical and literary studies, it raises specific epistemological and ethical questions regarding knowledge production and academic practices. This begs the question of whether interdisciplinarity is merely a matter of research skills and the accumulation of knowledge, or if there is more at stake. With regards to feminist research,

interdisciplinarity offers distinctive discursive and ideological potential, especially insofar as it reveals itself as anti-colonial and counter-hegemonic.

In this cluster we will explore this potential of interdisciplinary approaches in feminist research by attempting to deconstruct stereotypes of research practices and the over-evaluation of acquired skills. We will also rethink humanist research ethics in terms of contemporary feminist theory, as well as address the notion of pleasure as it relates to research practices. The aim of the cluster is to explore the possibilities of interdisciplinarity, to construct a toolbox for feminist interdisciplinary research, and to reappropriate the pleasures at the center of feminist knowledge production and research practices.

Aims

This advanced training course offers a diversified, but coherent programme of study from an interdisciplinary perspective. It is meant for MA students and PhD students and it will provide special and separate seminars to these two groups.

Themes / Clusters

The clusters of this year's Summer School are:

Week one: **Intersecting Identities: Transnationalism, Gender and Power**

Week two: **Interdisciplinarity in Gender Studies: Poetics and Ethics**

Both clusters investigate Women's Studies scholarship and use interdisciplinary approaches.

Please check www.genderstudies.nl → education → NOISE Summer School for the programmes of the last years to get an idea how the programme is structured. The basic formula is always the same; the themes and clusters vary.

Please check www.genderstudies.nl/summerschool2008 for regular updates!

Formula

- Two lectures in the morning
- Separate MA- and PhD-specific seminars in the afternoon
- Social programme
- Students prepare during the summer by reading and collecting material for assignments (approximately 70 hours of work). After fulfilment of all requirements (preparation of assignments and reading, active participation and final essay of 10 - 15 pages), participants receive the NOISE Certificate for 240 hours of work, equalling 9 ECTS
- All participants are expected to participate in the entire programme during the two weeks

Accommodation for students

The accommodation will be arranged by the organising university in Utrecht and can be reserved and paid to the central coordination in Utrecht. Participants can also arrange their own accommodation; however, we advise you to 'stick together' at the same accommodation!

Tuition Fees

The tuition fee is €550,- This includes reading materials, but is exclusive of accommodation, subsistence costs (i.e. evening meals, drinks etc) and possible excursions.

Teachers in the course

The first week of the Summer School is coordinated by Prof. Gloria Wekker and Dr. Sarah Bracke (Utrecht University); week two is coordinated by Prof. Svetlana Slapsack (Ljubljana Graduate School of Humanities), Sanne Koevoets MA and Domitilla Olivieri MA (Utrecht University). Several renowned professors and scholars from various disciplines will be teaching at the Summer School. These will be announced on the website.

For more Information

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Registration:

Please note that you can **only** register online (before April 25) at this address:
<http://www.genderstudies.nl/summerschool2008>

***COME TO THE NOI♀SE SUMMERSCHOOL
AND BE CHALLENGED!***

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A NOISE grant is available for two students from every NOISE partner university. If you want to apply for the grant of your university, please check with your local contact person for the application procedure.

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