

ZFG: 2001 - 2021

THE CENTER

The Center for Interdisciplinary Women's and Gender Studies is an overfaculty research institution affiliated with Faculty III of Linguistics and Cultural Studies at the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg. It sees itself as a forum for inter- and transdisciplinary gender research, which makes productive use of the networking of research perspectives and forms a central point of contact on questions of gender research for researchers, teachers, and students.

The work of the ZFG is characterized by important contributions to basic research as well as its distinct international orientation, which manifests itself in research projects from two long-standing research clusters: KNOWLEDGE - INSTITUTION - MEMORY and TRANSCULTURALITY - MIGRATIONS. The focus on cultural studies is complemented by inter- and transdisciplinary projects. The tasks of the ZFG continue to include a commitment to research-based teaching as well as the profiling of the BA Gender Studies program.

HISTORY

The ZFG was founded in 2000 as a cross-faculty scientific research institution - the first of its kind in Lower Saxony and one of the first two in Germany. Supported by the Women's Equality Office, the university management and the senate, as well as the Lower Saxony Ministry of Science and Culture (MWK) with a ten-year funding period, twenty professors, research assistants and scholarship holders were involved in the founding process. On May 17th 2001, together with the members of all status groups, the directors and staff from the fields of educational, social and cultural sciences began their work in the newly founded Center Council.

As early as July of that year, the first large international conference took place, which laid the foundation for many years of cooperation under the title "Societies in Transition - Challenges to Women's and Gender Studies" (Fleißner/ Potts (Ed.) 2002). Visiting professorships, which were acquired through the Maria Goeppert Meyer Program of the MWK from 2001 until the program was discontinued in 2010, also contributed to the international profile. Scientists from Eastern Europe, the USA and New Zealand, from South Africa and Yemen enriched the work of the ZFG. On a regional level, the "Cooperation Network for Gender Research in the North-West Region" was founded with the University of Applied Sciences Oldenburg/ Ostfriesland/ Wilhelmshaven (FH OOW), which developed and carried out

numerous projects between 2004 and 2009, among others in the subject areas of Gender in University Teaching or Male Socialization.

The focus on social and educational sciences was expanded from 2003 to 2009 by a junior professorship, which established the area of "Gender, Bio-Technologies and Society: Body Discourses and Gender Constructions" for research and teaching. Regrettably, this research direction with its linking of gender studies and natural sciences could not be continued after its discontinuation. The international dimension was expanded during this time through DAAD-funded projects: Politics and Gender with South Africa, Uganda, and Yemen, and within the framework of the German-Arab University Dialogue with Morocco, Lebanon, and Yemen.

As of 2009/10, the profile of the ZFG changed towards a cultural studies orientation, which was accompanied by a change of directors and the affiliation with Faculty III Linguistics and Cultural Studies. The 10-year anniversary was duly celebrated under the motto: "ZEHNHOCHDREI - Ten years ZFG and a new faculty". The ceremonial lecture by Prof. Dr. Cornelia Klinger (Tübingen) "The Category Gender between Nature, Culture and Society" pointed to the overarching continuity of research interests.

The restructuring of the ZFG was also associated with a change in the personnel situation. Overall, in its 2013 evaluation report on the situation of

gender research at universities in Lower Saxony, the Scientific Commission of Lower Saxony attested to the centre a “successful generational change” and a “lighthouse function” for Lower Saxony.

2011 also saw the introduction of the annual Gender Research Day, at which members of the university and the region present their research projects in gender and queer studies for discussion.

In the following years, the ZFG was able to host annual conferences (KEG/ FG 2011, LAGEN 2013), expand cooperations with the Erasmus Mundus *European Master in Migration and Intercultural Relations* (EMMIR) (since 2011), the Helene Lange Kolleg: *Queer Studies and Intermediality: Art - Music - Media Culture - Music - Media Culture* (2013-2016) or the LAGEN, with the conference “Queering Migration Studies” (Oldenburg 2014).

Of particular importance is the development of interdisciplinary and transnational joint research projects: The project “Gender Knowledge in and between the Disciplines: Critique, Transformation and ‘Dissenting Participation’ in (Academic) Knowledge Production” (2015-2019) examined conditions of the production of gender knowledge since the 1970s until present day in an interdisciplinary comparison of biology, computer science, and arts and cultural studies. The research network “Gender – Displacement – Reception Policies. Processes of Gendered In- and Exclusions in Lower Saxony” (2016 -2020)

analysed admission and integration policies in Germany from a gender-theoretical perspective. The teaching research project “Transnational Perspectives in Gender Studies” (2019-2022) links (trans)national perspectives on a teaching and learning platform.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Events: Different perspectives on gender research are regularly presented and discussed in public. Since 2017, they have been brought together in the tripartite event series “Wo Gender Brennt (Gender on/ under fire): The Current Significance of Gender Studies in Science, Culture, and Society,” consisting of lectures, roundtables, and half-day conferences as well as lunch talks. Topics ranged from threats to gender studies in the present as well as specifically in individual countries such as Turkey, to perspectives on cross-disciplinary postcolonial approaches to gender studies, to current developments under the pandemic.

Gender Research Day:

Specifically for the promotion of young researchers, it provides an annual opportunity for the exchange of project ideas and research results.

Publication series:

The ZFG publishes two series: *Studies on Interdisciplinary Gender Studies* (since 2002,

transcript Verlag Bielefeld) and *Oldenburg Contributions to Gender Studies* (since 2004, BIS Verlag Oldenburg).

CONTACT

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