

WO GENDER BRENNT

Aktuelle Relevanz der Geschlechterforschung in Wissenschaft, Kultur und Gesellschaft

Die Veranstaltung ist Teil der Serie „Wo Gender brennt“ des Zentrums für interdisziplinäre Frauen- und Geschlechterforschung (ZFG) an der Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg unter der Schirmherrschaft von Prof. Dr. Katharina Al-Shamery, Vizepräsidentin für Akademische Karrierewege, Chancengleichheit und Internationales

VORTRAG

Prof. Dr. MATHABO KHAU (Nelson Mandela University, Gqeberha, South Africa)

“Guilty by Birth! Womanhood, Motherhood and Femininity in South Africa“

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Motherhood and womanhood stand in a complex and contradictory relationship with one another. Under patriarchy, mothers appear to have a mythological, mysterious and powerful status. Only women are granted this status, and it is one to which all women are expected to aspire. The reality of mothers' lives, however, often fails to match these aspirations. It is central to women's lives whether they become mothers, and this constrains their available choices. Becoming a mother often means economic dependence on another person or the state, and frequently reduces women's income. It affects relationships with men and other women, and changes occupational, domestic and sexual arrangements. Being a mother influences social and personal identity and has implications for women's health.

Given the importance of family relationships in most women's lives it is not surprising that the notion of family has occupied a central place in feminist theory and research. Various aspects of family life have been identified as crucial to an understanding of women's subordination. Feminists have emphasised male violence and men's control over women's sexuality and reproduction; others have looked at the economics of domestic labour and have discussed the contribution it makes to capitalism or the extent to which men benefit from it; still others have concentrated on the familial relationships which shape the construction of masculinity and femininity; many more have examined the state regulation of family life.

This lecture aims to discuss these contentious issues and present the major debates on the interrelationship between capitalism and patriarchy within the context of family to enable an understanding of the construction of womanhood, motherhood and femininity in South Africa.

Prof. Dr. Mathabo Khau is an Associate Professor in Gender and Sexuality Studies in the Faculty of Education, Nelson Mandela University. Her research areas are Teacher Education, International and Higher Education, focusing on Gender and Sexuality Education, Social Justice in Education, Participatory Visual and Arts-based Methodologies, Ethics in research, and Research for Social Change.

Die Veranstaltung findet in englischer Sprache statt.
Diskussionsbeiträge können vom Deutschen ins Englische übersetzt werden.