

# DOING GENDER

## Graduate Gender Programme, Utrecht University

### Spring 2010 Lecture Series

In the Spring of 2010 the Graduate Gender Programme - GGeP - at Utrecht University organises a sixth round of the series of lectures entitled **DOING GENDER**. This title stresses the importance of doing gender work and active involvement in the practice of gender theory and research. It supports a hands-on approach to gender issues in the sense of social and political engagement with the new forms of gender inequalities that are taking shape in the world today. The lecture series wants to give space to the new generations of gender theorists and practitioners and to perspectives that innovate the field and do gender in new ways. Key is the notion of doing gender: what is the state of the art definition of gender? How do contemporary scholars utilise this definition?

The **Doing Gender Lecture Series** is free of charge.

Registration is not compulsory, but highly appreciated: [nov@uu.nl](mailto:nov@uu.nl) or 030 - 253 6001.

For more information: [www.genderstudies.nl](http://www.genderstudies.nl)

#### Monday February 22, 2010



*Prof. Pilwha Chang and Prof. Hyekyung Lee conducted a seminar on Gender Studies in Korea. They are specialists in women's studies in South Korea, a field that is rapidly developing. They have organized the 7<sup>th</sup> Women's Worlds Congress in Seoul in 2005. Both scholars are members of the board of WOWS, the World Organization of Women's Studies.*

#### Dr. Vicki Kirby (University of New South Wales, Australia)

**Thursday April 8, 2010: 1 PM - 3 PM** (Afterwards from 3.30 PM - 6 PM Dr. Kirby will conduct a masterclass: separate registration required)

- Lecture: *The impasse of cultural constructionism: or, what if culture was really nature all along?*
- Place: Utrecht - Drift 21, room 0.05
- This lecture is jointly organised with the Netherlands Graduate School for Literary Studies (OSL)



Dr. Vicki Kirby will talk about the notion of 'cultural construction', which carries such important interventionary significance that it has transformed the terms of political analysis by dispatching explanatory appeals to an unmediated Nature. Such identifying categories as sex, sexuality, gender, ethnic and racial identity become provisional attributes or properties, fictional or performative truths whose lived experience is no less real for that. Deconstruction's aphorism, 'no outside of text,' has been interpreted as further theoretical grist for the erasure of Nature and the complete rejection of foundational arguments. And yet despite this, Judith Butler has recently conceded that her approach to Nature/biology, an approach that draws on the deconstructive legacy, is an inadequate response to the question of biology. This lecture will explore this impasse (the two cultures

problem) by suggesting a more rigorous reading of the deconstructive legacy that equates 'text' and 'language' with Nature.

Vicki Kirby is an Associate Professor in the School of Social Sciences and International Studies at The University of New South Wales, Sydney. She is the author of *Telling Flesh: The Substance of the Corporeal* (Routledge, 1997) and *Judith Butler: Live Theory* (Continuum, 2006). Her most recent book, *Quantum Anthropologies: Life at Large* (Duke forthcoming), considers the relevance of Derrida's work for posthumanism by reading 'textuality' as Nature. She was Guest Editor of a special issue of *Australian Feminist Studies* in 2008 on the 'two cultures' problem, and she has recently completed an Australian Research Council Discovery Project on the implications of the linguistic turn for the life sciences.

**Prof. Henrietta Moore (London School of Economics, United Kingdom) and Prof. Gloria Wekker (Utrecht University)**

**Tuesday April 20, 2010: 10 AM – 1 PM**

- Seminar: 'Re-reading 'the masculinity Complex in Women', a Dutch case Study'
- Place: Utrecht – Drift 21, room 0.05
- This lecture is jointly organised with the Centre for the Humanities
- Registration for this lecture through the CFH Office: cfh@uu.nl



This seminar is a joint session taking as a starting point a 1917 Dutch psychoanalytical case study about five white women who indicate that they are suffering from 'Hottentot Nymphae', while their psychoanalyst disregards that and diagnoses them as having a masculinity complex. Henrietta Moore will read the case study from a psychoanalytical angle while Gloria Wekker reads it from an intersectional, cultural archival- perspective. The seminar explores what this case study teaches us about the production of white and black female subjectivity at the beginning of the twentieth century.

Professor Henrietta L. Moore is the William Wyse Chair of Social Anthropology at the University of Cambridge and Director of the Culture and Globalisation Programme at London School of Economics Global Governance. Professor Moore has a continuing long term research engagement with Africa. Her research programme has focused on gender, livelihood strategies, social transformation and symbolic systems. Her publications include: *The Subject of Anthropology: Gender, Symbolism and Psychoanalysis* (2007); *The Mutual State and How to Build it* (2001) and *Space, Text and Gender: An Anthropological Study of Marakwet of Kenya* (1986, 1996)



Professor Gloria Wekker is a social and cultural anthropologist specializing in Gender Studies, Sexuality Studies, African American Studies and Caribbean Studies. Wekker has held the Aletta-chair on Gender and Ethnicity at Utrecht University from 2001 on. She is the coordinator of the one-year MA programme 'Comparative Women's Studies in Culture and Politics' as well as the director of GEM, the expertise centre on Gender, Ethnicity and Multiculturality in Higher Education at the same university. Her recent publications are: *The Politics of Passion. Women's Sexual Culture in the Afro-Surinamese Diaspora* (2006) and *You Are of Colour, Yet You Are Dutch. Identity Formations of Adoptees of Colour* (2007).

**Prof. Moira Gatens (University of Sydney, Australia – currently holds the Spinoza Chair at the University of Amsterdam)**

**Thursday May 27, 2010: 4 PM – 6 PM**

- Lecture: *Truth in Fiction*
- Place: Utrecht – Academieggebouw, Maskaradezaal (Domplein 29)
- This lecture is jointly organised with the Centre for the Humanities and the Dutch Network for Gender Studies in Philosophy.
- Registration for this lecture through the CFH Office: cfh@uu.nl



Within the Humanities, analytic philosophy has claimed a virtual monopoly on defining, defending, and producing truth. Of course, moral philosophers often advert to literature for a detailed example of a moral quandary or to consider a persuasive representation of a complex psychological disposition. However, the production of philosophical knowledge is characteristically presented as involving reason and argument whereas literary meaning is produced through imagination and persuasion. This paper will challenge the disconnection between reason and imagination, argument and persuasion, and truth and fiction, through a critical engagement with the work of George Eliot.

Professor Gatens became a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia in 1999. She has held several ARC grants; most recently she was awarded an Australian Professorial Fellowship (2006-2010). Professor Gatens' work centers on social and political philosophy, ethics, 17<sup>th</sup> century philosophy (especially Spinoza) and feminist theory. Her publications include *Collective Imaginings*:

*Spinoza, Past and Present* (1999, with Genevieve Lloyd), *Imaginary Bodies: Ethics, Power and Corporeality* (1996) and *Feminist Interpretations of Benedict Spinoza* (2009).

## Marja Vuijsje

Thursday June 3, 2010: 4 PM - 6 PM

- Lecture: *Woman's Discontent; Joke Smit's Feminism (1933-1981)*
- Place: Utrecht – Drift 21, room 0.05



In this lecture, Joke Smit's biographer Marja Vuijsje, will introduce us to the significance of Joke Smit, one of the first Dutch feminists of the Second Feminist Wave, who burst upon the scene with her famous essay 'Het Onbehagen bij de Vrouw' (1967). What kind of woman was she, what was her background? Which issues were important to her and how did she envision attaining these goals? Who picked up these issues after her untimely death? How can she be imagined with regard to the three feminist waves, that are often posited?

Marja Vuijsje is a freelance journalist who has recently written a biography about Joke Smit, one of Holland's most prominent feminists in history. The biography, *Joke Smit. Biografie van een feministe* was nominated for the Grote

Geschiedenis Prijs 2009, a prize for the best historical work.

In the past Marja Vuijsje wrote for the feminist magazine *Opzij* and worked as editor in chief for the radio programme *Met het oog op morgen*. Marja Vuijsje has published many books and articles.

### Illustre Doing Gender speakers of the past years were:

Saskia Sassen (Columbia University), Judith Butler (University of California, Berkeley), Antjie Krog (University of Western Cape), Susan Lindquist (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Claire Hemmings (The Gender Institute, London School of Economics), Jasbir Puar (Rutgers), Joanna Regulska (Rutgers), Maria Serena Sapegno (University of Rome La Sapienza), Ursula Biemann (video artist on gender and globalisation, Zurich), Marguerite Waller (University of California), Rebecca Gomperts (Women on Waves), Rosi Braidotti (Utrecht University), Linda Alcoff (Syracuse University), Rebecca Walker, Yana Rodgers (Rutgers), Catherine Hakim (London School of Economics), Gloria Wekker (Utrecht University), Elizabeth Grosz (Rutgers), Henrietta Moore (London School of Economics), Saba Mahmood (University of California, Berkeley), Azar Nafisi (Johns Hopkins University), Asma Barlas (Ithaca College), Anne Brewster (University of New South Wales) and Sneja Gunew (University of British Columbia) and Prof. Hyekyung Lee (Yonsei University, South Korea) and Prof. Pil Wha Chang (Ewha Women's University, Seoul, South Korea).

This Doing Gender Lecture Series is jointly organised with:

Centre for the Humanities, UU - [www.hum.uu.nl/cfh](http://www.hum.uu.nl/cfh)

Netherlands Graduate School for Literary Studies, UU - [www.let.uu.nl/osl](http://www.let.uu.nl/osl)

The Dutch Network for Gender Studies in Philosophy



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