

SWIP Austria

Call for papers: Gender, Queer, Feminism: Upheavals and Challenges – A Philosophical Approach

When: 29./30. November 2019.

Where: JKU Linz

Deadline for abstracts: October 31, 2019

Languages: English and German

Gender/Queer/Feminism – these issues are subject to vibrant discussions in current scholarly debates and beyond. The category ‘Gender’ has recently come under attack from offensive polemics. Within the academic world, feminist and gender studies have precarious positions. At many European universities this research is immensely marginalized.

What renders the category of gender so controversial in recent debates? Do societies still need gender and queer studies, do they still require feminist research? Or do we live in a post-feminist world and what would this actually mean? Given the worldwide political situation of women, LGBTIQs and other oppressed and minority groups, it seems to be clear that we still live in a world in which the feminist core topics are yet relevant, unsolved and open. Thus, feminist commitment requires a theoretical foundation, including profound philosophical research. It is undeniable, that feminism is thriving anew. We conceive that as long as the targets of feminist engagement are not realized, feminism is indispensable: poverty of women, the gender pay gap, violence, sexual exploitation, political marginalization, poverty amongst women reinforced by neo-liberal economics and discrimination against LGBTIQ-people. Feminist theory as the basis of committed feminist practice is as important as it has always been.

Feminism, Gender and Queer Studies are emancipatory endeavors that invite to think beyond the boxes most of us have grown up in. Queer theory seeks social justice, economic justice, sexual and gender justice, justice in its various forms. The purpose of feminism and gender-queer theory is to foster the critique of hegemonic forms of knowledge and governance, including the questioning of social grievances and gender injustice. Moreover, it sensitizes for the intersectionality of manifold forms of injustice. It is of crucial importance to point out that antifeminist, racist and antisemitic arguments are closely intertwined.

From the Anti-Gender-perspective, gender and feminist research is discredited as “gender-mania”, “gender nonsense”, “dogmatic”, “delusional”, “unscientific” and “quasi-religious ideology”. Scholars are accused of being “unscientific”, “pseudoscientific” and addicted to “profiling”. However, it is not unfolded by which understanding of science this critique is underpinned.

We invite papers to discuss the relevance of feminist theory and gender studies in the field of philosophy: Should philosophy be concerned with gender and feminist theory – and if so, why? Are these topics sufficiently addressed in the field of philosophy? From an epistemic standpoint, philosophy is indispensable here, since, for example, its linguistic-critical method aims at elaborating the semantic content of concepts and to pointing out distorting conceptions. In the context of inter- and transdisciplinary research it is also important to reflect the methodological prerequisites of specific theories. This is one of the genuine tasks of philosophy in feminist and gender-queer discourses. Do gender studies on the one hand and feminism on the other have different methods, thematic areas and targets?

What about gender, queer and feminist research in the fields of art: literature, music, performing arts, visual arts, etcetera? What about feminism, gender and queer in the field of science and technology?

There will also be a *free section* within the scope of this symposium, as the SWIP Austria symposia also serve very crucially to ensure that women in philosophy present their current research in all fields to an interested audience for discussion.

We greatly look forward to receiving a lot of exciting and dedicated abstracts.