

Conference of the Swiss Association for Gender Studies (SGGF/SSEG)

«Violent Times, Rising Protests. Structures, Experiences, and Feelings»

12/13 September 2019, University of Bern

TRACK 5

13 September 2019

14:15 – 15:45

Panel 1

Room 006, Chair: Michèle Amacker / Tanja Rietmann

Public-Private Partnerships: Strukturelle Gewalt und Geschlecht

Michèle Amacker, IZFG, Universität Bern, Switzerland

Tina Büchler, IZFG, Universität Bern, Switzerland

Julia Egenter, IZFG, Universität Bern, Switzerland

Sebastian Funke, IZFG, Universität Bern, Switzerland

Isabelle Schläpfer, Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute, University of Manchester, UK

Ausgangspunkt für das Panel bildet die Frage nach vergeschlechtlichten Formen wohlfahrtsstaatlicher Leistungen gegenüber Menschen in vulnerablen Lebenslagen, oder genauer: der Auslagerung solcher Leistungen an private Dienstleistende. Hierbei handelt es sich um Profit- und Non-Profit-Organisationen, die der Staat zur Erfüllung eines gesetzlichen Auftrags hinzuzieht oder die selbständig und proaktiv staatliche Versorgungslücken zu schliessen suchen. Insbesondere seit den 1990er-Jahren und im Zuge einer akzentuierten neoliberalen Färbung staatlichen Handelns finden sich in unterschiedlichen Sozialbereichen vermehrt solche private Handlungsträger_innen. Ihnen werden hochgradig sensible Aufgabenfelder übertragen. Konkret beziehen sich die drei Beiträge des Panels auf Untersuchungen zum schweizerischen Asylwesen, die Fremdplatzierungspraxis von Kindern sowie den internationalen humanitären Sektor. Die Beiträge adressieren folgende Fragen: Welche vergeschlechtlichten ökonomischen, rechtlichen oder kulturellen Faktoren produzieren die vulnerablen Lebenslagen in den untersuchten Themenfeldern? An welchen Normen sind die spezifischen Interventions- und Steuerungsmassnahmen ausgerichtet, die der Staat bedient – oder

eben nicht? Aufgeworfen wird dabei auch die Frage, was die Auslagerung öffentlicher Aufgaben an Private in Bezug auf die Übernahme von Verantwortung und Qualitätssicherung bedeutet.

Drei Beiträge:

Michèle Amacker, Tina Büchler, Julia Egenter: **«Unterbringung, Unterstützung und Sicherheit von Frauen aus dem Asylbereich in der Schweiz»**

Michèle Amacker, Sebastian Funke: **«Zum Wohle der Kinder? Die Rolle von privaten Organisationen und staatlichen Behörden bei der Unterbringung von Kindern in Pflegefamilien in den Kantonen Bern und Graubünden (1945 bis heute)»**

Isabelle Schläpfer: **««Laying bare the prejudices»: Multinationale Unternehmen in humanitärer Hilfe und die Konstruktion von sexy Innovationen»**

Panel 2

Room 007, Chair: Annelise Erismann

Sexual Violence in the Age of #MeToo

«Theorizing Sexual Violence against Dalit Women from the Context of Caste»

Rupali Bansode, PhD Scholar, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, India

This paper identifies and builds on the two ways sexual violence against women has been addressed in scholarly literature: firstly, the individualized understanding of sexual violence as a form of violence against women, and secondly, sexual violence as a weapon of domination on women from specific marginalized groups, like the Dalits in India. The literature emerging from the perspectives of African Americanists has emphasized on understanding the context of both race and gender while talking about rape of Black women and challenged the individualized idea of rape that dominated feminist literature on sexual violence for nearly four decades. This paper extends the emphasis made by African American scholars to understand and theorize caste-based sexual violence against Dalit women in India. Building on the critique made by Dalit women's organization on the silence maintained by the feminist movement of India and the moralistic discourse generated by Dalit movement over the question of sexual violence against Dalit women, this paper emphasizes the necessity of theorizing sexual violence faced by Dalit women from the context of the intersections of caste and gender. It investigates three caste atrocity cases- Sirasgaon case of 1961, Khairlanji massacre of 2006 and Boregaon caste atrocity of 2015 and employs the framework of intersectionality to understand how the nexus of caste, land and gender functions in making Dalit women more vulnerable to sexual violence.

«#Metoo at University? Discourses and Practices of Sexual Harassment in Higher Education Contexts»

Tanja Wälty, Margherita-von-Brentano-Zentrum, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

Hannah-Sophie Schüz, Margherita-von-Brentano-Zentrum, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

In the context of #Metoo and even more in #Niunamenos, academics are discussing causes and consequences of sexual harassment in different areas like media, film production and the political sphere. What I would like to present in the context of the conference are questions and remarks about Sexual Harassment in the Higher Education Institutions themselves. As they are considered enlightened organizations that reflect on power relations, hierarchies and (gender) inequalities, Universities and its members stay unsuspecting of unequal and violent relationships. Nevertheless, it was investigated that there are many cases of sexual harassment in universities, but that they are often neglected. What we would like to understand in our investigation is how the Institutions of Higher Education are structured and configured as Social Spaces where relationships are negotiated into a sphere that is considered free of discrimination due to the reflecting character of the institution. In this context, we will focus on a wider understanding of the term Space and understand on the one hand, what is considered the University Space and on the other hand how this spaces are constituted by social relationships and hierarchies. This study can only be complete by focusing not only gender relationships but also by understanding further social positions as race, class, etc. These understandings give us an essential tool for analyzing how the University is constructed as a social space where social interactions of inequality and violence are reproduced and at the same time neglected.

«Different forms of harassment at the workplace – effects of social class and gender in Europe»

Stephanie Steinmetz, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Workplace violence is a global phenomenon encompassing multiple forms of interpersonal aggression, impacting people across the lifespan and occurring across nations regardless of level of economic and social development. Although men are subjected to violence within the contexts of their workplace, studies (focusing predominantly on the US) frequently have shown that working women are at higher risk for, in particular, sexual harassment. Feminist theories of sexual harassment link harassment to issues of inequality, power and privilege. Despite this emphasis on gendered inequalities as underlying mechanism, the role of women's socio-economic status («social class») is hardly ever explicitly addressed, theorized and used as an analytical category. Against this background, the aim of this study is twofold: first we want to examine whether social class is, besides other individual- and workplace-related characteristics, an important determinant for different forms of workplace harassment of women in Europe; second we want to understand in how far different workplace characteristics support or hinder the occurrence of class-specific workplace harassment of women. To address these questions and using data of the European Survey on Working Conditions 2010 advanced multi-level analyses are applied to model the association between social class, further individual factors (such as age, migration status, etc.) as well as workplace characteristics (such as place of work, type of occupation etc.) on different types of gender-based workplace harassment.

Panel 3

Room 106, Chair: Carolin Schurr

Displacement, Forced Migration and Border Politics

«The resourceful gender: power renegotiations within Syrian refugees' households»

Alia Fakhry, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), Malta

As violent outbreaks trigger mass displacements in the region, communities and families are torn apart, decomposed and recomposed across borders. The families of missing persons pose a growing challenge to national governments and international organisations. In Lebanon, the ICRC has launched a project aiming at addressing the needs of the Syrian families of missing, in which female-headed households appear to be the most vulnerable. While research has extensively demonstrated the impact of gender on the representation of vulnerable women such as refugee, displaced and in war situations, the role of gender, as a social construct and discursive practice, in the renegotiation of social hierarchies in contexts of displacement remains understudied. Fieldwork conducted in 2015/2016 on resilience in Syrian female-headed households in Amman, Jordan, demonstrated the resourcefulness of gender both in the study, and in the experience of transnational displacement. In this context, this paper suggests that a thorough, complex and theoretically informed study of gender and its implications in transnational displacement could support and inform a better identification of the needs of families of missing.

«Dimensions of gendered violence in forced migration research»

Cita Wetterich, Universität Basel / Arnold-Bergstraesser-Institut, Switzerland / Germany

There exists a large quantity of research on displacement, violence and gender. Still, an overarching systematic approach is missing. To fill this gap, this paper explores the research question: «To what extent does contemporary research on migration, flight and conflict consider gender-connected violence?», as well as the sub-question: «How does the literature deal with gender and violence in relation to migration or flight? Which forms, processes and mechanisms, directions and scopes of violence are considered when researching displacement and gender and what role plays intersectionality?» I conducted a systematic literature analysis of 1,387 articles to carve out methodically the existing research that links those topics. Subsequently, I develop a matrix of dimensions of violence linked to displacement. These dimensions offer the possibility to systematically engage with existing literature on a comparative basis.

Panel 4

Room 107, Chair: Nathalie Amstutz

Memory, Silences, Resistances

«Kollektives Gedächtnis und symbolische Gewalt – am Beispiel des An/Erkennens von historischem Unrecht»

Andrea Maihofer, Universität Basel, Switzerland

In diesem Beitrag geht es grundsätzlich um die Frage des gesellschaftlichen An/Verkennens von historischem Unrecht. Ab wann und nach welchen Kriterien wird etwas als historisches Unrecht anerkannt bzw. diese Anerkennung verweigert? Welche kollektiven Prozesse sind nötig? Dabei wird sich zeigen, dass bislang das kollektive Gedächtnis in westlichen Gesellschaften konstitutiv symbolische Gewalt impliziert. Abschliessend geht der Vortrag vor diesem Hintergrund der Frage nach, wie das weiterhin offizielle Schweigen darüber, dass der Ausschluss der Frauen aus dem Stimm- bzw. -wahlrecht Unrecht war, und die Me-Too-Debatte zusammenhängen.

«Nicht der Rede wert. Das Frauenstimmrecht und die Schweizer Demokratietheorie»

Katrin Meyer, Universitäten Basel und Zürich, Switzerland

1971 wurde das Frauenwahl- und -stimmrecht in der Schweiz auf nationaler Ebene eingeführt. In der nicht-feministischen Schweizer Demokratietheorie wird dieses Ereignis jedoch kaum vertieft analysiert. Der Vortrag beleuchtet die Facetten dieses Schweigens in seinen demokratietheoretischen Implikationen und zeigt auf, wie es zur Entpolitisierung und Reproduktion geschlechtsspezifischer Gewalt beiträgt.

«Kontexte der Kritik. Frauenrechte und Politik in der arabischen Welt»

Bettina Dennerlein, Universität Zürich, Switzerland

Der Vortrag diskutiert am Beispiel von Positionen aus Marokko und Ägypten Möglichkeiten und Grenzen kritischer Interventionen in autoritären Staaten und fragt gleichzeitig nach deren Sichtbarkeit bzw. Unsichtbarkeit in transnationalen feministischen Öffentlichkeiten.

«The Power of Silent Resistance: Memory, Feminism and Revolution in Egypt»

Sarah Farag, Universität Zürich, Switzerland

Der Beitrag reflektiert Grenzen und Ambivalenzen von Widerstand und Schweigen im Kontext des post-revolutionären Ägyptens und hinterfragt die allgemeine Gleichsetzung von Schweigen mit Unterwerfung und Machtlosigkeit. Vor diesem Hintergrund diskutiert der Vortrag die brüchigen Linien zwischen Erinnerung, Revolution und Widerstand und fragt danach, wie sich unabhängige feministische Positionen innerhalb dieser Spannungsfelder konstituieren und positionieren können.