

Critical Theory in the Humanities

Resonances of the Work of Judith Butler

April 5-7, 2017 | Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam



Wednesday, April 5

- 13:00-14:00 Welcome
- 14:00-14:30 Opening
Vinod Subramaniam
Rector Magnificus, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Moderator: Katja Kwastek (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)
- 14:30-15:30 **Keynote lecture Amelia Jones**
Robert A. Day Professor of Art and Design, USC Los Angeles
“Intimate Relations: Queer Performativity and the Theatricalization of Filiation”
Moderator: Katja Kwastek (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)
- 16:00-17:00 **Keynote lecture Aagje Swinnen**
Professor of International Humanism and the Art of Living, University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht
“The Performativity of Age”
Moderator: Kristine Steenbergh (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)
- 17:00-18:30 Reception
- 18:30-20:00 **Evening lecture Achille Mbembe**
Research Professor of History and Politics, Wits University, Johannesburg
“Negative Messianism and the Ethics of Consequences”
Moderator: Wouter Goris (Universität Bonn)

Thursday, April 6

- 9:15-10:15 **Keynote lecture Adriana Cavarero**
Professor of Political Philosophy, Università degli Studi di Verona
“The Voice of Plurality”
Moderator: Annemie Halsema (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)
- 11:00-12:00 **Keynote lecture Iris van der Tuin**
Associate Professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Utrecht University
“On Being (Becoming) a Feminist Philosopher”
Moderator: Veronica Vasterling (Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen)
- 13:30-15:00 **Panel Sessions:** Exiles / Queer Performativity / Mourning / Rethinking the Human / Critical Theory / Livable Life
- 15:30-17:00 **Panel Sessions:** Art and Gender / Precarity / Performing the Self / Terrorism and Risk / Race and Diversity / Limits of the Nation State

- 17:00-18:30 Reception
- 18:30-20:00 **Evening lecture Judith Butler**
Maxine Elliot Professor of Comparative Literature, University of California, Berkeley
“Bodies that Still Matter”
Moderator: Roel van den Oever (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)
- 21:00-23:00 Conference Dinner

Friday, April 7

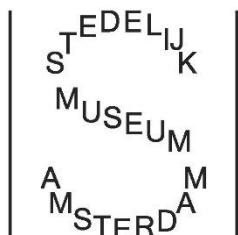
- 9:30-10:30 **Keynote lecture Charlotte Witt**
Professor of Philosophy and Humanities, University of New Hampshire
“Voluntarism about Gender”
Moderator: Marije Martijn (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)
- 11:00-12:30 **Panel Sessions:** Recognition / Processing In/Exclusion /
Bodies Acting in Concert / Performativity in Media and Counseling
- 14:00-15:30 **Panel Sessions:** Framing the Image / Vulnerability /
Reading Butler / Assemblism / Rhetorics
- 16:00-17:30 **Judith Butler and Monique David-Ménard in Conversation**
Monique David-Ménard is Professor of Philosophy and Practicing Psychoanalyst
- 19:00-21:30 Closing reception and performance programme by Berlin based artist
Johannes Paul Raether at Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam

The conference is organized and funded by the CLUE+ interfaculty research institute for Culture, Cognition, History, and Heritage, in collaboration with Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam. It is financially supported by KNAW, the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences.

Registration for the conference via www.butleramsterdam.com

Convening committee

Marieke Berkers
Yonah de Beer
Wouter Goris
Annemie Halsema
Katja Kwastek
Roel van den Oever
Amber Witsenburg



Panel sessions I: Thursday 13.30-15.00 hrs

1. Exiles

Chair: Amanda Gouws

Marianne Schleicher

Premises for Cultural Tolerance of Gender Deviation in Israelite-Jewish Religion – Reflections on a Different Strategy to Promote a More Even Distribution of Intelligibility and Vulnerability

Douglas Robinson

The Psychosocial Politics of (Hetero)Normative Panic: Queering Refugee Studies

Louis Klee

Toward Cohabitation: Judith Butler's *Parting Ways* and the Politics of Translation

2. Queer Performativity

Chair: Alfonso Sánchez-Moya

Leslie Haines

A Great Mind Must be Androgynous: Romantic Androgyny and Undoing Gender in the Contemporary Literature Classroom

Maile Speakman

Performance Cubano: Queer Theory and Global Information Economies in Havana

Laura Pereira Domínguez

Performativity in Medieval Literary Studies: A Review on Gestures

3. Mourning

Chair: Martijn Oosterbaan

Rosaura Martínez Ruiz

Biopolitics, Truth and the Economy of Mourning: Ayotzinapa (a Case Study)

Simon van der Weele

Losing Nothing, Losing a World: On Gender Transitioning and Mourning Without Loss

Kurt Borg

Narrating Trauma: Judith Butler on Relationality and the Politics of Self-Narration

4. Rethinking the Human

Chair: Susan Legêne

Jaelyn Meloche

Materials Matter: The Politics of Posthumanist Performativity in Contemporary Studio Practice

Bernhard Kohl

Godlikeness as Imageless Image of the Human

Anthony Leaker

Becoming Unbounded: Butler and DeLillo Undoing the Human

5. Critical Theory

Chair: Diennek Hondius

Erin Reitz

Anti-racism in the Academy: Teaching Aggressive Counterreading[s]

Ana Luszczynska

Otherly Encounters: Area Studies, Recognizable Subjects, and Butlerian Ethics

Johanna Wagner

The Humanities, American Anti-intellectualism, and Judith Butler: A Return to her Critics

6. Livable Life

Chair: Babs Boter

Mathijs van de Sande

Prefiguration and Performative Enactment: The Reluctant Anarchism of Judith Butler

Jess Bier

Decomposition as Radical Effacement: The Identification and Circulation of Bodies after the Titanic Disaster

Adriana Zaharijevic

Life That Matters: When is Life Livable?

Panel sessions II: Thursday 15.30-17.00 hrs

1. Art and Gender

Chair: Ulrike Brunotte

Roel van den Oever

A Rose by Any Other Name: On Don't Ask, Don't Tell, *Private Romeo*, and the Suppression of Names

Marie Stel

Behind the Masks of Claude Cahun. Surrealist Masquerade in the Context of Judith Butler's Gender Performativity

Tiina Rosenberg

Is Gender Still Burning? Popularized Legacies of Judith Butler's Troubled Genders in the Performing Arts

2. Precarity

Chair: Joost de Bloois

Christopher Lloyd

Jesmyn Ward's *Salvage the Bones*: Hurricane Katrina, Precarity, Animals

Friederike Sigler

An Injury to One is an Injury to All?! Precarious Labour in Contemporary Arts

Jeffrey Champlin

Plurality and Precarity: Judith Butler's Reading of Hannah Arendt

3. Performing the Self

Chair: Marijke Naezer

Atene Mendelyte

Performing the Chaosmos of the Self in Samuel Beckett's *That Time*

Jan-Therese Mendes

Cultural Unintelligibility and the Fluidity of the Hijab: Stepping Into and Away from an Invisible/Visible Islam

Maria Tittel

Prove That You Exist! – Subjects Struggling for Recognition in the Works of Christoph Schlingensiefel

4. Terrorism and Risk

Chair: Thomas Spijkerboer

Noa Roei

Precarious Encounters

Laura Henderson

Deciding to Repeat Differently: Iterability and Decision in Hamdi v. Rumsfeld

Fulden Ibrahimhakkioglu

Thinking the Anachronistic Sovereign With Judith Butler: The Question of Gender in the Global War on Terrorism

5. Race and Diversity

Chair: Peter-Ben Smit

Eike Marten

A Conversation That is Not One: Interferences Between Gender and Diversity in German Academic Debates

Eyo Ewara

Color Lines: A Genealogy of Race, Racism, and Racialization in Judith Butler's Work

Margaretha Van Es

Muslim Women's Self-Representations as a Performative Performance

6. Limits of the Nation State

Chair: Ginette Verstraete

Susan Legêne, Babs Boter

Tuning the Nation-State: Butler and Performative Constructions of Being and Belonging

Daniela Vicherat Mattar

In Alliance with Others: But, How Other?

Anya Topolski

Is Israel Europe's Prodigal Son? Jewishness Unveils the Limits of the Westphalian Race-State

Panel sessions III: Friday 11.00-12.30 hrs

1. Recognition

Chair: Sarah Bracke

Nicole Lowman

The Gift of the Account: Rethinking the Counterfeit

Kristina Lepold

An Ideology Critique of Recognition: Judith Butler in the Context of the Contemporary Social-Philosophical Debate on Recognition

Marieke Borren

Public Space, Performative Freedom, and Embodiment

2. Processing In/Exclusion

Chair: Sanne Groothuis

Thomas Spijkerboer

Gender, Sexuality, Asylum and European Human Rights

Maja Hertoghs (co-written by Willem Schinkel)

The State's Sexual Desires. The Performance of Sexuality in the Dutch Asylum Procedure

Birgit Schippers

What's the Matter with Human Rights? Reading Judith Butler with and Against New Materialism

3. Bodies Acting in Concert

Chair: Anya Topolski

Ulrich Schmiedel

Excitable Europe Performances of Political Theology Between Refugees and Religion

Mark Devenney

Impropriety, Infelicity and the Unruly Demos

Michiel Bot

Thinking and Acting With We Are Here

4. Performativity in Media and Counseling

Chair: Sebastian Scholz

Steffen Moestrup

The Journalist as Performance in a Crossmedia Landscape

Magnolia Pauker

Thought in the Act: The Deliberating Subject at The Scene of the Interview

Carmen Schuhmann

Rethinking Psychotherapy/Counseling as a Practice of Recognition and Nonviolence

Panel sessions IV: Friday 14.00-15.30 hrs

1. Framing the Image

Chair: Nathanja van den Heuvel

Matthew Johnson

Framing Affects in Everyday Visual Culture

Elizabeth Watkins

Lightness of Touch: the Insights of Judith Butler for Irigaray and Film

Marijke Naezer

Sixpacks and Cleavages: Performing Intersectional Identities Through the Negotiation of Sexiness

2. Vulnerability

Chair: Michiel Bot

Miriam Jerade

Reading Derrida against Levinas: The Political Dimension of the Ontology of Vulnerability

Tim Huzar

The Politics of Butler's Insurrectionary Humanism: Reading Butler with Rancière

Anthony Abiragi

Infinite Care: Performance and Vulnerability in Tehching Hsieh

3. Reading Butler

Chair: Diederik Oostdijk

Eva Bendix Petersen

Growing Old with Butler: Living the Turns of Feminist Theory

Tawny Andersen

The Phenomenology of Jet Lag and the Invisible Theatre of "Hello

Lorenzo Bernini

The Foreclosure of the Drive: Judith Butler and Antisocial Theory

4. Assemblism

Chair: Marieke Borren

Peter-Ben Smit

Rediscovering the Assembled Bodies of Early Christianity: Judith Butler meets Paul of Tarsus in Corinth

Jonas Staal

Assemblism

Olivia Guaraldo

Arendt, Butler and Public Happiness: Some Notes on the Notes on the Performative Theory of Assembly

5. Rhetorics

Chair: Artwell Cain

Tingting Hui

Accent Troubles: When Accented Speech is Coupled with Hate Speech

Julia Peetz

The Performative Edge of Non-Politicians: Anti-Establishment Rhetoric, Representative Claim-Making and Shifting Legitimacy

Ilios Willemars

'Suicide Contagion is Real': Performative Protection Against Contagion