



Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences/Umeå Centre for Gender Studies
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Page 1 (4)

On Materiality: Making Things, Making Sense

Om materialitet: Teorier om materia i samtida feministisk teori

Credit points: 7,5 CTS credits

Course code:

Responsible department: Umeå Centre for Gender Studies

Main field of study: Gender Studies

Level: PhD Studies

Specialisation in relation to degree requirements: Licentiate of Philosophy or Doctor of Philosophy

Subject area: Gender Studies

Grading scale: Fail/Pass

Confirmation

The course syllabus has been confirmed by the Director of Umeå Centre for Gender Studies on March 9, 2010 on delegation from the Board of Umeå Centre for Gender Studies (decision for delegation April 4, 2008) and is valid from the spring term 2010.

Contents

New theories of materiality challenge the distinction between materiality and discourse. Especially within feminist research there has been an emerging interest in materiality. Throughout this course we will be exploring the methodological, ethical, epistemological, ontological aspects of the return of the material, mainly through case studies. We will be discussing how these issues affect our understanding of human and non-human bodies, agency and narrativity.

Expected learning outcomes

After the course the doctoral student should:

- have an understanding of the material turn within feminist research.
 - be able to independently reflect on the ontological, epistemological, methodological and ethical implications of the material turn.
 - be able to critically reflect on how issues of materiality relate to particular concrete examples
- Required knowledge

Form of instruction

Focus of instruction will be lectures, seminars and group activities.



Course syllabus

Page 2 (4)

Examination modes

The course's examination consists of a final paper on an assigned topic, and student evaluation will be based in part on active seminar participation.

Academic credit transfer

Academic credit transfers are reviewed individually. For more information, please see the University's set of rules and academic credit transfer regulations.

Course literature

Linda Alcoff (1995) "Mestizo Identity" in Naomi Zack (ed) *American Mixed Race: The Culture of Microdiversity*. Rowman and Littlefield, pp.257-278 and notes, pp. 346-349.

Karen Barad (2007) "Meeting the Universe Halfway" extract from ch.1 in *Meeting the Universe Halfway. Quantum Physics and the Entanglement of Matter and Meaning*. Duke University Press: Durham, London, pp.39-66+408-414.

Karen Barad (2008) "Posthumanist Performativity: Towards an Understanding of How Matter Comes to Matter" in Stacey Alaimo and Susan Hekman (eds) (2008) *Material Feminisms*. Indiana University Press: Bloomington, Indianapolis, pp.120-154.

Lisa Bergin (2009) "Latina Feminist Metaphysics and Genetically Engineered Foods". *Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics* 22: 257–271

Abigail Bray and Claire Colebrook (1998) "The Haunted Flesh: Corporeal Feminism and the Politics of (Dis)Embodiment". *Signs* 24(1): 35-67

Judith Butler (1993) "Introduction" extract from *Bodies that Matter. On the Discursive Limits of "Sex"*. Routledge: New York, pp.1-16.

Judith Butler (1993), extract from *Bodies that matter*. Routledge: London, New York, pp.57-91.

Michel Callon and John Law (1995) "Agency and the Hybrid *Collectif*". *The South Atlantic Quarterly* 94(2): 481-507.

Suzanne Fraser (2006) "The Chronotope of the Queue: Methadone Maintenance Treatment and the Production of Time, Space and Subjects". *International Journal of Drug Policy* 17(3): 192-202



Course syllabus

Page 3 (4)

Rosemary Garland-Thompson (1997) extract from *Extraordinary Bodies: Figuring Physical Disability in American Culture and Literature*. Columbia University Press, pp.19-41, and notes, pp.142-151.

Elizabeth Grosz (1994) extract from *Volatile bodies*. Indiana University Press: Bloomington, Indianapolis, pp.27-61.

Jacob Hale (2009) "Tracing a Ghostly Memory in My Throat: Reflections on Ftm Feminist Voice and Agency" in Laurie J. Shrage (ed) *You've Changed: Sex Reassignment and Personal Identity*. Oxford University Press, pp. 43-65.

Donna Haraway (1991) "A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist-Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century" in *Simians, Cyborgs and Women: The Reinvention of Nature*. Routledge: London, New York, pp.149-181. <http://www.stanford.edu/dept/HPS/Haraway/CyborgManifesto.html>

Donna Haraway (1994) "A Game of Cat's Cradle: Science Studies, Feminist Theory, Cultural Studies". *Configurations* 2(1): 59-71.

Rebecca Herzig (2004) "On performance, productivity, and vocabularies of motive in recent studies of science". *Feminist Theory* 5(2): 127-147.

Myra J. Hird (2009) "Feminist Engagements with Matter". *Feminist Studies* 35(2): 329-346

Ericka Johnson (2008) "Simulating Medical Patients and Practices: Bodies and the Construction of Valid Medical Simulators". *Body & Society* 14(3): 105-128.

Barbara Katz Rothman (2005) extract from *Weaving a Family: Untangling Race and Adoption*. Beacon Press, pp.147-188, and notes, pp.151-157

Bruno Latour (1999) "On recalling ANT" in John Law and John Hassard (eds) *Actor Network Theory and After*. Blackwell: Oxford, pp.15-25.



Course syllabus

Page 4 (4)

John Law and Annemarie Mol (2008) "The Actor-Enacted: Cumbrian Sheep in 2001" in Carl Knappett and Lambros Malafouris (eds) *Material Agency: Towards a Non-Anthropocentric Approach*. Springer: New York, pp.57-77 (<http://www.springerlink.com/content/978-0-387-74710-1>)

Gayle Salamon (2006) "Boys of the Lex: Transgenderism and Rethorics of Materiality". *GLQ* 12(4): 575-597.

Elizabeth A. Wilson (2004) "Gut feminism". *differences* 15(3): 66-94.

Supplementary literature will be added

Provisional regulations

Other regulations