



Doing Gender in The Netherlands: Borders and Bridges: Cultural Translation and Travelling Theories

***National Research Day for Faculty and PhD students in the fields of
Gender, Race/Ethnicity, Sexuality and Diversity***

Friday June 2, 2017 – Utrecht University

The Netherlands Research School of Gender Studies (NOG) hosts the annual National Research Day. This year it will be located at the Graduate Gender Programme at Utrecht University. The NOG Research Day is a dedicated platform for sharing the work of junior and senior researchers of Dutch universities in the fields of Gender, Race/Ethnicity, Sexuality and Diversity Studies.

Call for Papers:

Borders matter, and not only in theory, as it is proved by the catastrophic consequences of the current migrant and refugee crisis, as well as by the resurgent temptation for closure and protectionism that spreads across the world with Europe's rightwing populisms, US Trumpism and nationalist, confessional and ethnic conflicts in many other areas of the globe.

Yet, *borderlands*, as Gloria Anzaldúa recalls, do not merely represent sites of exclusions; they testify also to the relative porosity and transformability of the borders themselves. Feminist conceptualisations of the body, queer approaches to gender and postcolonial reflections on translation can all be interpreted as different theoretical and political experiments for engaging with borders, boundaries and the issue of liminality. Thus, *bodies* – sexualised, racialised, aged, dis/abled – incarnate borders that may also stand for *bridges*, enabling connections to be traced; and the very category of *gender* epitomizes one of most eloquent paradigms for thinking of a border that can be *transgressed* in many ways.

In postcolonial studies, the experience of borders is very much connected to the practice of *translation* and to the ordinary paradox of *untranslatability*. Both translation and untranslatability occupy a very meaningful place within the postcolonial field revolving around key questions of difference, identity, hybridity and conflict. Both concepts also immediately relate to the constitutive kernel of the “postcolonial condition” that derives – and cannot completely abstract from – the colonial entanglements in which it originates.

The 2017 edition of this NOG Research Day approaches the theme of ‘border and bridges’ through the lenses of *cultural translation*. Cultural translation represents a complex and multilayered phenomenon that reminds us of both the existence of borders and barriers and the urge of traversing and transgressing them. In other words, cultural translation recalls the (un)predictable

effects resulting from the increasing *mobility* to which bodies and languages, thoughts and beliefs, tastes and values are constantly exposed in our global world.

The research day will provide the space and the opportunity to bring to the fore and collectively discuss the multiple and multifaceted aspects of cultural translation across different disciplinary arenas.

Questions

- How are borders imagined and materialized in the contemporary European political arena? And how can cultural translation help us envision Spivak's concrete utopia of a "borderless world"?
- How does feminism speak beyond the boundaries of Eurocentrism? And how do feminist scholarship and activism connect differences across gender, race/ethnicity, class, sexuality?
- Are sexuality and sexual practices *translatable*?
- What is the impact of new technologies and digital media on facilitating cultural translation?
- Do religious differences constitute 'borders' and how may these be bridged?
- How can translation help decolonise the canon? Or, in Lorde's words, can the *master's tools* help dismantling the *master's house*?

We welcome scholars from all disciplines who are researching cultural translation, cultural conflicts, cultural anthropology, secular and post-secular debates, postcolonial and comparative literatures, decolonial epistemologies and migration from queer and/or feminist perspectives. We will be happy to showcase works situated within a variety of fields and conducted by adopting ethnographic, historical, philosophical, semiotic, linguistic, literary, artistic and digital approaches.

The *Doing Gender in the Netherlands Research Day* is open for presentations by Faculty, Postdoctorate fellows, PhD candidates and Research MA students registered at Dutch universities. All are cordially invited to participate in this event and send proposals for paper presentations.

There are several options to participate:

- As a presenter of a 15 min. paper
- As a session moderator
- As a participant without paper presentation

Through the presentation of work-in-progress from the current generation of gender scholars, the NOG research days seek to both monitor and critique national developments and contemporary discussions within the field. It is not required to be a member of NOG in order to participate, but we do encourage new members to join by emailing the NOG office. Membership includes a monthly newsletter and access to NOG events (including earning graduate training credit).

Deadline for abstracts:

Abstracts for papers (300 words maximum) can be sent to NOG@uu.nl until **Thursday April 13, 2017**. Please mention the following details: your name, university and if applicable supervisor(s). By **Wednesday April 26, 2017**, we'll let you know whether your abstract has been accepted.

Accepted papers are due **Wednesday May 24, 2017** and should be submitted to NOG@uu.nl. The final paper should be no more than 2,500-3,500 words (excluding footnotes and references), and will be sent to the moderator and co-presenters of the session in advance.

Format of the day:

The day will start with a welcome speech by Rosemarie Buikema, Director of the Netherlands Research School of Gender Studies (NOG) and also Director of the Graduate Gender Programme (GGeP) at Utrecht University.

A keynote panel with inter/national speakers will then open the thematic program of the day. Afterwards, the second part of the morning as well as the afternoon will be dedicated to parallel sessions with paper presentations.

The thematic parallel sessions will run in 90-minute slots. Presenters should prepare a 15 minute presentation based on their full paper, and 5 minutes of feedback for fellow presenters, for instance linking to their research approach(es), method(s) and concept(s). Full papers will be distributed in advance among the panel participants and the moderator. Each session will be moderated by a NOG

staff member, who will respond to the panel presentations and facilitate discussion.

Next to the thematic sessions we also organise workshop-session(s) for MA and PhD students about pursuing a PhD education in the context of the Netherlands Research School of Gender Studies (to be confirmed).

The Research day will be concluded by a final plenary session in which we recapitulate what was most inspiring and thought-provoking in this year's NOG Research day. We then invite you all to continue the discussion over drinks with the NOG community.

Language:

The language of the day is English.

Registration:

Please reply to this email if you wish to attend the National Research Day *Doing Gender in the Netherlands* as a paper presenter, participant or moderator **before April 13, 2017**.

To organize this National Research Day we ask for a contribution of €15 from every attendee (presenter or participant) for tea, coffee, lunch and drinks, to be paid in cash at the registration desk on the day.

Publications:

Members of the board of the Dutch Journal of Genderstudies (*Tijdschrift voor Genderstudies*) will be present to select some of the best papers to be further developed for publication.

More information:

The Netherlands Research School of Gender Studies (NOG) hosted at Utrecht University (The Netherlands) provides a platform for gender sensitive and postcolonial research. Since 1995, the NOG has offered a highly successful training programme and research environment for postgraduate students, PhD students and senior researchers. The NOG teaching and research staff consists of an international team of professors and senior lecturers from various universities. The NOG is a top European programme and plays a central role in European cooperation on research and training in the area of Gender and Postcolonial studies. It has an excellent, long-standing international reputation for its pioneering work in the field of literary, cultural, philosophical, anthropological and epistemological feminist studies. It offers one of Europe's most advanced interdisciplinary teaching and research programmes in the humanities and social sciences, with a core curriculum on feminist theory, issues of difference and diversity, gender and postcolonialism. In addition, the NOG is involved in European and international projects such as the InterGender network (coordinated by Linköping University, with other Swedish partner universities and international universities such as Humboldt University and Helsinki University) RINGS, Marie Curie GRACE and ATGENDER, to establish a European joint PhD curriculum in Gender Studies.

See more at: <http://www.graduategenderstudies.nl/>

The NOG Board consists of Prof. Rosemarie Buikema (Utrecht University, Graduate Gender Programme and scientific chair of the NOG), Prof. Lies Wesseling (Maastricht University, Centre for Gender and Diversity), Prof. Marieke van den Brink (Radboud University Nijmegen, Gender and Diversity Studies), Dr. Liza Mügge (University of Amsterdam, Research Center for Gender and Sexuality) and Dr. Liesbeth Minnaard (Leiden University).

We look forward to an inspiring day, and hope to see you all on the 2nd of June!

On behalf of the board,
Utrecht conference organizers,

R. Buikema, L. Ftouni, J. Mascot, E. Midden, T. Oorschot, K. Smiet, K. Thiele