

Call for Papers for Academic Year 2018/19

Lecture Series “Art – Research – Gender”

Lecture Series of the Department of Gender Affairs, University of Applied Arts Vienna

Let’s fabulate! Artistic Creations for a Better Coexistence

The concept of utopia, utopian societal designs, is at the core of the transdisciplinary lecture series “Art – Research – Gender” for the academic year 2019/20. This, despite the fact that utopias are often scoffed at, or chalked up as political naiveté. In the best case, they are seen as simply not realizable, and thereby taken to be irrelevant. In the worst case, they coagulate into social experiments that reproduce existing inequalities and hierarchies, which spawn new tyrannical conditions.

In the scope of this perception, utopian ventures are not very conducive to a possible better life for everyone. But the terms and ideas could also be read and applied differently: as a flash of “moments of goodness in a bad now” (Herbert Marcuse, Avery F. Gordon); as a recognition of alternatives or knowledge about possibilities, and therefore as motivation to fight further for a community of solidarity, despite discouraging social developments (Bini Adamczak). Thus, utopias can be implemented in queer feminist artistic and theoretical discussions. They can be used as means of correcting dominant narratives, or of seeking them out more intensely and in regard to conflictual historical reference points. They may inspire manifestos that convey the will to radically intervene in order to realize possibilities. They may appear as projections of a better coexistence that is not yet fully here, but might unfold: in living out recognition and support instead of competitiveness, in finding other ways of working, in implementing redistribution, or in envisioning a feminist republic or world that does not rely on nation states.

We are interested in queer_feminist, artistic and artistic-activist positions and practices that, in a comparably affirming way, relate to a concept of utopia so as to fabulate better conditions and forms of coexistence, and thereby alternative settings in the domain of the feasible. Utopian anticipations in the following areas can be addressed: work including care work / reproduction work, technology, identity, body and affects, nation state / no border, a right to the city, future sustainability (“environment”), solidarity, commons, education on creating utopias – and much more.

About the Lecture Series:

The lecture series “Art – Research – Gender” will take place during the academic year 2019/20 at the University for Applied Arts Vienna, and can be completed as an academic course. The lecture series is organized by the Department of Gender Affairs.

Academics, researchers and artists from all disciplines are invited to share their perspectives

on the questions mentioned above. We would especially like to encourage young academics and researchers to submit abstracts – for example, in the field of their dissertations. Lecturers will receive a fee of € 300, and travel expenses will be covered.

Usually eight lectures are selected per academic year, which all take place on Wednesday evenings at the University of Applied Arts Vienna. The duration of the lecture is a maximum of 60 minutes. A discussion follows the lecture.

Concept & Organization of the Series: Department of Gender Affairs

Please submit proposals per email, **at the latest by March 18, 2019**, to gender@uni-ak.ac.at including:

- A working title
- An abstract (300 words)
- A short biography
- Complete contact information

The submission can be in German or English.

Please forward this to anyone who might be interested. Thank you!