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Fall 2019

Events and activities at the Centre for Women's and Gender Research (SKOK)



UNIVERSITETET I BERGEN



28th - 29th August

Seminar: Native/Immigrant/Refugee: Crossings and Divides

Time: 09:30 – 17:00

Venue: Parkveien 9

Visit from Berkley for the Peder Sæter Grant collaboration. The seminar explores the interrelationships of the categories “native,” “immigrant,” and “refugee” at a time of tightening borders.

10 - 12th September

George Rousseau's Annual Seminar Series 2019: Gender & Ageing

Time: 14:00 – 18:00

Venue: Parkveien 9

Professor George Rousseau's Annual Seminar Series 2019 engage the past as well as present and aim to historicize representations of masculine and feminine ageing. In collaboration with Research Group Literature and Science, The Department of Foreign Languages, UiB.

13th September

Seminar: Gendered/racialized technologies of (post)human futures

Time: 09:00 – 12:00

Venue: Parkveien 9

Talk by Neda Atanasoski, University of California Santa Cruz, and comments by Kari Jegerstedt and Anders Rubing, both SKOK.

Title of Neda's talk: **Surrogate Humanity: Race, Robots and the Politics of Technological Future**

Based on Neda Atanasoski and Kalindi Vora's co-authored book, “Surrogate Humanity,” this talk elaborates what we call the surrogate human effect in the engineering, political, and cultural imaginaries behind recent developments in social, industrial, and military robotics. We extend a critical ethnic studies analytic to include the raced and gendered social relations between bodies, both machine and human, that are not recognizably

racialized. We argue that these relations, too, are part of the fabric of racial liberalism in which practices of reducing the humanity of (racialized) others functions to prop up our recognition of what counts as human, and what makes us feel human. Tracking the surrogate human effect allows us to expose how a seemingly neutral technological modernity is in fact infused with the racial, gender, and sexual politics of political modernity, based as they are in racial slavery, colonial conquest and genocide. INfm

[More on Neda Atanasoski.](#)

Title of Karis talk: **Sex and Subjectivity in the Age of the Brain; Philosophical and Aesthetic Imaginaries of (Post)Human Futures in Light of Neuro-Technologies**

The talk will introduce the BRAIN-SEX project that proposes to analyze current 'neuroimaginaries' within and surrounding new sciences and technologies of the brain, and their importance for understanding human subjectivity. The neurosciences and new technologies of the brain are becoming more and more influential in our time, not only within research communities and scientific discourses but also in everyday life and public debates. Our era can be characterized as one in which personhood has become brainhood, and the subject a 'cerebral subject'. BRAIN-SEX will perform critical engagements with the consequences of this development through philosophical and aesthetic analyses of AI, trans gender figurations and new self-help technologies.

Title of Anders Rubings talk: **Infrastructures of security and resilience.**

Rubing unpacks how visions of different urban futures are produced by urban security- and resilience-discourses. Urban resilience understood as the potential for an urban system to bounce back or evolve after a crisis or attack. The project is looking at how urban resilience and security is discussed in national and international conferences and convention and how the discourse between practitioners, academics, and policymakers can be productive of different visions of an urban future. At the project's core is how these urban futures are affecting populations rendered vulnerable, such as migrant groups and gendered and racialized groups.

30th September

Workshop: Annual PhD-relay- Gender perspectives in research

Time: 09:00 – 17:15

Venue: Parkveien 9

Center for Women's and Gender Research (SKOK) invites all PhD candidates at UiB with a gender-perspective in their dissertation, either empirical or theoretical, to a multidisciplinary PhD relay. Each candidate will have 15 minutes to present the project,

followed by 15 minutes of discussion. Candidates get an opportunity to establish useful connections across disciplinary boundaries and get feedback from scholars at SKOK.

14th October

Seminar: FEMINISM, LITERATURE, PHILOSOPHY: A tribute to Toril Moi

Time: 12:00 – 15:00

Venue: Syndeshaugen skole, Sydnesplassen 9, Aud Q

A lecture with Toril Moi followed by a panel discussion by elected scholars. In collaboration with Department of Linguistic, Literary and Aesthetic Studies, UiB.

14th November

Guest lecture: Kvinnopar i kvinnorörelsen de första decennierna av 1900-talet

Time: 15:00-17:00

Place: Parkveien 9

Guest lecture by Professor Eva Borgström, about female love and lesbianism in Swedish literature.

22nd November

Seminar: What can count as evidence of breach of sexual integrity": Rape as a social, legislative and judicial problem

Time: 13:00 – 15:00

Place: Parkveien 9

Open seminar: May-Len Skilbrei, Professor and Head of Department, Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law, Faculty of Law, UiO gave a lecture based on her ongoing project "[Medical, legal and lay understandings of physical evidence in rape cases \(Evidently Rape\)](#)"

Discussant was [Professor Jørn Jacobsen](#), Faculty of Law, UiB. He is a specialist in Criminal Law, and Legal Theory and Editor-in-chief of [Bergen Journal of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice](#).

27th November

Book launch: Exploring the Black Venus Figure in Aesthetic Practices

Time: 15:00-17:00

Place: Parkveien 9

Kari Jegerstedt is one of the editors of the newly published book on the longstanding colonial fascination with the black female body. The editors presented the book and its background and engaged in a conversation with some of the contributors. Critical intervention by Redi Koobak.

About the book

Exploring the Black Venus Figure in Aesthetic Practices critically examines a longstanding colonial fascination with the black female body as an object of sexual desire, envy, and anxiety. Since the 2002 repatriation of the remains of Sara Baartman to post-apartheid South Africa, the interest in the figure of Black Venus has skyrocketed, making her a key symbol for the restoration of the racialized female body in feminist, anti-racist and postcolonial terms.

Edited by Jorunn Gjerden, Kari Jegerstedt, and Željka Švrliuga, this volume considers Black Venus as a product of art established and potentially refigured through aesthetic practices, following her travels through different periods, geographies and art forms from Baudelaire to Kara Walker, and from the Caribbean to Scandinavia.

Contributors: Kjersti Aarstein, Carmen Birkle, Jorunn Svensen Gjerden, Kari Jegerstedt, Ulla Angkjær Jørgensen, Ljubica Matek, Margery Vibe Skagen, Camilla Erichsen Skalle, Željka Švrliuga.

- [More about the book on the publisher's home page.](#)

29th November

Seminar: The politics and aesthetic of waiting in Palestinian refugee camps

Time: 10:00 – 12:00

Place: Parkveien 9

Ruba Salih from Department of Anthropology and Sociology, SOAS University of London, gave a talk about temporality in Palestinian refugee camps.

In the social sciences, the time and space of refugeehood is conventionally conceived as one of temporariness and waitness. Refugee camps are often analysed through the prism of exception or suspension of sovereignty, and forced migrants or refugees are mainly seen as affective communities of trauma and suffering. In addition, the (European) national-statist time space/horizon continues to be the bedrock against which experiences and subjectivities of those on the move are read and interpreted.

The refugee camp, in this political imaginary, is an abnormality, a barren place-time in which refugees are suspended, or trapped, merely waiting for their re-insertion into a national order of things. Refugee life acquires the ontological quality of Non-Life, of waiting for sovereign life. In this paper, I investigate what happens when waiting is a permanent horizon of life across generations, like in the case of encamped Palestinian refugees who have been displaced since 1948.

*In my work on and with Palestinian refugees, particularly in the occupied West Bank, I explore waitness as a politically productive condition, and the refugee camp as the most potent embodiment of this condition. An ethnography of the politics and aesthetic of the camp reveals ways in which temporariness is a powerful antidote to normalisation under the *longue durée* of the occupation.*

Comments by [Kjersti G. Berg](#), Post doctor at CMI. She is working on the FRIPRO project "SuperCamp: Genealogies of humanitarian containment in the Middle East". In this project she is focusing on Palestinian refugees, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), and the Shu'fat refugee camp in Jerusalem.

- [More on Ruba Salih.](#)