

**5. Interdisziplinäres Kolloquium zur Gender-Forschung  
„Populärkultur - Geschlecht - Handlungsräume“  
19. - 21. Mai 2016 im Peter Weiss Haus, Rostock**

**Narratives of Geeks, Terrorists and Thugs –  
How Do ‘Other’ British Masculinities Compare?**

In my paper I will problematise analytical tools of comparison in masculinity studies. While as a result of the political interventions of women of color and/or queer women feminist theory has arrived at increasingly intersectional modes of addressing gender, the centrality of gender as a category of analysis in masculinity studies has not been challenged in comparative ways. Raewyn Connell’s differentiation of hegemonic and subordinated masculinities remains the most comprehensive and helpful approach in this respect. But despite such theoretical inroads into increasingly more complex and global framings of different masculinities in masculinity studies, two dilemmas remain: overall, there is still a tendency to prioritise gender as a maker of difference and consequently often re-centre hegemonic expressions of masculinity. How does the framework of masculinity studies change if the central category of masculinity itself (or gender in general) is addressed more consistently in relation to the interdependent processes of social stratification with respect to race, class and religion, for example? Looking at the ways in which contemporary ethnicised masculinities in Britain adhere to or undermine monolithic ideas of what a British man looks like and who belongs to Britain today, I will focus on three figurations of masculinities in contemporary British film and TV, namely on the ‘geek’ in *The IT Crowd* (2006-2013), the ‘terrorist’ in *Four Lions* (2010) and the ‘thug’ in *Attack the Block* (2011), in my talk. These are two ‘(stereo-)types’ of men who – often spectacularly – fail to embody hegemonic British masculinity. The analysis of such ‘deviant’ scripts of masculinities is meant as a way to frame masculinity as always already informed by ‘Other’ markers of difference – a perspective which equally challenges more normative expressions of masculinity and Britishness.

**Prof. Dr. Elahe Haschemi Yekani**

is Junior Professor of English Literature at the University of Flensburg. Previously she was a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study Konstanz and Assistant Professor at the Department of English at the University of Innsbruck in Austria. She is the author of *The Privilege of Crisis. Narratives of Masculinities in Colonial and Postcolonial Literature, Photography and Film* (Campus 2011) and co-editor of *Erlöser. Figurationen männlicher Hegemonie* (transcript 2007, ed. with Sven Glawion and Jana Husmann-Kastein) as well as *Queer Futures: Reconsidering Ethics, Activism, and the Political* (Ashgate 2013, ed. with Eveline Kilian and Beatrice Michaelis). Currently, she works on her second book, in which she traces an entangled literary history of canonical bourgeois novels of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century with the earliest written testimonies of Black British writers. Her research interests include the Anglophone novel, Queer Theory, Postcolonial and Gender/Masculinity Studies.