

Call for Papers
5. Interdisciplinary Colloquium of Gender Research
at the University of Rostock
19-21 May 2016
POPULAR CULTURE – GENDER – AGENCY

„I definitely can feel the third or fourth feminist wave in the air, so maybe this is a good time to open that Pandora’s box a little bit and air it out.“ (Björk, *Pitchfork*, January 2015)

In the light of recent heated debates around questions of gender in popular culture—for instance, around the feminist implications of Charlotte Roche’s novels, the political relevance of Lady Gaga’s pop music, or Emma Watson’s speech in front of the UN—it is fair to say that the pop-cultural field is both the object of and the stage for several discourses on the production, performance and representation of gender. The diversity of discourses corresponds to the diversity of media and actors: the aforementioned debates can be found at all levels of the public sphere, in blogs, pop songs, YouTube videos, and film as well as in newspapers and academic writing. Gender, it seems, has become the new leading paradigm for the ethical evaluation of pop-cultural artefacts. We invite scholars of all disciplines to meet in Rostock for an interdisciplinary exchange on popular culture and gender.

We welcome national and international papers, which address one of the following issues:

(New) presentations of gender

How diverse is the gender spectrum represented in literature, pop music, TV and film? What kind of body representations can be found?

Gender-specific conditions of (pop) cultural production

Do gender or sexuality determine artists’ access to pop-cultural production? Can gender-specific differences be observed, for instance in the booking of musicians or the awarding of film prizes?

Historical gender discourses and forms of media

In view of the phenomena described, is it possible to speak of a fourth wave of feminism? How do feminist actors in the pop-cultural field position themselves in relation to previous historical movements? What are the media forms of gender discourses?

Social movements/activism/politics and gender

Which new forms of protest and activism develop within or in relation to the pop-cultural field?

Reception of popular culture

How is the reception of pop-cultural products gendered? Are there new reception habits?

Education and training

How can (new) pop-cultural artefacts be implemented in school and other pedagogical fields?

Paper presentations should not exceed 20 minutes. If you are interested in participating, please send your abstract (300 words) by 30 November 2015 to <gender@uni-rostock.de>. Contributors may present papers in German or English.

On behalf of the work group „Gender Research“ at the University of Rostock.