

InterGender – International Consortium for Interdisciplinary Feminist Research Training

For this course PhD students, but also advanced Master's students are eligible to apply.

Title of the Course: Porn Studies

Time: 28-29-30 October 2024

Location: Linköping University (on Campus)

Deadline for applications: 20 September 2024

Applications should be sent to:

InterGender Consortium Coordinator Edyta Just (edyta.just[at]liu.se)

Maximum number of participants: 10

Organized by:

Local InterGender Course Organizer: Linköping University

InterGender, International Consortium for Interdisciplinary Feminist Research Training

Course coordinator:

InterGender Consortium Coordinator: Edyta Just (edyta.just[at]liu.se)

Teacher:

João Florêncio, Professor, Gender Studies, Linköping University, Sweden.

Course description:

Pornographic images have never been as produced, reproduced and consumed as they are today; they are a ubiquitous feature of contemporary visual culture. It is thus not surprising that public debates on the roles and/or dangers of porn have increased in recent years. However, those debates often depart from unexamined assumptions and moral positions, with little time and space given to critical and analytical engagements with actual pornography. In this interdisciplinary course, doctoral students in Gender Studies will gain a better understanding of the history of porn and of its conventions, as well as the modern and contemporary contexts—social, political, and juridical—that have shaped and continue to shape its production, distribution, and consumption.

Porn Studies will introduce PhD researchers to the main theories and debates that have surrounded and framed the production, dissemination and consumption of pornographic images. With a focus on modern and contemporary pornographic images, the course will approach pornography as a form of cultural production that can illuminate our understanding of the ways in which our societies have conceived and represented human bodies, their sexual desires and sexual pleasures. Tracing the “birth” of pornography back to the “birth” of modernity, we will follow the tense and complex relationships of visibility

and invisibility that have given porn its currency, and we will map our changing understandings of obscenity vis-à-vis the histories of our cultural policing of both bodies and the visible. To do so, we will be critically engaging with materials ranging from literature to early visual erotica; from censored films to the so-called “Golden Age of Porn”; from gay porn to feminist and queer “post-porn;” from online amateur pornography to artists who blur the boundaries between art and pornography. Informed by scholarship drawn from feminist and queer studies, law, media and cultural studies, and the emerging interdisciplinary field of porn studies, the module will allow researchers to develop important critical and analytical skills that they will use to engage with a form of visual production that is second to none when it comes to the scale of its contemporary output.

Schedule of the course:

A detailed schedule of the course will be provided after acceptance to the course.

Three days intensive workshops with 10 participants and one teacher. The workshops will be centred on close engagement with both pornographic materials and scholarship, including the teacher’s own contributions to the field, as well as the participants’ own research.

Course readings: Will be provided after acceptance to the course.

Obligatory Preparations after the acceptance to the course:

- **Course readings**
- **Paper** (2–5 pages describing a research problem related to the course and the participant's PhD thesis project or MA thesis project) to be sent to the InterGender Consortium Coordinator Edyta Just (edyta.just[at]liu.se). The deadline will be indicated after the acceptance to the course. Remember to mark it with your name and the course name.
- All participants are expected to read the paper of their fellow group members before the course and be prepared to offer constructive comments. The papers will be made available online.

Optional Essay after the end of the course:

- An essay of 6000-7000 words to be handed in no later than 3 months after the course. One copy should be sent to the teacher and one to the InterGender Consortium Coordinator Edyta Just (edyta.just[at]liu.se). The teacher has 3 months to evaluate the essay.
- The essay should strike a balance between addressing a theme that has been part of the course (lectures, discussions, reading material), and be relevant for participant's own research.
- The essay should, moreover, be considered as an exercise in doing a written presentation aimed at an academic readership not familiar with the author’s research. The essay should constitute a whole and explain relevant contexts.

Accreditation and examination:

1. 7,5 ECTS credits are given for active participation and a short paper, 2-5 pages (graded pass/fail) for 3 days course.
2. 10 ECTS credits are given for active participation plus an optional essay (graded pass/fail) for 3 days course.

Course Certificate:

In order to request the certificate, please send an e-mail to Edyta Just(edyta.just[at]liu.se).

The Consortium Coordinator issues, upon request, a certificate indicating to how many ECTS credits course participation is considered equal. It is the candidate/student's own responsibility to ask her/his/their home institution about its accreditation rules and to obtain appropriate credit for participation in InterGender course within the enrolled curriculum.

Applications should be written in English and include:

- * name, affiliation, full address, e-mail, phone
- * name and affiliation of PhD supervisor or MA supervisor
- * brief CV
- * description of PhD project or MA project (1-2 pages)
- * motivation: why do you want to participate in the course (1-2 pages)
- * please, indicate if you are in the first/middle/last phase of your PhD research or if you are advanced MA student

Funding:

The event is free. In terms of traveling costs, we can offer 3 (three) grants of 2500 SEK each. If you wish to apply for this grant, please provide a brief extra motivation in your application.

Information on Admission:

1. Participants have to be registered as PhD candidates or advanced MA students.
2. The InterGender courses are open for PhD and advanced MA students from all disciplines and countries.
3. Participants will be selected on the basis of an evaluation of their CV, project description and a letter of motivation.
4. If there are more applicants who qualify for participation, than there are places, the places will be distributed along the following criteria:
 - a) Applicants registered as PhD candidates or advanced MA students at a Partner Unit will be prioritized for a maximum of 90% of places with approximately 25 % of the 90% open to MA-students. When the places are

distributed among the Partner Units, a good spread between these units will also be ensured.

b) Applicants registered as PhD candidates in another unit at the Partner Higher Education Establishments will be prioritized for 10 % of the places. When the places are distributed among the Partner Higher Education Establishments, a good spread between these establishments will also be ensured. If places remain of the 90 % prioritized for PhD candidates and advanced MA students registered at a Partner Unit, these places will instead be prioritized for PhD candidates registered at a Partner Higher Education Establishments.

c) If the applicants according to a) and b) do not fill all the places, remaining places will be open for competition between all eligible and qualifying applicants from any higher education establishment.

5. If there are more eligible and qualified applicants for the available places, a selection process will take place, which, in addition to academic quality and motivation/relevance, will use non-discriminatory selection criteria, which will ensure a spread of nationalities, regions, institutions and disciplines.

6. An additional lot drawing procedure will be used, if several eligible and in all respects equally qualified applicants are competing for the limited number of places in the different categories.

7. In case of too many eligible and qualifying applicants, a waiting list will also be organized, and places will be offered to applicants on this list, should some of the selected participants cancels her/his/their participation.

8. The consortium coordinator (5.3) selects participants under the auspice of the Board, and is required to report to the Board how selection is distributed between the Consortium Partners. If the Board finds that the distribution is uneven, the Consortium Coordinator shall compensate for this in future selections.

9. Upon request of a Partner/Partner Unit/Partner Higher Education Establishment, the Consortium Coordinator (5.3) issues a certificate indicating how many ECTS credits should be awarded for the participation in a particular course. It is the candidate/student's own responsibility to ask her/his/their home institution about its accreditation rules and to obtain appropriate credit for participation in InterGender course within the enrolled curriculum.

InterGender Partner Units and Higher Education Establishments

1. Higher Education Establishment: **Linköping University**, Partner Units: **Unit of Gender Studies, Department of Thematic Studies**, Coordinating Partner
2. Higher Education Establishment: **Göteborg University**, Partner Unit: **Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Research**, Full Partner

3. Higher Education Establishment: **Karlstad University**, Partner Unit: **Centre for Gender Studies**, Full Partner
4. Higher Education Establishment: **Luleå University of Technology**, Partner Unit: **Department of Business Administration, Technology and Social Science**, Full Partner
5. Higher Education Establishment: **Lund University**, Partner Unit: **Department of Gender Studies**, Full Partner
6. Higher Education Establishment: **The Norwegian National Research School in Gender Studies**, Full Partner
7. Higher Education Establishment: **Södertörn University**, Partner Unit: **Gender Studies**, Full Partner
8. Higher Education Establishment: **Goethe University Frankfurt**, Partner Unit: **Cornelia Goethe Center/GRADE Center Gender**, Full Partner
9. Higher Education Establishment: **University of Granada**, Partner Unit: **Grupo Investigación PAI Hum592 Recepcion, Modos y Géneros de la Literatura en Lengua Inglesa**, Full Partner
10. Higher Education Establishment: **Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin**, Partner Unit: **Center for transdisciplinary Gender Studies**, Full Partner
11. Higher Education Establishment: **University of Innsbruck**, Partner Unit: **Center for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies Innsbruck (CGI)**, Full Partner
12. Higher Education Establishment: **University of Lodz**, Partner Unit: **Women's Studies Centre**, Full Partner
13. Higher Education Establishment: **University of Oviedo**, Partner Unit: **Gender and Diversity PhD and MA Programmes**, Full Partner
14. Higher Education Establishment: **Utrecht University**, Partner Unit: **Graduate Gender Programme/Netherlands Research School of Gender Studies**, Full Partner
15. Higher Education Establishment: **University of Vienna**, Partner Unit: **Gender Research Office**, Full Partner