

**14. Ringvorlesung Gender Studies**  
**Natur/Kulturverhältnisse als Herausforderung für queer-feministische**  
**Theorieansätze I**  
*Wintersemester 2013/14*

**Cecilia Åsberg: *Practicing posthumanities: Feminist science/cultural studies and its queer questions to nature, ethics and inter-disciplinarity***

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Taking a starting point in how feminist gender studies (FGS), cultural studies (CS), and science and technology studies (STS) have re-invented its core analytical concepts and reconfigured interdisciplinary research in the humanities and social sciences, this lecture examines the possibilities for practicing a critical and creative form of the posthumanities today. In this lecture we look first at the basics of “the body trouble” of feminist analysis, especially from the vantage point of feminist science studies. As such, it turns into a larger question of nature, of the very nature of nature (ontology), the culture-of-no-culture (natural science) and the post-natural as approached in queer feminist cultural theory. But the ontological questions within feminist theory (emerging as new materialisms), inseparable from epistemological questions, have also given rise to ethical questions. Especially if posed in relation to “the posthuman”. But what does that imply? Well, as humans – in our gendered, racialized, animalized, medicalized, acclimatized and “civilized” corporealizations – are more and more obviously entangled in co-constitutive and reciprocal relationships with technology and science, with other animals and with the environment, anthropocentric approaches (and unreflected humanisms) have simply become difficult to sustain analytically.

The posthuman and various posthumanisms appear thus on the methodological horizon as a promising monster. Indeed a hydra with many heads; this is a promising monster already in action within the critical and creative humanities eg in the shape of human-animal studies (HAS), medical humanities, or science and literature studies (SLS). But what are the affordances, risks and limitations involved in such posthumanist exercises of interdisciplinarity? It is from such questions, with analytical concepts and coordinates from aforementioned interdisciplinary approaches, and with examples from popular culture, the science laboratory, the technoscience of genetics and Alzheimer’s Disease, that this lecture aims to map out the emerging analytical toolbox of a feminist form of the posthumanities.

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