

14. Ringvorlesung Gender Studies: Natur/Kulturverhältnisse als Herausforderung für queer-feministische Theorieansätze (Teil II)

Sommersemester 2014

08.04.2014

Doing Epistemology Differently: Feminist New Materialisms and the Question of Knowing

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Now that there is so much energy going to an 'ontological turn' in feminist academia, the question of (what is left of) feminist epistemology receives hardly any explicit attention anymore. It is for this reason that I will put feminist epistemology center stage in my talk. What is the epistemology of the 'turn to naturecultures'? I will argue that feminist new materialisms should not be conflated with an ontological turn, on the one hand, whereas, on the other, this turn can help us understand what the stakes are in the contemporary discussion. In fact, feminist new materialisms come with a different way of doing epistemology that requires of the scholar and the epistemologist to position herself differently vis-à-vis her research materials. So how is it that the feminist new materialist situates herself?

Iris van der Tuin is Assistant Professor of Gender Studies and Philosophy of Science in the Graduate Gender Programme of Utrecht University, the Netherlands. She edited *Doing Gender in Media, Art and Culture* (Routledge, 2009) with Rosemarie Buikema, and wrote *New Materialism: Interviews & Cartographies* (Open Humanities Press, 2012) with Rick Dolphijn. Her work on feminist new materialism has appeared in among others *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy*, *Australian Feminist Studies*, *European Journal of Women's Studies*, *Women: A Cultural Review* and *Women's Studies International Forum*. She is currently holding a post-doctoral fellowship of The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) for the project 'The Material Turn in the Humanities'. Outcomes have been published in among others *History of the Human Sciences*, *Philosophy&Technology* and *Bergson and the Art of Immanence: Painting, Photography, Film* (edited by John Mullarkey and Charlotte de Mille for Edinburgh University Press, 2013). Website: <http://uu.academia.edu/IrisvanderTuin>