

"Doing Academia in a World in 'Crisis': Why and For Whom?"

Overview:

The symposium, "Doing Academia in a World in 'Crisis': Why and For Whom?" is intended to address the ethical stakes involved in doing academic work, both in general and in the current political climate. The event will focus on three, intertwined layers of analysis: 1) How academic institutions have grown in tandem with the violent processes that reinforce the very hierarchies of power many scholars aim to deconstruct in our work (colonialism; nationalisms; the neoliberal and/or corporate university; various forms of racial, class-based, and gendered privilege; etc); 2) The ways in which academia has served as an incubator for movements to protest oppression, from Black Lives Matter, Me Too, and Rhodes Must Fall today to anti-war, anti-colonial, feminist, and civil rights movements of the mid-20th century; and 3) How do and should scholars conceptualize the output of our knowledge production in light of the political stakes involved? What ethical consequences, concerns, and responsibilities accompany doing the work that we do? Why, how, and for whom are we researching, writing, and teaching? What does it mean to explicitly acknowledge academic work as political work - and what does it mean to conceive of scholarly work as "apolitical?"

Friday, 15 June:

11 am - 1 pm: Welcome Remarks; Screening of documentary, "Audre Lorde: The Berlin Years 1984 to 1992"

+Film immediately followed by discussion with film director and producer, Dagmar Schultz

4 pm - 6 pm: Keynote Panel, followed by Audience Questions and Discussion

Keynote Panelists:

Dorothy Hodgson, Rutgers University

Juan Manuel Palacio, Universidad de San Martín (Argentina) and the Argentine National Research Council

Pamela Scully, Emory University

6 - 7:30 pm: Reception

Saturday, 16 June:

10:30 am - 12:30 pm: Panel, "Reinforcing, Remaking, and Upending Power: Academic Institutions as Contradictory Spaces"

Presenters:

Edna Bonhomme, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science

Richard Schroeder, Rutgers University

Keren Weitzberg, University College London

Chair: *Andreas Eckert*

2:30 - 4:30 pm: Round Table: "The Ethical Stakes of Scholarly Work"

Participants:

Schirin Amir-Moazami, Institut für Islamwissenschaft/ Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies

Clifton Crais, Emory University

Sophia Hoffmann, Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO)

Savannah Martin, Washington University in St. Louis

5 - 6 pm: Conference Wrap-Up and Final Reflections