

Workshop "The Concept of Vulnerability and its Pitfalls in Border Regime & Gender Studies"

Institut für Kulturanthropologie/Europäische Ethnologie - Heinrich-Düker-Weg 14 - 37073 Göttingen 1.OG Room 1.601

33.-4.3.2017

The *AG Migration& Gender Kulturanthropologie/ Europäische Ethnologie Göttingen* and the *Research Network Gender and Migration@Lower Saxony* would like to invite you to our workshop "The Concept of Vulnerability and its Pitfalls in Border Regime & Gender Studies" which will take place the **3rd-4th of March** at the University of Göttingen. Current discussions about vulnerability took place in the context of human rights and have been approached as a gendered and sexualised concept mostly. Furthermore, in the context of recent politics of "governing migration", vulnerability becomes a central instrument to regulate mobility and to stratify the assignments of rights. Together we want to discuss and analyse recent discourses, discussions and research projects around vulnerability in gender and border regimes.

We are happy to announce that Prof.Dr. Susanne Hofmann and Prof.Dr. Zeynep Kivilcim, the two guest professors of the Gender&Migration Network Lower Saxony, agreed to participate and give a keynote to allow us theoretical and empirical insights in their research on gender and border.

The number of participants is limited to 20 persons. There is no workshop fee so that we share the expenses for snacks and drinks. If necessary accommodation can be organized.

If you are interested in participating get in touch with Katherine Braun katherine.braun@uni-goettingen.de or Johanna Elle jelle@gwdg.de.

The workshop language will be mainly English.



Philosophische Fakultät
Institut für Kulturanthropologie/
Europäische Ethnologie

Program

<u>Friday 3.3.2017</u> Room 1.601		<u>Saturday 4.3.2017</u> Room 1.601	
12.00-12.30	Short Introduction	9.30-10.30	Reyane Herwig: Dealing with Violence: Victimization and Resistance - Lived Experiences of Syrian female Refugees in the Turkish City of Şanlıurfa
	<i>12:30-13:30 Lunch at the Turmmensa</i>	10.30-12.00	Discussion Session
13:30-14:30	Keynote I: Guest professor Susanne Hofmann: "Vulnerability revisited: sexuality and affect in migration projects"		<i>12.00-13.00 Lunch Break at the Zentralmensa</i>
14:30-15:30	Keynote II: Guest professor Zeynep Kivilcim: "Refugee law and vulnerability: 'Vulnerable' refugees and 'vulnerable' borders"	13.00-14.00	Dr. Monika Mayrhofer: Dismantling vulnerability. The implicit racism and sexism of the vulnerability discourse
	<i>30 min Break</i>		<i>15 Min Break</i>
16.00-17.30	Discussion Session "Mapping "	14.15-15.15	Open Outlook and Impressions from the different Sessions
	<i>15 min Break</i>	15.15-16.15	Closing Session with, Prof. Dr. Sabine Hess, Prof. Dr. Susanne Hofmann and Prof. Dr. Zeynep Kivilcim
17:45-18.45	n.n.: Conceptualizing Vulnerability in the Context of Institutionalized Camps for Romanies in Italy		
	<i>19:00: Dinner at Apex</i>		

Prof.Dr. Susanne Hofmann: Vulnerability revisited: sexuality and affect in migration projects

Abstract

In this talk, I will discuss vulnerability in the context of gendered migration and sexual-affective economic strategies. The concept of vulnerability has sparked intense debates in academia and encountered much contestation by critical scholars of sex work and migration in particular. I will resort to a critical feminist body of literature on vulnerability that challenges narrow perceptions of victimhood of migrants and recognises sexual-affective economic strategies of people on the move. Drawing on empirical research at the US-Mexico border, I will elaborate on migrant sex workers' vulnerability to violence and develop an analysis based on their perceptions of risk and safety and concrete experiences of violence. The talk will draw attention to the dangers of the discursive logic of vulnerability acting as moral justification for invasive forms of control of targeted populations. In particular, my analysis indicates the instrumental use of the framework of vulnerability to legitimise an escalation of punitive measures against poor and migrant populations, a phenomenon that has become known as "militarized humanitarianism" (Bernstein 2010) in the context of efforts to combat human trafficking. Based on an intricate collusion between mainstream feminism and state agendas of border control, arguments to rescue "vulnerable" populations, such as victims of trafficking, have helped approve "carceral politics" (ibid.), negatively affecting the migration projects of people from the Global South and the sexual-affective economic strategies that can enable their mobility.

Prof. Dr. Zeynep Kivilcim: Refugee law and vulnerability: 'Vulnerable' refugees and 'vulnerable' borders

Abstract

My aim with this presentation is to discuss how law and politics interact with racialised and gendered vulnerability and the way in which the label of vulnerability is constructed, applied and deployed by refugee law. I propose to critically analyse vulnerability as a category of neoliberal governance and discuss whether it re-inscribes images of inherently powerless women or LGBT refugee victimized by their non-European cultures reminiscent of colonial times.