

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

Queer Masculinities Summer School

Where: Chintsa/East London, South Africa

When: March 25-28, 2024

Conveners: Prof. Dr. Zintombizethu Matebeni (University of Fort Hare) and Prof. Dr. Henriette Gunkel (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)

Faculty: Dr. Asanda-Jonas Benya (University of Cape Town), Prof. Dr. Kara Keeling (tbc) (University of Chicago), Prof. Dr. Osmundo Pinho (Universidade Federal do Recôncavo da Bahia)

Masculinity is not what it used to be. Perhaps this is a memory of what never was. The binary logic, in its present and past form, has shaped the idea that bodies are tied to genders in a linear fashion. Men with male-assigned bodies ought to be or are masculine, and bodies that are deemed female are of women and feminine. This logic of duality presents a split, an image of two associated parts. It may appear as neat, a clear division or distinction from one part to the other. Yet, the world of beings and things is messy, blurry, with overlaps, transgressions, difficult histories, entanglements, and co-existence (Benya). And so it is with the intersectionality of gender/race/class/sexuality, which cannot be understood outside of the colonial system (Gunkel; Lugones; Pinho).

The connection between queerness and masculinity is well-established, and rather than rehashing this we are interested in starting a different conversation. During this interdisciplinary summer school, we envision a new point of departure which already accepts the foundational texts that have shaped masculinity studies and queer studies in many parts of the world and in different disciplines (Connell; Halberstam; Johnson and Rivera-Servera; Keeling; Matebeni; Ratele). We ask: If queer and masculinity are both terms that travel over time and space, then what of queer masculinities? What possibilities and new opportunities does *queer masculinities* offer as a concept that considers both the intersections of gender/sexuality/race/class/geopolitical positionings, and the diverse theoretical shifts demanded by the decolonial turn? Given this, is it possible to disentangle gender from masculinity? What would masculinity look like without gender?

The Queer Masculinities Summer School invites MA students in media studies and/or gender studies at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum who are interested in the fields of

masculinities and queerness broadly, to re-imagine masculinities without gender. Specifically, we are interested in thinking through and imagining queer masculinities as not only attached to bodies; queer masculinities that offer other bodies (of knowledge, being, creating, existence or occupying); and queer masculinities that are nonbinary in form, structure, and shape.

As accepted participants will be supported with international travel, accommodation and main meals during the time of the summer school, places are limited and subject to an application process. To apply, please submit a letter of motivation (max. 2 pages) and your CV in English no later than the **15th of August 2023** to Paulena Müller (queer-masculinities@ruhr-uni-bochum.de). The course will be accredited.

References

1. Benya, A., 2018. "Field vignette: South Africa's underground women miners", In *Africa's Mineral Fortune* (pp. 228-229). Routledge.
2. Connell, R. 1987. *Gender and power: society, the person and sexual politics*. Palo Alta, California: University of California Press.
3. Gunkel, H. 2010. *The Cultural Politics of Female Sexuality in South Africa*. New York/London: Routledge.
4. Halberstam, J. 2018. "Unbuilding Gender," *Places Journal*, (Accessed 08 July 2023). <https://doi.org/10.22269/181003>
5. Johnson, E. Patrick and Rivera-Servera, R.H (eds). 2016. *Blacktino Queer Performance*. Duke University Press.
6. Keeling, K. 2019. *Queer Times, Black Futures*. NewYork: NYU Press.
7. Lugones, M. 2008. The Coloniality of Gender. *World's & Knowledges Otherwise*, 2 (Spring): 1-17.
8. Matebeni, Z. 2021 "Nongayindoda: moving beyond gender in a South African context", *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, DOI: [10.1080/02589001.2021.1914825](https://doi.org/10.1080/02589001.2021.1914825)
9. Pinho, O. 2017. "Brincadeira de Negão": "Queering" Masculinidad y Negritud en La Cultura Popular Brasileira
10. Ratele, K. 2016. *Liberating Masculinities*. Cape Town: HSRC Press.