



UNIVERSITÀ
DI TRENTO



CENTRO STUDI
INTERDISCIPLINARI DI **GENERE**

**Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies
Conference 2022**

***Gender R-Evolutions:
Imagining the Inevitable, Subverting the Impossible***

Trento (Italy), 25- 26 November 2022

Call for papers

*The queer art of failure turns on the impossible, the improbable,
the unlikely, and the unremarkable. It quietly loses, and in losing it
imagines other goals for life, for love, for art, and for being.
(Jack Halberstam, The Queer Art of Failure)*

*The necessary change is so profound that they call it impossible,
so profound that they call it unimaginable.
But the impossible will come, and the unimaginable is inevitable.
(Paul B. Preciado, "Manifiesto animalista")*

The title "Gender R-Evolutions" highlights the three interdependent focal points of the 2022 conference of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies of the University of Trento (Italy): the revolutions and evolutions around gender and within gender studies. Firstly, the conference will provide the chance to reflect on the revolutionary and subversive dimensions of gender studies, which aim at "the kind of revolutionary change that will end domination and oppression" (bell hooks). From this point of view, we believe that gender studies have been contributing to thinking and giving shape to that profound, necessary change which, in the words of Paul B. Preciado, seemed to be impossible and unimaginable. Nonetheless, change has been imagined and made possible. Secondly, the conference aims at tackling the evolutions of gender studies, that is, the changes that they have brought about and that they will bring about, as well as the transformations within gender studies themselves, triggered by the constant confrontation with other revolutionary theories and practices (such as, but not limited to, Black feminism, lesbian feminism, trans-feminism and queer studies). Thirdly, our objective is to investigate the r-evolutions that have characterised the different (and sometimes contradictory) conceptualisations of gender in gender studies, by questioning and undermining the traditional male-female dualism, and by exploring the

intersections between gender and other categories such as sexual orientation, ethnic origin, class, ability and/or age, and others. Contemporary gender studies address the issues of sexuality, embodiment, and identity, together with the effect that discourses, narratives and practices of representations have on them (Braidotti). Drawing from a wide range of contemporary theorists, engendered subjectivities can be defined as at once nomadic and located, embodied and performative (Braidotti; Butler; Haraway; Preciado).

Gender studies as well as inclusive and anti-discriminatory practices can contribute to, counteracting, challenging and overcoming sexist, homotransphobic, racist, ableist, generational and/or classist stereotypes. By applying gender and intersectional perspectives to the analysis of society, it has been possible to understand and question the mechanisms of exclusion of groups of people who do not conform to the mainstream (male, white, heterosexual, able, wealthy) norm. Also, gender studies have contributed to challenging the idea of 'neutral' and 'universal' knowledge, policies, and decision-making processes, while addressing issues that were considered marginal or negligible.

We are facing global challenges, such as the emergence of ultra-right parties, 'anti-gender' campaigns, the impact of COVID-19 pandemics, attacks on women's and minority groups' rights in peace and war settings, or discrimination against subjects who are considered as 'other' both in mainstream and in some feminist contexts. In order to fully comprehend and effectively counteract these processes, it is fundamental to adopt interdisciplinary and intersectional perspectives.

This conference will provide an opportunity for reflection on the conceptual, theoretical, and practical instruments that have been developed and employed within the field of gender studies (inside and outside of academia), on their revolutionary potential, as well as on the challenges and threats that can obstruct the fight for a more equal society for each and every one.

Lastly, we intend to explore the dynamics that can be visualised in the hyphen in "r-evolution", by addressing the issue of interrupted changes and incomplete revolutions: in Audre Lorde's words, can the "master's tools dismantle the master's house"? Can a radical and genuine revolution take place within institutions, namely within academia? The 2022 CSG conference aims at exploring this contact zone, wherein gender studies are a revolutionary and ever-evolving field of research and practices in dialectic confrontation with diverse – institutional or not – expressions of "gender r-evolutions", from black and lesbian feminisms to eco-feminism and queer, male, fat or crip studies, to name just a few. This confrontation can generate a vital critical self-reflection, focusing on the process of gender studies' institutionalisation within the academia. We believe that by moving across the contact zone with other innovative and subversive movements, in and outside institutions, gender studies can continue to give their contribution to imagining inevitable changes and im/possible revolutions, seeking "other goals for life, for love, for art, and for being" (Halberstam).

We invite the interested audience to submit proposals for presentations on topics related to the following panels, encompassing theoretical, practical, cultural, artistic, sociological, philosophical, juridical, economic, political science, psychological, and educational perspectives. Theoretical and empirical contributions, as well as case and comparative studies and different research methodologies and practices are welcome.

Panel 1) Im/Possible Dialogues: gender studies and more...

- anti-speciesism and ecofeminism
- crip studies
- fat studies
- feminist and queer generations

- gender and migration studies
- gender and urban studies
- his/tory - her/story - their/story
- LGBT studies and queer studies
- masculinity and male studies
- intersectional perspectives
- gender research and knowledge
- sexuality studies
- gender studies and academia
- trans-feminisms

Panel 2) Necessary Changes and Radical Resistance: actors and institutions

- queer anticapitalism
- democratic backsliding, populism and masculinity
- ethno-nationalism, racism and anti-feminism
- progressive feminism and conservative feminism
- gender and global crises (economics, Covid-19, migrations)
- gender, international security and war
- families and r-evolutions
- labour market, new forms of poverty and of slavery
- anti-gender and anti-equality movements
- radical right and homo-fem-nationalism
- gender studies and (carried out, missed, hoped for, feared) legal reforms
- law critical theories
- 'new' and 'old' rights, between acknowledgement and backlash '

Panel 3) Narrating Change and Imagining the Unimaginable: the arts, culture and counter-narratives

- feminist counter-narratives of resilience and of the imperative to be happy
- feminist counter-narratives of migration
- deconstructing the canon and mainstream narratives
- feminisms and performative arts
- gender & Artificial Intelligence and *cyborgs*
- gender & utopian and dystopian im/possible worlds
- language r-evolutions
- the role of culture and the arts in promoting social inclusion and diversity
- dehumanisation in popular culture and the media
- narrating failure, silence, and self-annihilation
- stories of anti-heroes/heroines and of improper, immodest, undisciplined, unproductive subjects
- re-thinking and re-writing bodies and genders

Panel 4) Embodying Change: health, well-being, and self-determination

- LGBTIAQ+ access to healthcare services
- biology and genetics: beyond gender binarism
- deconstructing the conforming-able body
- gender, biotechnology and health
- gender, health and illness in medical and psychiatric practices
- parenting and reproductive technology
- medicalisation and pathologisation vs self-determination

- gender-specific medicine and psychology, and gender stereotypes in clinical practices
- gender (non) binarism in sport
- norm, deviance and conversion therapy
- crip studies and feminist studies on disability

Panel 5) Learning and Teaching to Transgress: education, gender and society

- different from whom? Hate speech and othering (homobitransphobia, racism, ageism, anti-semitism)
- affective and sexual education
- gender stereotypes in school and society
- gender and STEAMM (science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics, medicine)
- gender, financial education and self-determination
- gender, education and access to knowledge
- gender between nature and nurture
- teaching/learning to transgress
- diversity management in higher-education and academic settings
- patriarchy and heteronormativity in educational contexts
- anti-sexist and anti-racist educational practices
- neoliberal practices, knowledge production and merit
- gender-violence and micro-aggression prevention
- gender sensitive design and architecture
- religion, sexuality and gender roles
- school and higher-education segregation

Key-note speakers

Sara Garbagnoli – “Deheterosexualizing bodies and minds. Monique Wittig, Audre Lorde, Gloria Anzaldúa, revolutionary lesbian voices between theory and utopia”

Sociologist and feminist, Sara Garbagnoli is an independent researcher associated to the center for gender and sexuality studies LEGS (Univerisité Paris 8) and to the center PoliTeSse (Università of Verona). Her interests lie at the intersections of feminist theory, discourse analysis and sociology of social movements. Among her publications: *La croisade anti-genre. Du Vatican aux manif pour tous* (edited with M. Prearo, Textuel, 2017) and *Non si nasce donna: percorsi del femminismo materialista* (edited with V. Perilli, Alegre, 2013). She recently contributed to the books *Anti-Gender Campaigns in Europe* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2017) and *Introduzione ai femminismi* (DeriveApprodi, 2019). Her publications include numerous articles in journal such as “Les Cahiers du Genre”, “Genesis”, “About Gender”, “Religion & Gender”. In 2021, she was awarded the Emma Goldman Award by the Flax Foundation. She edited the Italian edition of Colette Guillaumin’s *L’idéologie raciste*, forthcoming for the publishing house Il Melangolo.

Jack Halberstam Jack Halberstam is Professor of Gender Studies and English at Columbia University. Halberstam is the author of seven books including: *Skin Shows: Gothic Horror and the Technology of Monsters* (Duke UP, 1995), *Female Masculinity* (Duke UP, 1998), *In A Queer Time and Place* (NYU Press, 2005), *The Queer Art of Failure* (Duke UP, 2011), *Gaga Feminism: Sex, Gender, and the End of Normal* (Beacon Press, 2012) and, a short book titled *Trans*: A Quick and Quirky Account of Gender Variance* (University of California Press). Halberstam’s latest book, out in 2020, from Duke UP is titled *Wild Things: The*

Disorder of Desire. Places Journal awarded Halberstam its Arcus/Places Prize in 2018 for innovative public scholarship on the relationship between gender, sexuality and the built environment. Halberstam is now finishing a second volume on wildness titled: *The Wild Beyond: Music, Architecture and Anarchy*.

[from <https://english.columbia.edu/content/jack-halberstam>]

Deadlines

- submission of abstracts: **30 September 2022**.
- announcement of acceptance: **15 October 2022**.
- author/s' registration deadline: **30 October 2022**
- submission of presentation summary: **13 November 2022**.

Please, send a 500-word abstract of the proposed presentation in Word/Open Office format (.doc, .docx, .odt) at convegno.csg.srs@unitn.it, no later than **30 September 2022**, indicating

- name and surname of author/s;
- email address/es;
- qualification and institution/s (if applicable) of author/s;
- title of the presentation;
- panel number;
- conference topic/s.

The scientific committee will announce via email the selected submissions no later than **15 October 2022**.

Those applicants who have been selected for participation should register no later than **30 October 2022**.

Those applicants who have been selected for participation and registered should send a summary of their presentation (max. 1000 words, including bibliography) at convegno.csg.srs@unitn.it, no later than **13 November 2022**.

More information regarding registration procedures and summary submission will be sent via email. It will be possible to notify accessibility or special needs requirements.

Languages

Italian and English.

Main Conference Venue

The event will be held in person at the Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento, Via Verdi 26, Trento, Italy.

The organising committee might decide to schedule one or more synchronous online panels for scholars with limited mobility.

Registration fees

Registration fee deadline: **30 October 2022**.

Fees:

- 60 €: Faculty/waged delegates
- 30 €: unwaged delegates
- free: students, UniTrento staff, CSG members (before July 2022)

Conference registration fee includes all conference materials, tea/coffee and lunch.

The Conference Dinner will take place on November 25 and will cost around 25-30 euros per person. More details will be provided upon registration.

Conference proceedings

A selection of scientific papers will be published in the conference proceedings (open-access and ISBN volume). Details on selection criteria will be provided after the conference.

Scientific-Organising Committee

Luisa Antonioli, Gabriella Berloff, Maria Micaela Coppola, Francesca Di Blasio, Alessia Donà, Francesca Fiore, Claudia Loro, Cecilia Nubola, Maria Paola Paladino, Greta Perletti, Barbara Poggio, Carla Maria Reale, Alexander Schuster, Anna Simonati, Marcella Tomasi, Alessia Tuselli.