

# Re-Orientating Gender (Studies): Feminism, Queerness, Trans\* in Cultural Studies Today

Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of British Cultures (BritCult)

University of Bamberg, 20-22 November 2025

## Thursday, November 20

12:30–2pm BritCult Board Meeting (room) (U9/01.11)

2:30–6pm registration

3–5:30pm **postgraduate forum** (chair: Joanna Rostek) (U2/00.25)

- Charlotte Alex (Berlin). Writing such a Thing as Society: Literary Negotiations of Care in Thatcherite England
- Marie Kluge (Bamberg). The Figure of the Female Investigator in Literature and Culture
- Aylica Book (Hannover). Representations of the Working Classes in Contemporary Irish Historical Fiction and Film
- Leo Grabowski (Bochum). Frantz Fanon in 'Post-Apartheid' Apartheid South Africa

6–6:45pm **conference opening** (U2/00.25)

Welcome Address (tba).

Susanne Gruß (Bamberg). Re-Orientations: Feminism, Gender and Queer Studies in the 21st Century

6:45–7:45pm **keynote 1** (chair: Susanne Gruß)

joint keynote Elisabeth Lechner (Wien) & Greta Olson (Gießen), Still Feminist! Being in Contestation while Practicing Political Healing

from 8pm reception

## Friday, 21 November

8:30–11:00am registration

9–10:30am **panel 1: activisms** (chair: tba)

- Heidi Lucja Liedke (Frankfurt). Queer Cultures of Reparation 30 Years after Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, or: How to Work with (and through) Dissent
- Christian Huck (Kiel). Selma James and a Different Path for Feminism in Cultural Studies
- Tamara Radak (Wien). Weaving Protest across Time and Space: (Inter-)Textile Practices and/ as Networked Feminism

10:30–11am coffee break

11–12:30pm **panel 2: questioning paradigms** (chair: tba)

- Kathrin Bethke (Erlangen-Nürnberg). Tiresias, Hermaphroditus, Iphis: Literary Paradigms of Non-Binarity in the works of Kae Tempest and Ali Smith
- Ariane de Waal (Leipzig). Managing Serostatus: Homonormative Adjustments in Recent 'Post-AIDS' Representations
- Laura Schmitz-Justen (Münster). “What future can you promise me?” Queer Temporalities in *Doctor Who*

12:30–2:30pm lunch break / JSBC Board Meeting (U9/01.11)

2:30–3:30pm **panel 3: unruly bodies** (chair: Susan Brähler)

- Madeline Becker (Rostock). Queering the Menstruating Body: Undoing Binary Conceptions of Gender Through Cultural Artefacts
- Sarah Back (Innsbruck). The Unruly Body in Autobiographical Performance: Embodiment in Krishna Isha's *Sperm Donor Wanted* (2024)

3:30–4pm coffee break

4–5pm **keynote** (chair: Marlena Tronicke)

Colby Gordon (Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania), *Nonsecular: Premodern Lessons for Trans Studies*

5pm–5:15 short break

5:15–7pm Members' Assembly

8pm conference dinner (self-paid)

## Saturday, 22 November

9–10am **panel 4: queer romance** (chair: Allison Lemley)

- Anneke Schewe (Kiel) & Melissa Schuh (Kiel). “Why are we like this?”: Seriality, Genre, and Queer Joy in Alice Oseman’s *Heartstopper* (2022)
- Amanda M. Boyce (Trier) & Jennifer Leetsch (Trier). Queer Space Romance: The Politics and Poetics of Love in Everina Maxwell’s *Winter’s Orbit* (2021) and *Ocean’s Echo* (2022)

10–10:30am coffee break

10:30–11:30am **panel 5: performing gender** (chair: Sarah Busch)

- Bodie A. Ashton (Potsdam). “Don’t say [I’m] ‘very pretty’; I’m attractive”: Between the Lines and Against the Grain in a Queer Vice Investigation in London, 1964
- Rowland Chukwuemeka Amaefula (Graz). Male-to-Female Cross-dressing and Dis/ruptive Gender in Nigeria’s Digital Spaces

11:30–12:30pm **panel 6: mediating gender** (chair: Kerstin-Anja Münsterlein)

- Sarah Heinz (Wien). “Through a glass, darkly”: Re-Orientating British #Tradwife Content through Domestic Noir.
- Jonas Kellermann (Konstanz). Reparative Ghosts in *All of Us Strangers*

12:30pm conference closing