

Social Identity / Identity Politics

Call for Participation

Key Concepts of the Humanities and Social Sciences | GSH | Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies | Graduate School Gender Studies

Guest: Prof. Dr. Linda Martín Alcoff, City University of New York

Moderation: Prof. Dr. Patricia Purtschert, professor for Gender Studies und Co-Director Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies (ICFG), University of Bern

Date/Room: Public Lecture: **October 3, 2019, 6:15 - 7:30 pm** in F013, Unitobler, Lerchenweg 36
Colloq.: **Oct. 4, 2019, 10:15 am - 5:00 pm** in F-111, Unitobler, Lerchenweg 36 (tbc)

ECTS: 1.5 (to be credited in the mandatory section ICS and in the mandatory elective section GS, SLS und SINTA / to be credited in the mandatory section of the Graduate School Gender Studies)

Application: By August 15, 2019 to toggweiler@wbkolleg.unibe.ch and in KSL: <https://www.ksl.unibe.ch/> (Login with UniBe account, search with title)

Public Lecture

Historical Identities and Realistic Identity Politics

Social categories of identity have been mechanisms of exclusion and oppression as well as state sanctioned privilege. Many ideas about identities are noxious as well as false. Yet, there are many ways in which our relations to groups affects our lives positively, informing our understanding, and providing sustenance and support. Theories that overemphasize individualism are descriptively inadequate to the rich and complex relationality of human life and can also work to deny our indelible connections to history. In this talk I will develop an account of the historical construction of social identity, focusing on race/ethnicity. I will then explore the political implications of this understanding of identity.

Colloquium

For PhD students and advanced Master students of the University of Bern

Part 1 of the colloquium is dedicated to the discussion of the lecture and the texts suggested by the guest. In Part 2, a core group present their PhD thesis, speaking for about 20 minutes (English preferred) on how the concept of "Social Identity/Identity Politics" connect to their research questions and which aspects of the texts are of particular relevance to their own work. The presenters raise questions for the discussion with their peers, which should contribute to the development of their thesis. Finally, in Part 3, the conversation will open up again so that the other PhD or advanced MA-students have an opportunity to address issues related to their projects. Required readings: t.b.a.

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Linda Martín Alcoff is Professor of Philosophy at Hunter College and the Graduate Center, C.U.N.Y. She is a past President of the American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division. Recent books include *Rape and Resistance: Understanding the Complexities of Sexual Violation* (Polity 2018); *The Future of Whiteness* (Polity 2015); *Visible Identities: Race, Gender and the Self* (Oxford 2006), which won the Frantz Fanon Award for 2009; *Real Knowing: New Versions of the Coherence Theory* (Cornell 1996). She has also co-edited 11 books, including *The Routledge Companion to the Philosophy of Race*, (2018) with Paul Taylor and Luveell Anderson; *Feminist Epistemologies* co-edited with Elizabeth Potter (Routledge, 1993); *Singing in the Fire: Tales of Women in Philosophy* (Rowman and Littlefield 2003); *Thinking From the Underside of History* co-edited with Eduardo Mendieta (Rowman & Littlefield, 2000); *Identity Politics Reconsidered* co-edited with Michael Hames-Garcia, Satya Mohanty and Paula Moya (Palgrave, 2006); and *Constructing the Nation: A Race and Nationalism Reader* co-edited with Mariana Ortega (SUNY 2009). She has also written for the *New York Times*, the *NY Independent*, and other publications. She is originally from Panama, but lives today happily in Brooklyn. For more info go to www.alcoff.com