The Department of Gender Studies
presents

Wibke Straube

Tactile Dissidence. Dance, Contagion and Exit Scapes in Trans Cinema

April 1, 2015, 2 pm, Nador 9, Gellner

According to dance scholar Jane Desmond, dance presents a “public political practice confirming, contravening, or rewriting social relations” (Desmond, 2001). Dance is closely connected to notions of sexuality, gender embodiment, proximities and boundaries. Wibke Straube will investigate in hir lecture the significance of dance scenes in contemporary feature films with gender-dissident main characters and will inquire the act of dancing as a negotiation of space as much as of sexual and gendered orientation (Ahmed, 2006). Moreover ze will explore the historical bond between dance and the tropes of proximity and touch (Shildrick, 2009). Dance, its historically association with an idea of contagion and this invites a discussion of the gender-dissident body as a threat towards the idea of bodily containment, autonomy and impermeability. Furthermore, Wibke will address the importance of dance sequences in Trans Cinema as spaces of futurity and utopian possibility.

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Wibke Straube, PhD, recently published hir doctoral thesis entitled Trans Cinema and its Exit Scapes. A Transfeminist Reading of Utopian Sensibility and Gender Dissidence in Contemporary Film (2014). The study focuses on utopian story-telling and world-making potential of song, dance and dream sequences in Trans Cinema. Wibke is member of the Posthumanities Hub at Tema Genus, Linköping University and affiliated with the Centre for Transdisciplinary Gender Studies at Humboldt-University, Berlin. Ze is part of the queer visual culture group of the Institute for Queer Theory in Berlin and has been involved in the organizing of the queer art exhibition Normal Love in Berlin as well as the Queer Film Festival in Hamburg. Wibke has an ongoing attachment to queerfeminist and transfeminist activism. Hir academic areas of interest are transgender studies, queer theory as well as feminist visual cultural studies with a focus on new feminist materialism, affect theory and queer phenomenology. Wibke lives and works in Berlin and Linköping.