

worlding bodies, situating technologies

geography meets feminist STS

2.- 4.06.2022, Schloss Burgdorf <https://schloss-burgdorf.ch/en/>

All sorts of technologies – old and new, analog and digital, medical and economic, big and small, quotidian and extraordinary etc. – are changing and challenging the constitution and limits of our body. The current pandemic once more shows how sick and healthy bodies arise in ecological and social relationality. They emerge from interscalar entanglements ranging from the microscopic scale of viruses and bacteria to global health politics. Un/healthy bodies are unevenly distributed across the globe with the pandemic showing the uneven intersectional geography of access to medical technologies and health infrastructures – not only a global but also national and local scale.

Feminist technosciences have been concerned with the embodied and biopolitical processes of sociotechnical innovations and the uneven effects of technologies on different bodies since their beginnings. Questions around the boundaries, global circulation and situatedness of bodies are also at the heart of (feminist) geography. Critical research on global health as well as medical anthropology have dealt with the enactment, emergence and global mobility of bodies, viruses, and body parts.

The Aim of the workshop is to bring scholars from the field of feminist STS, geography and the research network "Bios - Technologies - Health" into dialogue to discuss different theoretical approaches to understand the shifting boundaries and borders of human and non-human bodies in a globalized world.

«Worlding Bodies» - With the help of this concept, we want to understand how (technologised) bodies create new worlds beyond hegemonic forms of globalisation and reconfigure geographies and global power relations. In doing so, we understand bodies as agents that, in the course of their everyday world-making, create multiple worlds and world relations that cross the known routes, spaces and scales of globalisation. Worlding also serves as a perspective for exploring other worlds and other possible histories of the body and its worldly interconnectedness. It can be used to connect everyday practices of world-making to the unequally distributed infrastructures, economies, technologies and scientific knowledge that produce and sustain these everyday practices.

«Situating Technologies» – with this perspective, technologies and knowledge orders can be traced to the places of their emergence and everyday negotiation, and their global im/mobility and interconnectedness can be made visible and other possible ways of dealing with them can be worked out. The body can be understood here, in Adrienne Rich's words, "as the geography closest in", which, in the sense of Pratt and Rosner's scale concept of "global/intimate", is mutually constituted with global, national, and local phenomena such as

global financial and commodity flows, national population or migration policies, and local practices and communities.

Who and How? We would like to create a space of gathering and discussion in the scenic Swiss Mountains (Schloss Burgdorf near Bern) to approach a dialogue between current discussions of (feminist) geographies, feminist technosciences, critical global health studies and medical anthropology.

As a basis for this dialogue, we will start with a shared keynote lecture on the common concerns and different perspectives on bodies in their bio-, geo- and techno-political interconnections. On the second day, invited scholars will outline various concepts (such as assemblage, symbiosis, multiplicity, global intimate) with which bodies become analytically tangible in their spatial-relational interconnections. In the afternoon, parallel reading sessions will address current issues of global health, reproductive (geo)politics and the entanglement of the intimate with the global. Afterwards, there will be time for your creative, interactive contributions. On the third day, we will focus on the question of our politics of response in the world - our "response-ability" (Haraway 2016). For this we will talk about our experiences and possibilities of political intervention using the example of the struggles for reproductive justice and sexual self-determination among possible others.

Bios-Network – based on a shared research interest in questions at the intersection of bio-politics and governance, global circulation of vital services and objects, and the impact of technologies and discourses on the understanding of health, the research network "Bios - Technologies - Health" was constituted in 2016. Since then, we have discussed related concepts and research in biannual meetings. The network sees itself as a forum that offers a protected space for exchange and the generation of ideas with colleagues from different disciplines, fields, and career stages. In contrast to a conference or workshop, which is usually a one-off event, the network offers a longer-term framework and thus the chance to successively focus on certain issues. The meetings, which last several days, have so far allowed for in-depth debates and reflection on individual research. At present, more than 20 geographers, anthropologists and ethnologists from mainly German-speaking countries are working together in the network on an interdisciplinary basis.

Vorläufiges Programm (Stand 07.12.2021)

Wednesday June 1

16.00	Arriving and Coffee
16.30	Welcome address: Feminist Geographies of Technoscience
17.15	Lectures: Jutta Weber: Introducing Key Concepts of Feminist Technoscience Susanne Schultz: Bodies and Global Population Politics
19.00	Dinner

Thursday June 2

8.00	Breakfast
9.00	Yoga (voluntary)
9.30	Bodies as/in space – an interdisciplinary panel discussion A. Conceptualising space (Judith Miggelbrink) B. Bodies as/in space (Carolin Schurr) C. Worlding health (Iris Dzudzek) D. Psychosomaty and worlding bodies (Carolin Mezes)
11.00	Coffee break
11.30	Workshops/ Reading Sessions: A. Global health (Henning Füller) B. Obstetric violence (Roberto Castro, in Spanish) C. Body and Knowledge, Disability and Science (Heidi Kaspar)
13:00	Lunch
14.00	Walk-Talk to talk about own projects (Mara Linden)
15:30	Coffee break
16:00	Workshops/ Reading Sessions: D. Reproductive Justice (Julieta Chaparro-Buitrage and Yolinitzli Pérez-Hernández) E. Worlding with and through data (technologies) (Katrin Amelang) F. Politics of reproduction / Global Reproductive Chains (Sara Lafuente Funes)
17.30	Break
18.00	Dinner

Friday June 3

8.30	Breakfast
9.30	Yoga (voluntary)
10.00	Reponse-ability: Group discussions App-nographies: Positioning oneself in feminist technopolitical research (Mara & Tilma*n) Science communication: Bringing feminist technoscience into politics (Laura and Carolin) Experimenting with methods: body mapping and other methods (Susanne) Activist and creative research: Academia, activism and art (Iris)
12.00	Wrap up
13.00	Lunch and hiking

Organization:

Accommodation and meals (without alcohol) will be covered, allowances for travel costs should be paid by the participants themselves, but can be covered (partially) if needed. Food is vegetarian for all, please let us know if you have any other requests.

Bring along: Walking shoes, yoga mat, writing materials, texts, sunscreen.