

WOMEN AND THEIR BODY

HYBRID CONFERENCE:

O-Building, Pohlweg 51,
33098 Paderborn and Zoom

Registration is needed:

<https://indico.uni-paderborn.de/event/21>

MARCH, 15TH 2023, 14.15 - 17.30 - MASTERWORKSHOP

16TH AND 17TH 2023, 09.15-18.30 - INTERNATIONAL HYBRID CONFERENCE

ORGANIZED BY JIL MULLER



The conference *Women and their Body* aims at breaking the silence!

Together, the Humanities and the Cultural Studies take a stand on the explosive topic *Women's right over their Own Body*. Recent and even past events in numerous countries ask for a statement, formulated by many scholars from different research fields.

Recent events have shown that it is urgent and fundamentally important to shed new light, through philosophical, linguistic, literary, scientific, medical, and artistic perspectives, on the female body and the position of women in relation to their body. Too often it seems that women do not have the right to determine their own body, although men have never been deprived of this right. The question of power over the body is strongly linked to the distinction between men and women. It seems that men have more rights and power on their own body than women. But how is this possible? What is the status of the female body in culture and society? Why is the female body both, an object of desire and a battlefield for demonstrating

male power? To what extent have medicine and technology interfered in recent years with the female body and with what consequences?

The Program can be found here:

<https://historyofwomenphilosophers.org/new-voices-conference-women-and-their-body/>

For further information or any question, please feel free to send an email to contact@historyofwomenphilosophers.org

The Conference
Organiser

Dr. Jil Muller

Director of the Center
of the history of
women Philosophers
and Scientists

Dr. Ruth E.
Hagengruber

Welcome from Elke Ferner, President of UN Women Germany

Dear participants, dear speakers, dear organizers, thank you very much for this important conference. The bodily autonomy of women and girls is one of the fundamental prerequisites on the way to gender equality, in Germany and worldwide. To decide freely and self-determined about one's own body and sexuality is a fundamental human right.

This right needs to be granted by providing a free access to contraception, by supporting pregnant women to make a self-determined decision and by providing free access to safe abortion.

However, worldwide, too many women do not enjoy the right of bodily autonomy. In Germany and in other countries around the world, bodily self-determination is legally restricted - in Germany abortion is a punishable offense since more than 150 years. There exist only few exceptions when pregnant women und

doctors remain unpunished when it comes to an abortion.

Behind the restrictions are certain gender images. To this day, many governments, religious institutions, and even private individuals regard women's bodies as a property over which the state, the society, and her family have a say – but not women themselves. When women rebel against this and insist on their rights, they are criticized as opponents of traditional family values, or they are defamed as murderers.

An important measure to enable women and girls to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights and decide freely about their bodies is to empower women and girls in all areas and at all levels of society. Women must have an equal say at all levels of decision-making, for example in national parliaments and governments.

Girls must learn from an early age that they themselves - and only they - decide about their bodies, on the number of children and when to become a mother. At the same time, we must teach boys to take over

responsibility contraception as well and to respect physical boundaries at an early age. We need a society where every body is a good body. In which we condemn and sanction sexism and the sexualization of women's bodies.

Another effective means of finally realizing the right to bodily self-determination and sexuality for all women is: attention. We need exchange, publicity and expertise for this topic. That is why I am delighted that this conference is devoting three days to this important topic, with top-class speakers from all over the world.

Thank you for your commitment! As a president of UN Women Germany, I wish you an exciting conference, a fruitful exchange and all of us much success on the way to bodily self-determination and gender equality!

Program:

**Women and their body - Workshop Master Students-
15th March 2023**

**The Workshop will be moderated by Dr. Jil Muller and
Felix Grewe.**

Everyone is welcome to attend the Workshop.

<i>14h30</i>	Welcome/Registration
14h55	Female Body in Literature: The Vegetarian Ingrid Mae H. de Jesus
15h20	Writing Travails - On Maternity and Corporality in Hélène Cixous's Écriture Féminine Charlotte Bomert
<i>15h45</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>
16h00	Breast Cancer Survivor Narratives and Identity Power

	Tara Mastrelli
16h25	Media Photography as a Tool for Objectification Silan Daglar
16h50	The New Sex Wars? Women's Bodies and the Feminist Polarization regarding Sex Work Kaja Kröger
17h15	<i>Final Remarks</i>

Women and their Body - International Conference

Day 2: 16th March 2023

	Panel 1	Panel 2
9.30	<i>Welcome</i>	<i>Welcome</i>
	Session: Ancient Period	Session: Digital Technologies and Cyborg
10.00	<p>Sappho and the Body in Desire Chelsea Harry <i>Southern Connecticut State University</i></p>	<p>The Reinvention of the human body: Cyborgs, String Figures and new Boundaries Felix Grewe <i>Paderborn University</i></p>
10.30	<p>Leontion and Epicurean Woman Body Enrico Piergiacomini</p>	<p>Women's body and digital technologies: disembodied freedom or reproduction of social hierarchies? Annalisa Cananzi <i>University of Bologna</i></p>

	<i>Bruno Kessler Foundation, Trento</i>	
		Session: Contemporary thoughts
11.00	The real body-the imaginative body. Women and their bodies in the ancient Greek drama George N. Vlahakis <i>Hellenic Open University</i>	Oblique paths to truth. Myth and bodily elements in Simone Weil, Jeanne Hersch and María Zambrano Piergiacomo Severini <i>Università G. d'Annunzio di Chieti- Pescara</i>
11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>
	Session: Medicine	
11.45	Theoretically contended: the female body in 13th-century theology, anthropology, and	Mothers matter! Mother(hood) as material-discursive entanglement Lisa Krall

	<p>natural philosophy</p> <p>Amalia Cerrito</p> <p><i>University of Pisa</i></p>	<p><i>University of Cologne</i></p>
12.15	<p>Losing a Part of You? On the Philosophical Relevance of Miscarriage and other Forms of Pregnancy Loss</p> <p>Amber L. Griffioen</p> <p><i>Duke Kunshan University</i></p>	<p>“Throwing like a girl”, “spreading like a man”? Body, power, and the sense of being in the right</p> <p>Henning Nörenberg</p> <p><i>University of Rostock</i></p>
12.45	Lunch	Lunch
14.00	<p>Female Reproductive Bodies and the Shift from Risk to Threat Society</p> <p>Julia Schneider</p> <p><i>Paderborn University</i></p>	<p>The theoretical construction of female embodiment in the early feminist phenomenological framework of Iris Marion Young</p> <p>Ariadni Polychroniou</p> <p><i>University of Athens</i></p>

		Session: Culture and Religion
14.30	A New Logos for Genos: Approaching a Philosophy of Birth Stella Villaranea <i>University of Madrid</i>	The Challenge of Menstrual Shame in South-Asian Cultures: A Phenomenological Study Gaganjot Kaur <i>University of Delhi</i>
15.00	Menstrual temporality: Cyclic bodies in a linear world Sarah Pawlett-Jackson <i>St Mellitus College</i>	A Comparative Study of Women's Body as Ritual Containment in African Indigenous Churches and African Indigenous Religion in South-Western Nigeria Ayegboyin Abimbola <i>Bowen University Iwo</i>
15.30	<i>Coffee break</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>
15.45	The experience of dysmenorrhea	Tenderness towards the body as a

	<p>Carlota Serrahima <i>University of Barcelona</i></p>	<p>cognitive, ethical and aesthetic imperative</p> <p>Natalia Anna Michna <i>Jagiellonian University in Kraków</i></p>
16.15	<p>Been Seen whilst hidden</p> <p>Ainhoa Rodriguez <i>University of the Basque Country</i></p>	<p>The Politics of Embodiment, Intersectionality, and Recognition</p> <p>Shadi Heidarifar <i>University of Florida</i></p>
16.45	<p>Current Neuroimaging Research into Hysteria and its Ambiguous Relation to the Traumatized Female Body</p> <p>Paula Muhr <i>Karlsruhe Institute of Technology</i></p>	<p>The Reproduction of Power Imbalances: a holistic, abolitionist approach to social injustice</p> <p>Susan Stark <i>Bates College</i></p>
17.15	<i>Coffee break</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>

17.30	The Politics of the Thyroid. Re-Claiming One's Own Metabolism Urszula Lisowska <i>University of Wrocław</i>	Body as a Miniature of Cosmos: Female Daoist Embodied Thinking Robin Wang <i>Loyola Marymount University</i>
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Day 3: 17th March 2023

	Panel 1	Panel 2
	Session: Literature and Film	Session: Violence
10.00	Female Body and Freedom: Controversy of Life or Social Dilemma in Marko Vovchok's Narrations Olga Gomilko <i>National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine</i>	Epistemic anti-female* violence and its consequences for the female* body Björn Freter <i>University of London</i>

<p>10.30</p>	<p>Oral Storytelling, the Female Body and Counter-Hegemonic Narrative in Grace Paley’s “Goodbye and Good Luck”</p> <p>Shira Levy</p> <p><i>Ben-Gurion University</i></p>	<p>Keeping Birthing Bodies Grotesque - Or Resisting Obstetric Violence through Crip Phenomenology</p> <p>Sara Cohen Shabot</p> <p><i>University of Haifa</i></p>
<p>11.00</p>	<p>Resisting Reproductive Rights Abuses: Womanhood and Motherhood in Contemporary American Short Fiction</p> <p>Zsuzsanna Lénárt-Muszk</p> <p><i>University of Debrecen, Hungary</i></p>	<p>Body as obstacle, nature as unjust, Reconsidering somatophobia in Beauvoir and Firestone</p> <p>Katja Čičigoj</p> <p><i>Institute of Philosophy, Klagenfurt University</i></p>
<p>11.30</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>

11.45	Arca as Demiurge: How she builds her own body S. Simone Spinelli <i>University of Lüneburg</i>	Autonomy, Gender Violence and the Burdens of the Oppressed Body Evina Glantzi <i>University of Athens</i>
		Session: Politics
12.15	Female body: a site of rebellion Noemi Fregara <i>University of Rome</i>	Selective Permeability, Political Affordances and the Gendering of Cities Matthew Crippen and Xiaoyue Wei <i>Pusan National University</i>
12.45	Lunch	Lunch
	Session: Arts and Architecture	
14.00	The Progression of 20th Century Dance Norms as a Model of	Beauty practices and Ukrainian

	<p>Feminist Sexual Liberation</p> <p>Tyler D. Farmer</p> <p><i>University of California</i></p>	<p>women refugees: another double bias</p> <p>Mariya Shcherbyna</p> <p><i>V. Dahl's East Ukrainian National University</i></p>
14.30	<p>The panoptic gaze: Female body and architectural space</p> <p>Irene Breuer</p> <p><i>University of Wuppertal</i></p>	<p>No one releases anyone's hand: attacks on Brazilian women reproductive rights during Jair Bolsonaro's government</p> <p>Anastasia Guidi Itokazu + Camila Ribeiro Andrade</p> <p><i>Federal University of ABC</i></p>
15.00	<p>Divine and Demonic. A Matter of Power and Femininity</p> <p>Benedetta Milani</p> <p><i>University of Lüneburg</i></p>	<p>Abortion in the US and birthing people</p> <p>Madhavi Mohan</p> <p><i>Western University</i></p>

15.30	Coffee break	Coffee break
	Session: Early Modern Period	Session: Sexuality and Prostitution
15.45	<p>On being ‘indisposed’ to study and work or the discourse of the Victorian women’s menstruation</p> <p>Elżbieta Filipow <i>University of Warsaw</i></p>	<p>A Feminist Critique of the Objectification of the Female Body</p> <p>Aura-Elena Schussler <i>Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania</i></p>
16.15	<p>Distractibility: gender perspectives on mental presence starting from Mary Wollstonecraft and Jane Austen</p> <p>Carmen Guarino <i>Palermo University</i></p>	<p>The Virgin Thinker. On Women Denying the Sexual Marketplace</p> <p>Sandra Markewitz <i>University of Vechta</i></p>
16.45	<p>“Do women think with their body?” Descartes,</p>	<p>Dancing With Difference: Transsexual</p>

	Malebranche, Poulain de la Barre Marie-Frédérique Pellegrin <i>University Jean Moulin, Lyon III</i>	Sadomasochism as a General Economy Hassan Ali <i>University of Memphis</i>
17.15	<i>Coffee break</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>
17.30	Anne Conway and the Feminine: Between Receptacle and Embodied Thought Emanuele Costa <i>Vanderbilt University</i>	Surrogacy, Prostitution, and Women’s Autonomy Laura Martin <i>Northwestern University</i>

Evening Event: 18.15 pm, Room E2.122
***Feminist Interventions – Experimental Film and the
Female Body*** a short film program curated and
introduced by Annette Brauerhoch

Presentation of the speakers

Workshop Master Students

Ingrid Mae H. De Jesus

Ingrid Mae H. De Jesus graduated *cum laude* from the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman in 2019 with a baccalaureate degree in Philosophy. At present De Jesus is an instructor in the Department of Philosophy at UP Diliman, mainly handling Philosophy 1: Philosophical Analysis classes. She specializes in the study of Philosophy in Media and Pop-culture as well as in Asian Philosophy and Belief Systems with a focus on classical Chinese schools of thought, specifically Confucianism. Her other fields of interest include Gender Studies and Feminist Philosophy. In 2022, two of her essays on Neo-Confucian feminist philosopher Im Yunjidang have been published online in the Encyclopedia of Concise Concepts by Women Philosophers; while her article "What Sartre Knew About Social Media" has been included in the first volume of Cache: A Philosophy Digest in 2021; a publication of the Apeiron Core Group of UP Diliman. De Jesus was also a contributor in UP Korea Research Center's K-Libro Project in 2022, a project where Korean literature enthusiasts and readers get to share and recommend books by providing a short review of

the material. Recently, De Jesus is pursuing her master's degree in philosophy at the University of the Philippines- Diliman.

Charlotte Bomert

Charlotte Bomert studied philosophy and sociology in Kiel, Vienna, and Jerusalem. She is currently completing her master's degree with an investigation into how other aesthetic, affective and/or semiotic modalities of the subjectivation of (biophysical) subjects are emerging in and against the capitalistically organized modernity.

Her general research interests are in political and social philosophy, psychoanalysis, French and Marxist theory, and contemporary critical theories.

Tara Mastrelli

Tara Mastrelli is a graduate student in philosophy and gender and sexuality studies at the New School for Social Research. Broadly, she is interested in the ways in which lived experience can make visible structures of meaning, and how this understanding shapes our actions in the world. Her current research draws from her embodied experience as a post-mastectomy woman and breast cancer survivor, examining the ways in which gender identity power is wielded by dominant survivor narratives.

Şilan Dağlar Göç

Şilan Dağlar Göç received her B.A. in Philosophy from Bilkent University. Now she is studying German-Turkish Social Sciences Master (GeT MA) at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. She is an assistant at CCRD and WZB, and interested in urban squares, gender politics and feminism. Her BA Thesis was on “Media Photography as a Tool for Objectification: Pirelli Calendars and UNICEF Photography.” Her MA Thesis now is on “The Relationship Established with Modernization Through Symbolic Squares: Ulus Square vs. Brandenburg Gate & Parisier Square.”

Kaja Kröger

Kaja Kröger is finishing her MA program in philosophy at University of Hildesheim. She is currently working on her master's thesis on the role of morality in marxist philosophy and the thought of Alexandra Kollontai. Her research interests include the history of feminist currents, feminist epistemology and marxist thought.

Session: Ancient Period

Chelsea Harry

(Associate Professor of Philosophy at Southern Connecticut State University, USA)

Chelsea C. Harry, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of Philosophy and Assistant Chairperson at Southern Connecticut State University (USA). She is a philosopher of nature with historical specialties in ancient Greek and late 18th-19th Century German thought whose research interests include: Aristotle, temporality, ancient science, Schelling, non-human animal flourishing, Schelling, classical reception, Sappho, and contemporary problems, e.g. sustainability and the environment. She is the author of Chronos in Aristotle's Physics: on the Nature of Time (Springer 2015), and the co-editor (with J. Habash) of Brill's Companion to the Reception of Presocratic Natural Philosophy in Later Classical Thought (Brill 2021). She has published numerous articles and book chapters in her areas of research, in addition to a journal special issue on *Schelling and the Environment (Environment, Space, Place, 2022)*. Dr. Harry is the founder and director of Philosophy in the Schools New Haven, a community outreach project in public philosophy, and the Associate Editor of *Metaphilosophy*. Forthcoming work includes a monograph on Aristotle and non-human animal well-

being, an edited collection (with G. Vlahakis) for the Springer series *Women in the History of Philosophy and Sciences*, and three book chapters on Sappho.

Enrico Piergiacomi

(Assistant Professor at the Technion, Israel Institute of Technology of Haifa)

Enrico Piergiacomi is assistant professor in history of philosophy at the Technion | Israel Institute of Technology and visiting researcher at the Center for Religious Sciences of the Bruno Kessler Foundation of Trento. He was recipient of the international grant *The Reception of Lucretius and Roman Epicureanism from the Middle Ages to the Eighteenth century* (2019-2020) and fellow at Villa I Tatti | The Harvard Center for Italian Renaissance Studies (2021-2022), where he carried on the project *The Pleasures of Piety. The History of a Neglected Religious Tradition*. He specializes in ancient/modern theological thought and its moral implications. He published two books: *Storia delle antiche teologie atomiste* (Sapienza Editrice, Rome 2017) and *Amicus Lucretius. Gassendi, il "De rerum natura" e l'edonismo cristiano* (De Gruyter, Berlin-New York 2022).

George N. Vlahakis

**(Associate Professor at Hellenic Open University,
Greece)**

George N. Vlahakis is an associate professor of History of Science and Philosophy, School of Humanities, Hellenic Open University. He is Director of the M.Sc. Program “Science Communication” and of the M.A. Program “Philosophy and the Arts”. He is member of several academic societies and organizations. He is President of the Commission for Science and Literature DHST/IUHPST, Secretary of the History of Physics Group/European Physical Society and Correspondent member of the International Academy of the History of Sciences. He has published a large number of papers and books in English and Greek and has organized and participated in many national and international Conferences.

Session: Digital Technologies and Cyborg

Felix Grewe

**(Assistant Researcher at Paderborn University,
Germany)**

Felix Grewe is research fellow at the *Center for the History of Women Philosophers and Scientists* at Paderborn University. His research focuses on Gender Philosophy, Feminist Philosophy, Philosophy of Technology/STEM-Fields and the work of Donna J. Haraway. Currently he is writing his dissertation (working title: Donna Haraway: On the re-definition of boundaries of sex, gender and bio-mechanical species).

Annalisa Cananzi

(Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Bologna, Italy)

Annalisa Cananzi is a Ph.D. student in the field of feminist political theory at the University of Bologna. She is currently working on the relation between feminist theory and technology, focusing from a feminist perspective on the impact of algorithm on the reproduction of social hierarchies.

Session: Contemporary Thoughts

Piergiacomo Severini

(Researcher at Università G. d'Annunzio di Chieti-Pescara)

Piergiacomo Severini graduated in Philosophical Sciences at the University of Macerata. He was visiting PhD student at the University of Zurich and earned his PhD title in Human Sciences at the University G. d'Annunzio of Chieti-Pescara in 2021, with the additional title of Doctor Europaeus. His PhD thesis on Jeanne Hersch, entitled "Being is doing with. Freedom and Existence in Jeanne Hersch," has been published in November 2022. Actually, his research revolves around philosophical reflections which bind the existing human being to the natural world.

Lisa Krall

(Research Assistant at University of Cologne, Germany)

Dr. Lisa Krall received her PhD at University of Cologne and worked on a project bringing feminist science studies and epigenetics in conversation as you can read in her book "Epigenetik als Intra-aktion. Diffraktives Lesen umweltepigenetischer Studien mit Karen Barads agentiellem Realismus" (2023, transcript). Since 2015 she is a research assistant at University of Cologne where she teaches in the field of Gender

Studies. Prior she was a research assistant at University of Bielefeld where she received her master's degree in Gender Studies. Her main research comprises feminist science studies and feminist new materialisms. In her new project she focuses on mothering and mothers as material-discursive entanglements. Contact: lkrall@uni-koeln.de

Henning Nörenberg

(Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Rostock, Germany)

Henning Nörenberg is Postdoctoral Researcher at the Department of Philosophy in Rostock, Germany. He has published on various topics in phenomenology, social ontology, political philosophy, and philosophy of religion. His current work focuses on shared normative backgrounds and their bodily-affective dimension (“deontological feelings”).

Ariadni Polychroniou

(Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Athens, Greece)

Ariadni Polychroniou has studied law (LL.B) in the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and has been working for the last six years as a lawyer specialized mainly in public law. She has obtained her LL.M. in Philosophy of Law from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece and her second Master Degree in Gender Studies from Umeå

University, Sweden. She has been, since 2019, a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of History and Theory of Law at the Law School of Athens. Her doctoral thesis is co-financed by Greece and the European Union (European Social Fund-ESF) through the Operational Programme “Human Resources Development, Education and Lifelong Learning” in the context of the Act “Enhancing Human Resources Research Potential by undertaking a Doctoral Research.” For the spring semester 2021-2022, she has been selected to teach Sociology of Law, Gender and Law and Literature and Law in assistant courses for undergraduate students. Her main research and academic interests focus on critical legal theory, post-structuralist feminist theory, feminist phenomenology, as well as critical refugee studies, social movement and democratic theory. Her most recent research papers include “Towards a Critical Reconstruction of Modern Refugee Subjectivity: Overcoming the Threat–Victim Bipolarity with Judith Butler and Giorgio Agamben” (*Open Philosophy* 4 (1), 2021, 252-268) and “Towards a Radical Feminist Resignification of Vulnerability: A Critical Juxtaposition of Judith Butler’s Post-structuralist Philosophy and Martha Fineman’s Legal Theory” (*Redescriptions: Political Thought, Conceptual History and Feminist Theory* 25 (2), 113–136.) She has also worked as an intern and an external collaborator in the National Bioethics Committee of Greece, the Greek

Council for Refugees, the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy and ActionAid.

Session: Medicine

Amalia Cerrito

**(Associate Member of the Center for the Study of
Medicine and the Body in the Renaissance, Pisa,
Italy)**

Amalia Cerrito is an Associate Member of the Center for the Study of Medicine and the Body in the Renaissance, Pisa, and a “Cultore della Materia” in History of Medieval Philosophy and Medieval Philosophy and Theology at the University of Pisa. She obtained her Ph.D. in History of Philosophy at the University of Pisa and the University of Florence (2021). She has published on the interaction between natural philosophy and biblical exegesis in Albert the Great and commentary techniques in his *De vegetabilibus et plantis*. Her recent publications are devoted to the theoretical background of the 13th century’s natural philosophy and the influence of Neoplatonism on medieval zoology, botany, and embryology. In 2022, her doctoral dissertation was awarded a *Santorio Award for Excellence in Research*, and it will be published in July 2023 in a monography titled “Albert the Great (c. 1193-1280) and the Configuration of the Embryo. *Virtus Formativa*” (Springer, Palgrave Studies in Medieval and Early

Modern Medicine book series). Currently, her research focuses on medieval theories of genetic inheritance in medical, philosophical, and theological discussions between 12th and 14th century.

Amber L. Griffioen

(Visiting Associate Professor of Philosophy at Duke Kunshan University, China)

Amber Griffioen is Visiting Associate Professor of Philosophy at Duke Kunshan University. Her research interests include topics in philosophy of religion, ethics, social philosophy, the history of philosophy, and philosophy of sport. She is currently working on a book for Bloomsbury Press aimed at broadening the borders of analytic philosophy of religion, and her co-edited volume, *Pluralizing Philosophy's Past*, will be appearing with Palgrave-Springer in the next few months. She has recently published two papers on the philosophical theology of pregnancy loss and is working on the development of a new interdisciplinary project on the metaphysics and theology of pregnancy in light of pregnancy loss.

Julia Schneider

(Ph.D. Candidate at Paderborn University)

Julia Schneider is a PhD student and a research assistant for Prof. Tönnies at the University of Paderborn. Her doctoral research centres on female

liminal bodies in dystopian young adult fiction. She completed her master's degree in English and American Studies at the University of Paderborn in 2018. Among her key research areas are contemporary young adult fiction and 19th-century Gothic fiction. She is the author of the articles "Birth without a Woman: Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* in the Context of Eighteenth-Century Ideas on Birth, Motherhood and Midwifery", which was published in the series 'anglistik & englischunterricht' (Winter Verlag) in 2020 and "Performing Utopia? The Contestation of Dystopian Space in Cecelia Ahern's *Flawed-Series*", which was published in the series Contemporary Drama in English Studies, (De Gruyter) in 2022.

Stella Villarnea

(University of Madrid, Spain)

Stella Villarnea is [Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Complutense University of Madrid](#), and [Associate Faculty Member in Philosophy at the University of Oxford](#). She is a main contributor to the emergent field of the philosophy of birth. With an expertise in epistemology and feminism, her works address the philosophical relation between knowledge and emancipation. She has published on conceptual innovation and scepticism, as well as on Wittgenstein, Kant, and Levinas.

She currently leads a Programme of Excellence on the [Philosophy of Birth \(PHILBIRTH-2\)](#), funded by the Government of Madrid (2021-24). As a Marie S. Curie Fellow at the University of Oxford, she led the research project, ['Controversies in Childbirth: from Epistemology to Practices \(VOICES\)](#), funded by the European Commission (2018-20). As the principal investigator of the project, 'Philosophy of Birth: Rethinking the Origin from Medical (PHILBIRTH-1)', funded by the Ministry of Economy in Spain, she coordinated an interdisciplinary team of philosophers, health practitioners and social scientists around childbirth and birth care (2016-19). She has been Speaker of the International Association of Women Philosophers (IAPH) and is a Member in the Steering and Gender Committees of [The International Federation of Philosophical Associations \(FISP\)](#).

Sarah Pawlett-Jackson

**(Lecturer and Tutor at the St Mellitus College,
London, Great Britain)**

Sarah Pawlett Jackson is a philosopher with primary research interests in Phenomenology, Intersubjectivity and Embodiment. She is a Tutor at the University of London and a Lecturer at St Mellitus College, London.

Carlota Serrahima

(Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Barcelona, Spain)

Carlota Serrahima is a postdoctoral fellow at the ERC-funded project “Rethinking Conscious Agency,” based at the University of Barcelona. She is a philosopher of mind specialised in bodily awareness, self-consciousness, and their interactions with phenomenal consciousness more generally. She is currently applying her research to the investigation of the peculiarities and philosophical significance of specific affective phenomena such as menstrual pain or anxiety. She also has held postdoctoral positions at the Centre for Philosophical Psychology in Antwerp and the Institut Jean Nicod in Paris.

Ainhoa Rodriguez

(Philosophy of Medicine Ph.D. Student at the University of the Basque Country, Spain)

Ainhoa Rodriguez-Muguruza is a Philosophy of Medicine Ph.D. Student at the University of the Basque Country. Her research analyses the biological, medical and, feminist perspectives on non-normative reproductive health, the functionality of menstrual cycles, and tendencies supporting menstrual suppression through medicalised procedures. At this stage of her research, she has underlined the

invisibilisation of menstruating bodies in clinical research, exploring methodological considerations that could prevent menstruating subjects from continuing being misrepresented and that could allow to produce an accurate, inclusive, intersectional, and safe body of research. Her approach is both scientific and phenomenological, proving the interdisciplinary nature of philosophy.

Paula Muhr

(Postdoctoral Researcher at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany)

Paula Muhr is a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute for History of Art and Architecture, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) and a visual artist. She studied visual arts, art history, theory of literature, and physics before receiving her Ph.D. in visual studies from the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and a postgraduate diploma in fine arts (Meisterschülerin) from the Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst Leipzig. Her transdisciplinary research is at the intersection of visual studies, image theory, media studies, science and technology studies (STS), and history and philosophy of science. She examines knowledge-producing functions of new imaging and visualisation technologies in natural sciences, ranging from neuroscience over medicine to physics.

Urszula Lisowska

**(Assistant Professor at University of Wrocław,
Poland)**

Urszula Lisowska is Assistant Professor at the Institute of Philosophy at the University of Wrocław. She has published a book on Martha Nussbaum's capability approach (*Imagination, Art and Justice – Martha Nussbaum's Capabilities Approach as the Foundation of Egalitarian Liberalism* – in Polish; 2017). Her most recent papers appeared in *Environmental Values* and *Environmental Philosophy*. Her research focuses on political philosophy and her current interests include the following topics (and their intersections): the foundations of politics in the Anthropocene, the political importance of wonder, as well as (the feminist articulations of) embodied agency.

Session: Culture and Religion

Gaganjot Kaur

(Assistant Professor at the University of Delhi, India)

Gaganjot Kaur is an Assistant Professor at Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi, (Delhi, India) and has been teaching Philosophy to undergraduate students since 2011. She is also currently pursuing her Ph.D. from the Department of Philosophy (University of

Delhi) on Maurice Merleau-Ponty's phenomenology and ontology, primarily focusing on his manuscript *The Visible and the Invisible*. For her MPhil dissertation, she worked on Buddhist meditation in Early Buddhism. Besides her formal education and training in the discipline of Philosophy, she has a keen interest in the areas of feminism and gender.

Ayegboyin Abimbola

(Bowen University Iwo, Nigeria)

Natalia Anna Michna

**(Assistant Professor at Jagiellonian University in
Kraków, Poland)**

Natalia Anna Michna is an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Philosophy, at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. She is the main researcher of the project 'The Roman Ingarden Digital Archive'. She is deputy editor-in-chief of the philosophical-aesthetic quarterly "The Polish Journal of Aesthetics". Michna is the author of *Women and Culture. The Problem of Experience in Feminist Philosophy* (2018). Her research interests concern feminist philosophy, contemporary art, and women's history.

Shadi Heidarifar

(Ph.D. Candidate in Philosophy at the University of Florida, USA)

Shadi Heidarifar is a Ph.D. candidate in the philosophy department at the University of Florida. Prior to her Ph.D. degree, she studied at the University of Western Ontario in Canada and the University of Tehran in Iran. Her research interests include feminist philosophy, embodied cognition theory, and social epistemology.

Susan Stark

(Professor of Philosophy at Bates College, USA)

Susan Stark is Professor of Philosophy and the Division Chair for Humanities at Bates College in Maine, USA. Her current work focuses on ethics and social philosophy, especially on reparations for historic injustices, on what it means to be responsible for wrongdoing, and on reproductive injustice and reproductive flourishing.

Robin Wang

(Professor of Philosophy Loyola Marymount University, USA)

Robin R. Wang is Professor of Philosophy at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles and The Berggruen fellow (2016-17) at The Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University. Her

teaching and research center on Chinese and Comparative Philosophy, particularly on Daoist Philosophy, Women and Gender. She is the author of *Yinyang: The Way of Heaven and Earth in Chinese Thought and Culture* (Cambridge University Press, 2012) and editor of *Chinese Philosophy in an Era of Globalization*, (SUNY Press, 2004) and *Images of Women in Chinese Thought and Culture: Writings from the Pre-Qin Period to the Song Dynasty* (Hackett, 2003).

Session: Literature and Film

Olga Gomilko

(Professor at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine)

Olga Gomilko is a Doctor of Philosophy, a Professor, Leading Researcher of H. Skovoroda Institute of Philosophy (Department of Philosophy of Culture, Ethics, Aesthetics) of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. Her research areas are social/political philosophy, philosophy of education, philosophical anthropology, philosophy of culture, and environmental philosophy. The key subject of her research is the human body in its philosophical implications. She published the book “Metaphysics of the Human body”, and more than 160 articles. She

teaches at Kyiv Mohyla National University (Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies), and Ukrainian State Dragomanov University (Department of Social Philosophy and Philosophy of Education). Her teaching courses are “Social (Political) Philosophy”, “Ontology of the Human Body”, “Philosophy of Music”, “Animal Philosophy”. She is Fulbright Scholar (Pennsylvania State University, 1998-1999).
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Shira Levy

(Ph.D. Candidate at Ben-Gurion University, Israel)

Shira Levy is a Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Foreign Literatures and Linguistics at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, currently completing her dissertation on storytelling and queer temporality in Grace Paley’s poetry and prose. She also works as a translator and editor for various literary projects and has acted as deputy editor of the Hebrew edition of Granta Magazine.

Zsuzsanna Lénárt-Muszk

(Lecturer at the University of Debrecen, Hungary)

Dr. Zsuzsanna Lénárt-Muszka (lenartmuszkazs@arts.unideb.hu) teaches at the North American Department of the Institute of English and American Studies, University of Debrecen, Hungary. She received her doctorate from the University of

Debrecen (2021); the title of her dissertation is *Mothers in the Wake of Slavery: The Im/possibility of Motherhood in Post-1980 African American Women's Prose*. Her research interests include the representations of violence and embodiment in contemporary North-American short fiction.

S. Simone Spinelli

**(Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Lüneburg,
Germany)**

S. Simone Spinelli is an Italian transgender woman, who has been living and working for five years in Hamburg, Germany. She studied Philosophy in Italy (Università della Calabria), where she graduated with a thesis about the concepts of prohibition and transgression in moral philosophy. In 2016, she moved to Hamburg and continued her research at the University of Hamburg, graduating in 2019 with a thesis about Arnold Gehlen and his theory of art. Since December 2020 she is Ph.D. candidate at the Leuphana Universität Lüneburg; her work is about Georges Bataille and the relevance of his philosophy (and in particular his idea of transgression) for the contemporary debate on body, gender and sexuality.

Noemi Fregara

(Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Rome, Italy)

Noemi Fregara graduated in Modern, Postcolonial and Comparative Literatures at the University of Bologna with full marks with a degree thesis regarding the representation of plants and animals in Wisława Szymborska's works from a posthuman perspective. She is now attending a PhD in Polish and English Literature at the University of Rome "Tor Vergata" with a thesis about a comparative analysis between two novels, that are *Drive your Plow over the Bones of the Dead* (2009) by Olga Tokarczuk and *Under the Skin* (2000) by Michel Faber.

Session: Violence

Björn Freter

(Lecturer at the University of London, Great Britain)

Björn Freter received his doctorate with his thesis »On Facticity and Existentiality« in 2014 from Free University, Berlin, Germany. He lives in Knoxville, TN, USA, and works as a Lecturer in World Philosophy at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, UK. His research fields include political philosophy, African philosophy, animal ethics, the phenomenology of normativity, and literary studies. He has published on a wide variety of topics, including pre-Socratic philosophy, Baroque and Classical German literature as well as Decolonization,

White Supremacy, and Veganism. His current main research project aims at the Desuperiorization of Philosophy, i.e., developing a radically anti-oppressive moral philosophy, and at the Foundation of Superaltern Studies, a research area investigating the Western superiorist traditions and its self-representation as global moral authority.

Sara Cohen Shabot

**(Associate Professor at the University of Haifa,
Israel)**

Sara Cohen Shabot is Associate Professor at the Women's and Gender Studies Program, the University of Haifa. She specializes in phenomenology, feminist philosophy, and philosophies of the body. Her present research and publications address feminist philosophical perspectives on childbirth and the maternal embodied subject. Lately, her research has focused on the phenomenon of obstetric violence as gender violence – and she has published several papers looking at this subject from different philosophical perspectives in journals such as Human Studies, Feminist Theory, The European Journal of Women's Studies and Hypatia. (scohensh@univ.haifa.ac.il)

Katja Čičigoj

**(Research assistant at Klagenfurt University,
Austria)**

Katja Čičigoj is a research assistant and lecturer at the Institute of Philosophy, Klagenfurt University, and a PhD candidate in philosophy at Paderborn University. She has published on Deleuze and Guattari, feminist materialisms, Shulamith Firestone and Simone de Beauvoir. She has translated Shulamith Firestone's *The Dialectic of Sex* into Slovene (2019) and is currently editing a volume on feminist utopias of care and reproduction (out in 2023), and co-editing a special issue of *Feminist Encounters* on feminist techno-imaginaries (out in 2025).

Evangelia Aikaterini Glantzi

**(Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Athens,
Greece)**

Evangelia Aikaterini Glantzi is a postdoctoral researcher in philosophy of law at the School of Law of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Greece). She received her Ph.D. in 2020 from the School of Law of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Greece). Her dissertation title was “Gender and Internalized Oppression: Personal Autonomy, Gender Violence and Justice”. Her research interests include philosophy of law, feminist

philosophy, social and political philosophy, theories of personal autonomy and history of women philosophers. Her more recent articles include: Autonomy Skills in Liberal Dependency Care. On Asha Bhandary's Freedom to Care. *Ethics, Politics & Society*, 5(1), 2022, 125–137, and Gender and Equality between Women and Men in Tullia d'Aragona's *Dialogue on the Infinity of Love*. In: Ebbersmeyer S., Paganini G. (eds). *Women, Philosophy and Science. Women in the History of Philosophy and Sciences*, vol 4., 2020, Springer, Cham.

Session: Politics

Matthew Crippen

(Researcher at Pusan National University, Japan)

Matthew Crippen focuses on history, embodied cognitive science, and cross-cultural value theory informed by one another and orbiting ecological concerns. A recipient of awards, he has about 45 publications, plus a Columbia University Press book. Outside the academy, he has worked as a musician, mandolin and guitar instructor, and gymnastics coach.

Xiaoyue Wei

(Researcher at Pusan National University, Japan)

Xiaoyue Wei focuses on public policy, urban affairs, computational analysis, and gender equality. She has

partnered with Matthew Crippen on several research projects examining how ecosocial spaces selectively admit people according to various demographic factors. She has been admitted to the University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy.

Mariya Shcherbyna

(Associate Professor of V. Dahl's East Ukrainian National University / Visiting Professor at Politecnico di Torino)

Mariya Shcherbyna is a Visiting Professor at the Department of Management and Production Engineering, and member of Gender research Group, at the Politecnico di Torino, in Italy, and Associate Professor, at the Department of Philosophy, Culture studies and Information Activities, at V. Dahl's East Ukrainian National University, in Ukraine. Her main research interests are gender studies, human rights, womanhood/herstory, antidiscrimination in school textbooks and educational content, myth and stereotypes in everyday life. Her main projects now deal with 1) ideal STEM Academic model - gender aspect of archetypes, 2) Women of Politecnico (research on the first women of the university in order to organize an online and offline art and teaching project) this project aims to present the women's history of the Polytechnico by telling the stories of the university's first women scientists, researchers, and

teachers. These stories do not stand alone but are placed in the context of a global history of women's rights and achievements. To bring to life the "hidden history" - the history of women's experiences, discoveries, developments, and scientific results, so that our understanding of the past and present gives us role models and strength to move into the future 3) the obscenity in Ukrainian women in the context of Russia's full-fledged invasion of Ukraine and 4) narratives of women-scholars displaced from Ukraine.

Anastasia Guidi Itokazu

(Professor of Philosophy at the Federal University of ABC, Brazil)

Anastasia Guidi Itokazu is Philosophy Professor at the Federal University of ABC (UFABC), in Brazil and she is a Member of UFABC's Gender Studies Group "Esperança Garcia" and of NEXOS - Critical Theory and Interdisciplinary Research.

Camila Ribeiro Andrade

(Undergraduate Student at the Federal University of ABC, Brazil)

Camila Ribeiro Andrade is an undergraduate student in Natural and Exact Sciences Teaching at the Federal University of ABC (UFABC), in Brazil, and a member of the UFABC's Gender Studies Group "Esperança Garcia" and of the Mothers and Fathers of UFABC Organization.

Madhavi Mohan

(Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Western Ontario, Canada)

Madhavi Mohan is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Western Ontario, where she is pursuing research interests in feminist philosophy, animal ethics, and philosophy of language. Her forthcoming paper, titled “WOMAN: An Essentially Contested Concept,” published in *Dialogue: Canadian Philosophical Review*, explores how we should understand the meaning of the term “woman.”

Session: Arts and Architecture

Tyler D. Farmer

(Ph.D. Candidate at the University of California, USA)

After earning a B.F.A. in dance, he transitioned to philosophy with an M.A. from Tufts. Now pursuing a PhD at UC, San Diego, he is interested in questions about how we can be (more) effective at performing our intended actions. As such, he thinks about the general limitations of our agency and how we can leverage our planning capacities to optimize our effectiveness within those limitations. He also thinks about how oppression and privilege impact both our immediate

and extended agency, and how we can successfully navigate the specific limitations imposed on our agency by our social positions.

Irene Breuer

**(Researcher at the University of Wuppertal,
Germany)**

Irene Breuer has a degree in Architecture (1988) and in Philosophy (2003) from the Universidad de Buenos Aires (UBA), Argentina. 2012: PhD in Philosophy from the Bergische University Wuppertal (BUW), Germany. 1988-2002: Lecturer, then Professor for Architectural Design and Theory at the UBA. 2012 to mid 2017: Lecturer for Theoretical Philosophy and Phenomenology at the BUW. 2019: DAAD scholarship, research on the reception of the German Philosophical Anthropology in Argentina. Presently working on mentioned research subject, with the support of the BUW.

Cf: <https://uni-wuppertal.academia.edu/IreneBreuer>

Benedetta Milani

**(Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Lüneburg,
Germany)**

Benedetta Milani is an Italian young researcher in Philosophy. She has studied Philosophy in Milan, Italy, at the Università degli Studi, where she graduated with a thesis about the philosopher Ernst Cassirer and the

art historian Aby Warburg. Since 2020 she works as a Ph.D. Student at the Leuphana Universität in Lüneburg, Germany, in the department of Philosophy and History of Art. Her main themes of research are the digital world, continental philosophy and aesthetic. She has published the following papers: Il pendolo della cultura. La filosofia della cultura in Aby Warburg ed Ernst Cassirer. (The pendulum of culture. The philosophy of culture in Aby Warburg and Ernst Cassirer), in ***La memoria del Cielo, MAAT Studies 4, A&G - CUECM, Catania 2019***; Chimere. Come l'estetica postuma indaga e immagina possibili futuri di corpi ibridi (Chimeras. How posthuman aesthetics investigates and imagines possible futures of hybrid bodies), in ***Liberazioni. Rivista di critica antispecista, Anno XI, n. 43***; Il corpo aperto. Estetica postumana e transumanista in relazione con il corpo umano (The open body. Posthuman and transhumanist aesthetics in relation to the human body), in ***Contaminazioni, Lubrina Editore, Bergamo 2021***; On the Mythical Atmosphere of the Digital World, in ***Technology and Language, 3(4), 21-29, 2022***.

Session: Early Modern Period

Elżbieta Filipow

(Researcher at the University of Warsaw, Poland)

Elżbieta Filipow (she) – is an ethicist, theoretic of feminism, journalist and translator. Researcher in the Department of Ethics at the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Warsaw, working on the project entitled ‘The place of equality in John Stuart Mill’s utilitarianism’ financed by the National Science Center. Scholarship awardee of The De Brzezie Lanckoronski Foundation for the research project entitled ‘The Social Perception of Women in the Victorian Era and Morality Based on (Un)justice.’ At the Conference ‘Women and their Body’ she presents the results of her research conducted in the British Library in London 2022 in the framework of the scholarship awarded by The De Brzezie Lanckoronski Foundation.

Carmen Guarino

(Ph.D. Candidate at Palermo University, Italy)

Carmen Guarino is a Ph.D. candidate in Cultural Studies at Palermo University, and researcher with the center HER – She Loves Data. Her main doctoral research focus regards distractibility. Her research interests cover the eco-tech-gender area spanning from aesthetics, literary and media studies to anthropology, medical and environmental humanities.

Marie-Frédérique Pellegrin

(Associate Professor (HDR) at the University Jean Moulin Lyon III, France)

Marie-Frédérique Pellegrin teaches at the faculty of philosophy of Jean Moulin-Lyon III University (France). Specialist in Descartes and Malebranche, she provided the first complete annotated edition of the feminist Cartesian Poulain de la Barre (Vrin, 2011). She is currently working on women philosophers (Elisabeth de Bohême, Marie de Gournay), editing with D. Kolesnik-Antoine, *Élisabeth de Bohême face à Descartes : deux philosophes ?* (Vrin, 2014). It leads her research to the question of the corpus and the historiography of modern philosophy. Recently, she directed a special issue of the journal *Dix-septième siècle* (« Repenser la philosophie du XVIIe siècle. Canons et corpus », n°3-2022). Her latest book is entitled *Pensées du corps et différences des sexes à l'époque moderne* (ENS-Editions, 2020).

Emanuele Costa

(Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Vanderbilt University, USA)

Emanuele Costa is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Vanderbilt University. He focuses on the History of Philosophy and Metaphysics, especially on the Early Modern period and on figures such as Spinoza,

Elizabeth of Bohemia, Leibniz, and Anne Conway. In metaphysics, he is particularly interested in mereology and theory of relations.

Session: Sexuality and Prostitution

Aura-Elena Schussler

**(Associate Lecturer at the Babeş-Bolyai University,
Romania)**

Dr. Aura Elena Schussler is an associate lecturer in the Department of Philosophy, Faculty of History and Philosophy, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania. She has a Ph.D. in philosophy, with research interests in “Pornography as a Postmodern Value” (in Romanian). Since completing her doctoral studies, she has focused on trans-/posthumanism, emerging technologies, robots and sexuality. From 2020 onward, she has been responsible for organizing the Human Nature, Culture, Technology (NUCT) series of national conferences (in Romania), at at Babeş-Bolyai University. In 2018, she was the founder and organizer of the student circle of “Transhumanism, Posthumanism, Metahumanism”, at the same university. She is the author of several articles on topics related to trans-/posthumanism, religion, and sexuality published in well-known international journals.

Sandra Markewitz

(Lecturer at the University of Vechta, Germany)

Sandra Markewitz, Dr. phil., currently teaches philosophy at the University of Vechta. The topic of her habilitation she is working on is the linguistic criticism of the 19th century. Participation in DAAD-Projects in Morocco, Tunisia, and Indonesia. Member of the Scientific Board of the Forum Vormärz Forschung. Main areas of research: Wittgenstein, Philosophy of Culture, Philosophy of Language, Vormärz, Ethics, Silence, Feminism. Recent and forthcoming publications: Sandra Markewitz (Hg.), Grammatische Subjektivität. Wittgenstein und die moderne Kultur, Bielefeld 2019; Sandra Markewitz (with Tania Eden) (Hg.), Wahrnehmung im Vor- und Nachmärz, Bielefeld 2023 (forthcoming); Sandra Markewitz (with Ilse Somavilla) (Hg.), Wittgenstein und die Kulturen der Affekte, Bielefeld 2023 (forthcoming); Sandra Markewitz, A Feminist Perspective on Kant in the Context of Social Irrationality, in: Studia Kantiana (forthcoming).

Hassan Ali

(Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Memphis, USA)

Hassan Ali is a Ph.D. candidate in Philosophy at the University of Memphis. Her primary research interests lie in South Asian studies, decolonial philosophy, queer theory, and contemporary continental philosophy.

Laura Martin

**(Post-doctoral Fellow at Northwestern University,
USA)**

Laura Martin is currently a post-doctoral fellow at Northwestern University. She received her Ph.D. from Columbia University in 2020, and has interests in social ontology, feminist philosophy, and 19th- and 20th-century European Philosophy.

Evening Event

Friday 17th March, 6.15 pm, Room E2.122

Feminist Interventions – Experimental Film and the Female Body a short film program curated and introduced by Annette Brauerhoch

A catholic and conservative town and an archive with experimental films by women that explore sexualities in explicit imagery – how do these opposites meet?

Joining Paderborn University as a film professor in 2001 I was (in a city without a film culture to speak of, and in times that danced around the digital calf,) determined to confront students with analogue films and films outside of the mainstream feature film. Two forms of “otherness”: films as chemical entities that resemble the human body in their characteristics of ageing and decay, smell and taste, light sensitive beings, and films with alternative aesthetics. I asked filmmakers that I knew to contribute to an analogue archive of experimental films by women.

If famous male filmmakers align film with the body of the woman (i.e., Truffaut), then feminist film theory asks: what do films do with and to bodies of women. In the late 1960s within the so-called second women’s movement, film – neglected by the first women’s movement as a powerful medium of (self-)expression – was discovered by a growing number of female

filmmakers who in the beginning focused on documentary filmmaking to make their criticisms of patriarchal society heard and seen. Beyond mere content, experimental films provided further possibilities to counter hegemonic forms of expression and narration.

Those films were shot on 16mm film which was easier available and cheaper than the standard format of 35mm for feature films. Appropriating male dominated technology included examining the mechanisms of the male gaze that in visual culture both sexes had been socialized to adopt. Experimental filmmaking by women exposed these automatisms, subverted hegemonic looks, engaged with the materiality of film as a body in its own right, and used it to explore and express female sexualities.

The program of short films focuses on the possessive pronoun in the title of the conference, “their” body, and on films that celebrate the power of the camera, sound and setting to express female desires and concerns. Films that undermine, explore and expand the established canon of classical experimental film history, dominated by male filmmakers. These films perform the female body in rebellious, lustful acts, and in spaces and places that are marked by gendered power relations.

Film program *Wild Bodies – Rebellious Acts*

Duschen, San Francisco, Anja Czoska, D 1994, 3', b&w

Shower scenes in feature films present the ideal pretext for exposing and exhibiting the female body for a (male) gaze. This short film playfully subverts this standard and cliché situation in mainstream narrative films with a matter of fact approach to filming one's own naked body whilst taking a shower.

Cerolax II, Mara Mattuschka, A 1985, 2', b&w

A 1 1/2 minute long satire on TV commercials that aim to sell cleaning products to women. The animated figure turns the intended cleaning processes into an absurd spectacle of using the product on her brain, armpits, pubic hair, and face to devastating effects.

Compartment, Eva Heldmann, D 1990, 5', color

Eva Heldmann in many of her early films explores female desires and sexual interests. In *Compartment* the space of a London tube becomes the eroticized site of a sexual phantasy. The light beams hitting the textures of handles and upholstery find rhythmic correspondence in a woman flagellating herself. A voice reads an obscene text.

Viva Avis, Lilo Mangelsdorff, BRD 1985, 6', color

Viva Avis plays with the significance of mirrors for women as an instrument of repressive control over their self image. Arrest, fragmentation, super imposition work to reflect on the process of imagining, image making and self-image, and how the relationship to the self-image is imbued with (in parts violent) forces of society. The film was worked upon frame by frame, which were cut and glued onto blank film, then videotaped and then again filmed with a 16mm Bolex. All this adds to its complexity in structure and meditation upon media in image making.

Kugelkopf, Mara Mattuschka, A 1985, 6', b&w

Mara Mattuschka, a prominent Austrian performance artist, painter and filmmaker in most of her films plays herself as *Mimi Minus*. She fuses animation, painting and film with incredible energy to create what can perhaps be called body cinema. In *Kugelkopf - Ode to IBM* she translates processes of production and reproduction that are marked by repetitiveness, into rhythmic images. Of course, repetitiveness not only pertains to unskilled work, but also to housework. Thus the film is more than actionist body art - it is a reflection upon the violence that is inherent in reproductive work and/as repetition.

**Between, Claudia Schillinger, BRD 1989, 9',
b&w/color**

Claudia Schillinger's film is one of the most explicit films of a desire in the 1980s to explore and express female sexuality. Beautifully lit and picking up on the languid and lazy atmosphere of a summer afternoon it combines images of reality with those of imagination in a lustful erotic daydream, in which sexual identity is as ambigüe as are the various sexual activities. Claudia Schillinger was a student at one of the two art schools in West-Germany that had film classes. One of her teachers at the HBK Braunschweig was Birgit Hein.

One Pussy Show, Anja Czioska, D 1998, 6', color

Anja Czioska, student of Peter Kubelka at the Städél in Frankfurt writes about her film: "*One Pussy Show* is a filmed performance. I turned on my 16mm camera and played with pieces from my clothing collection (1988-1998). We see me changing clothes, dancing and doing funny things to a 60's musical background. I didn't stop the camera. The action takes place in 2 times 3 minutes at 12 frames/second. I had a lot of fun".

**Es hat mich sehr gefreut, Mara Mattuschka, A 1987,
2', b&w**

A woman in black sunglasses masturbates in an overexposed landscape whilst the camera removes her body from the spectator's (voyeuristic) gazes.

Climaxing, the woman quotes the words of the Kaiser “Danke, es hat mich sehr gefreut”, congratulating herself on the exquisite pleasure. With this humorous act of expressing Thanks after a pleasurable experience I should like to close the program.

Program curated by Annette Brauerhoch, professor emerita of film studies, Paderborn University (2001 – 2021), and co-editor of the film-theoretical magazine *Frauen und Film* <https://frauenundfilm.de/>.

In the years 2004 – 2014 she established the film collection of 16mm experimental films by women. <https://blogs.uni-paderborn.de/brauerhoch/experimentalfilmsammlung/>.

Thank you to the filmmakers for the permission to screen the films, to the projectionist Alexandra Simopoulos for preparing and projecting the films. In co-operation with the Department of Media Studies (section Film Studies). Minor changes in the program possible.



Center for the History of Women Philosophers & Scientists

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