

CfP: B/ORDERING CULTURES: Everyday Life, Politics, Aesthetics

<https://www.borders-in-motion.de/kwg-jahrestagung-2020>

Panel: Alterity-Politics Between and Beyond Identity-Political B/Orders

Political orders in the nexus of neoliberal capitalism and nation-state-governmentality are first of all defined by various forms of identity-politics in the widest sense of the concept. Identity politics has an epistemic character in the foucauldian sense: Between and beyond the logics of identification and respectively bordering and boundary-drawing, the political as a distinct sphere of human agency seems almost unconceivable, today.

Aggressive Identitarianism can always be practiced one-sidedly, by more or less privileged boundary-drawing and depoliticised fighting against difference and diversity. Defensively emancipative identity-politics can always be practiced one-sidedly as well, by necessary boundary-drawing and political fighting – but then inevitably competing with other deprived identities for socio-cultural recognition and public visibility.

More or less clearly defined identifications follow a practical logic of ordering the social and cultural along horizontal segregations as well as vertical stratifications. Normative aims of equality are constantly effaced by one-sided practices of structural competition and political combat.

Alterity-politics by contrast is practically based in mutual responsibility, ethical commitment and dialogue with conflicting identifications, where solidarity beyond identity-related loyalty arises. It requires a voluntary and mutual questioning of socio-cultural identifications, privileges and power-relations. It is a process of political, practical, affective as well as aesthetic and cognitive debordering, creating new common ground, creating new, open and hybrid *alterities* beyond the conventional logics of identity-related boundary-maintenance.

Alterity-politics is a mode of the political in diametric opposition to the practically one-sided logics of identitarian politics, with the fundamental weakness in practice, that it cannot be practiced least enforced one-sidedly, but only accomplished in mutual agreement.

The panel features contributions circling around the political, social, cultural, affective, aesthetic and cognitive practices and practical logics of b/ordering identities in view of de- and reordering the political by means of practices, that can be associated with alterity-politics in a wider sense. Regarding all-pervasive combat and competition, it is necessary to acknowledge that identity-politics cannot be overcome by peaceful debordering practices alone, due to its one-sided character, and thus remains often inevitable, especially in defensively emancipative struggles. Thus, the panel focuses on the practical limitations of both – identity- and alterity-politics: *Where do alterity-politics become possible? Where do identity-politics become necessary? How to overcome the pitfalls of identity-politics – when identity-politics becomes identitarian?*

Nealon, Jeffrey T. (1998): *Alterity politics. Ethics and performative subjectivity*. Durham, NC: Duke Univ. Press.

Yuval-Davis, Nira (2010): *Theorizing identity: Beyond the 'us' and 'them' dichotomy*. In: *Patterns of Prejudice* 44 (3), S. 261–280.

Hoffmann, Felix (2019): *Anti-Rassismus zwischen Identitäts- und Alteritätspolitik. Ein praxislogischer Annäherungsversuch*. In: Heidrun Friese, Marcus Nolden und Miriam Schreiter (Hg.): *Alltagsrassismus. Theoretische und empirische Perspektiven nach Chemnitz*. Bielefeld: Transcript.

- The CfP **addresses researchers** as well as **master and PhD-students** from all disciplines, who see themselves as **part of cultural studies in a wider sense**.
- Please hand in an **abstract of 300-500 words** plus a **short literature list**
- Abstracts as well as presentations should focus on a **coherent and consistent line of argumentation regarding contents**, getting down to the point(s) you want to make. Please **evade lengthy introductions of the state of the art or project-histories**
- **Deadline: 1st of December 2019**
- to f.hoffmann@fu-berlin.de.
- The panel language will be **English**
- **Presentation-time** will be **15 min. max.** and 15 min. for discussion
- For **contributors from abroad**, we will make every effort to provide (partial) travel cost support for foreign participants.