

Dear Participant,

The Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies, Western University of Timisoara, together with GendeRomania has the pleasure to invite you to participate in the seminar "**Who's Afraid of Feminism? - Teaching and Researching Gender in the CEE Region**" to take place in Timisoara, May 5-8, 2005, as part of a project supported by the Academic Fellowship Program within the Higher Education Support Program, OSI Budapest.

Resource Faculty: Assoc. Prof. Francisca de Haan, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. Reghina Dascal, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. Laura Grünberg, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. Liliana Popescu, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. Enikő Magyari-Vincze, Ph.D.

The project aims at strengthening and developing Gender Studies in the region and particularly the MA program in Gender Studies established by the Interdisciplinary Center for Gender Studies at the Western University of Timisoara. The seminar is envisioned as a framework for debates, sharing personal experiences in regards to teaching Gender Studies, discussing the backlash phenomenon against feminism on one hand and against the introduction and recognition of Gender Studies as an academic subject on the other, discussing curricula and syllabi design, contents and teaching methodology.

The seminar will have two main parts:

1. "Who's Afraid of Feminism?" – to focus mainly on the participants' personal experiences in regards to the process of teaching and researching Gender in the CEE region. **The papers will focus on both personal experiences and theorizations about institutionalizing the study and teaching of Gender.**
2. "Teaching and Researching Gender in the CEE region" – the second part will focus on course, syllabus and curriculum design, both at the level of content and at the level of teaching methodologies, raising students' interest and awareness, sensitizing the rest of the faculty within the departments and universities.

2005, Eastern Europe: Can we usefully and productively talk about backlash against feminism/ women's studies/ gender studies? If feminism is present in any form today in Central and Eastern Europe - former communist states, than what forms of backlash (if any) experience we in the 'East'? Is this different from the backlash feminists deal with in the 'West'? Why is it different? What kind of experiences are common and what kind of experiences are different in the 'East' and in the 'West'? How are feminists in the 'East' doing feminism and addressing the backlash against it? These are just a few questions that we would like to put forward and explore during our seminar.

We welcome papers addressing these issues (albeit not limited to them) based on both personal experience with engaging in feminism, teaching Gender Studies and facing backlash (either upfront rejection or dismissal through subtle strategies)

against either of them, and theorizations about the institutionalization of Gender Studies in the academia. Comparative perspectives are encouraged (either between countries from the CEE region, or between 'Eastern' and 'Western' countries).

A volume will be published containing the participants' presentations. It will aim at making the experiences of teaching Gender Studies in the CEE region known to both the academics and researchers in the different countries of the region, and to the academics in the 'Western' countries.

The seminar agenda will include:

- 5 May 2005 – arrival of participants, welcome dinner;
- 6 May 2005 – first day of the seminar – discussions and presentation of papers in panels (3 sessions);
- 7 May 2005 – second day of the seminar – discussions on course, syllabus and curriculum design, teaching methodologies etc. (3 sessions);
- 8 May 2005 – plenary session, concluding remarks, departure of participants.

The travel and accommodation expenses will be covered by the organizers.

Please, express your availability to participate in the seminar no later than **March 31, 2005** by sending an email with the subject "Application Form" at the seminar's email address: genderomania@yahoo.com

Additionally, you will be asked to fill in the application form and to send it, together with your CV and an abstract of your paper of no more than 300 words, by **April 15, 2005** at the seminar's email address: genderomania@yahoo.com

More details about the project are available on the project's website:
www.genderomania.ro

Seminar coordinators:

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