

# Call for Participations

“Feminist and Social Theory in Times of Crisis”

Master Class with Sylvia Walby

**When: April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Where: University of Duisburg-Essen, Essen**

Centering around the theoretical approach of Anneliese-Maier-Research Awardee Prof. Sylvia Walby OBE, the Essener Kolleg für Geschlechterforschung (EKfG) and the Koordinations- und Forschungsstelle des Netzwerks Frauen- und Geschlechterforschung NRW are organizing and hosting a Master Class on „Feminist and Social Theory in Times of Crisis“ with the renowned social theorist.

Sylvia Walby’s contemporary thinking revolves around intertwining social and feminist theory in order to capture and analyze societal change in relation to contemporary forms and expressions of crisis. Against the backdrop of the continuing COVID-pandemic and the debate on climate change gaining momentum and urgency, her theoretical insights into inequalities related to crisis, and most notably economic crisis, are more topical than ever.

Walby argues that existing sociological theories of crisis and society insufficiently grasp (1) gender, (2) finance, (3) polity, and (4) violence and the way they are actually interconnected. Therefore, her interests are in re-building a theory of society that places violence and gender relations at its core while not neglecting analysis of the economic and the political system. Thereby, Walby theorizes society as a complex system made up of multiple mutually adapting social systems. This includes macro as well as meso concepts for gender (gender regimes) and changes in gender relations, a sociological theory of finance as distinct part of the economy, a theorisation of changing (gendered) polity and political governance as well as an understanding and a theorisation of the cause and consequence of violence in all of the above. Hereby, Walby is a strong proponent of mainstreaming gender and feminist theories into these kinds of analyses in order to bring to the fore the interwovenness of gender and welfare state regimes.

The main goal of the Master Class is to advance a theoretical foundation of research on society and change. The Class is conceptualized as an English speaking reading seminar, critically discussing a selection of Walby’s work. The Class aims at bringing together early stage researchers (PostDocs and PhD-Candidates) from different disciplinary backgrounds with an established scholar in order to foster an interdisciplinary exchange on contemporary strands of social and feminist theory. During the three-hour seminar, participants will exchange views with Sylvia Walby on their own research activities and discuss her theoretical approach and methodological approaches in greater depth.

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The readings and the Master Class itself will be held in English. If you like to participate, please apply with a short letter of interest (max. 500 words), indicating the focus of your research and your motivation to join the Master Class to Dr. Maren A. Jochimsen ([maren.a.jochimsen@uni-due.de](mailto:maren.a.jochimsen@uni-due.de)) and Dr. Heike Mauer ([heike.mauer@uni-due.de](mailto:heike.mauer@uni-due.de)) by January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Confirmation of participation will be sent out at the beginning of February 2022. The reading syllabus and details on the organization and agenda of the Class will be sent out at the latest by mid-March 2022.

Prof. Sylvia Walby, OBE is Professor of Sociology and Director of the interdisciplinary Violence and Society Centre at City, University of London. Previously, she was at Lancaster University where she was Distinguished Professor of Sociology, held the UNESCO Chair in Gender Research and was Director of the Violence and Society UNESCO Centre. In 2018, Sylvia Walby was endowed with the Anneliese Maier Research Award (2018–2023) by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. In this capacity, Sylvia Walby is a guest researcher at the University of Duisburg-Essen.

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