

Call for Participations

“Violence in varieties of gender regimes”

Master Class with Sylvia Walby

When: April 16th, 2024

Where: University of Duisburg-Essen, Essen

Centering around theoretical debates on the role of violence in varieties of gender regimes, 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 “Violence in varieties of gender regimes – theoretical and empirical approaches” with Anneliese Maier Research Awardee Prof. Sylvia Walby OBE.

The work of Sylvia Walby includes theorising on the relationship between violence and society, developing analyses of violence in varieties of gender regimes, and their connectedness to other systems of inequality (such as colonialism and capitalism). Violence is conceptualized as an institutional domain different from and parallel to those of polity, economy, and civil society. While, in earlier years Walby’s empirical work has focused on the distinction between social democratic and neoliberal varieties of public gender regimes, she has expanded her theoretical framework to integrate and distinguish a third type of public gender regime, the authoritarian. This expansion aims to encompass a broader field of cases around the world and to address the increased salience of violence in structuring societies in times of war.

The Master Class seeks to explore Walby’s conceptualization of violence in the context of varieties of gender regimes. The main goal of the Master Class is to advance a theoretical foundation of research on society, change, gender, and violence. Questions to be discussed and explored will encompass:

- the conceptualization of violence and its place in theories of society and of different varieties of gender regimes
- the place of violence in different varieties of gender regimes
- the implications of the call by feminists for the increased use of the criminal justice system to combat violence against women for the intersection of gender with inequalities linked to coloniality and capitalism – is this carceral (neoliberal or authoritarian?) with negative consequences or a proportionate use of state power to reduce violent crime (social democratic?) with positive consequences for justice and equality

The Class is conceptualized as an English speaking reading seminar, critically discussing a selection of Walby’s theoretical framework of gender regime theory and how it can be made productive for the study of specific empirical cases. 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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Both 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) and Dr. Heike Mauer (heike.mauer@uni-due.de) by January 30th, 2024. Confirmation of participation will be sent out in the middle of February 2024. The reading syllabus and details on the organization and agenda of the Class will be sent out at the latest by mid-March 2024.

Prof. Sylvia Walby OBE FBA FAcSS is Professor in the School of Law and Social Sciences, Royal Holloway, University of London, UK. Previously she held positions as Professor of Sociology and Director of the Violence and Society Centre at City, University of London, Distinguished Professor of Sociology at Lancaster University and UNESCO Chair in Gender Research, and Director of the Violence and Society Centre. She is a Fellow of the British Academy and Fellow of the UK Academy of Social Sciences. She is founding co-President of the International Sociological Association’s Thematic Group 11 ‘Violence and Society’. In 2018, Sylvia Walby was endowed with the Anneliese Maier Research Award (2018–2025) by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. In this capacity, Sylvia Walby is a Visiting Professor at the University of Duisburg-Essen.

Dr. Heike Mauer
Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin
Koordinations- und Forschungsstelle des
Netzwerks Frauen- und
Geschlechterforschung NRW

Universität Duisburg-Essen
Berliner Platz 6–8
45127 Essen

Telefon: +49 (0)201 – 183 6301
Fax: + 49 (0)201 – 183 2118
heike.mauer@uni-due.de
www.netzwerk-fgf.nrw.de

Dr. Maren Jochimsen
Geschäftsführung
Essener Kolleg für Geschlechterforschung

Universität Duisburg-Essen
Universitätsstraße 12
45117 Essen

Telefon: +49 (0)201 183-4552
Fax: +49 (0)201 183-4432
maren.a.jochimsen@uni-due.de
<https://www.uni-due.de/ekfg>