

February 27th, 2014

Intersectionality

a cross-disciplinary exchange

LECTURE

Brussels - Thursday February 27th, 2014

- 16:00 Welcome and Opening remarks
- 16:15 'Intersectionality, interference and gender + equality change strategies in Europe' – Professor Mieke Verloo (Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen)
- 17:00 Discussion – Professor Karen Celis (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
- 17:15 'Intersectionality's brilliant career – how to understand the attraction of the concept on a global scale?' – Professor Helma Lutz (Goethe Universität Frankfurt am Main)
- 18:00 Discussion – Professor Patrizia Zanoni (University Hasselt)
- 18:15 General discussion
- 18:35 Concluding Remarks
- 18:45 Reception

ORGANISERS

Policy Research Centre on Equality Policies
RHEA - Centre of Gender and Diversity
Vrije Universiteit Brussel

For more information on the lecture series,
please contact Dr. Eline Severs,
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REGISTRATION

Admission is free, but registration is required
Deadline for registration: February 20th, 2014

[Register Now](#)



VENUE

University Foundation

Egmonstraat/Rue d'Egmont, 11
1000 Brussels

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INTERSECTIONALITY

The concept of intersectionality – the interlocking, multi-dimensional and co-constituting character of power structures, such as gender, ethnicity, class, and age – is a major contribution of gender studies to the study of inequalities.

The understanding that ethnic minority women are not discriminated upon as ‘women’ or as ethnic minority citizens but as ‘women of ethnic origin’ has demonstrated the shortcomings of gender and other single markers of inequality.

Since its inception in the U.S. in feminist critical race and legal theory circles the concept of intersectionality has travelled into various disciplines in the social sciences and law. However, there has not been much conversation across the disciplines, and the concept is only slowly making its way into policy circles.

With this lecture series, the Policy Research Centre on Equality Policies (PRCEP) sets out to build links between the scientific disciplines. The Centre aims further to stimulate discussion between policy-makers, civil society and academia on the utility of ‘intersectionality’ as a basis for understanding social inequalities and for developing effective policy.

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Professor **Mieke Verloo** and Professor **Helma Lutz** will discuss the implications of intersectionality to their respective academic disciplines and policy fields.

Professor **Mieke Verloo** reflects on the contribution that intersectionality theory can make in understanding gender and equality changes in Europe. In her lecture, professor Verloo builds and expands on the concept of political intersectionality as coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw to understand the potentials, pitfalls and shortcomings of current gender equality strategies, such as legal equality, positive action and gender mainstreaming.

Professor **Helma Lutz** takes issue with proponents of intersectionality that believe that a theoretical concept cannot or should not be detached from its original context of inception. Instead, she argues that theory’s travels into other contexts automatically involve appropriations, amendments, and changes in response to the concept’s original meanings. In her lecture, professor Lutz elaborates on how intersectionality may be used as a methodological tool.

