

Marie Jahoda Visiting Professor Programme in International Gender Studies

Profile

The main objectives of the Marie Jahoda Visiting Professor Programme in International Gender Studies are to support research and teaching that is focused on gender and to encourage international cooperation in gender studies. The programme maintains a long-term strategy in combining gender research with six disciplines at the Ruhr University Bochum: sociology, gender studies, media studies, history, philology and art history. The programme also aims to promote exchanges on gender-related topics and to contribute to academic diversity through the co-teaching of a class at the master's degree level in the gender studies programme and in participating subjects.

Organisation

The Marie Jahoda Visiting Professorship was founded to promote international academic exchanges on gender. It was inaugurated in 1994 with the support of the Ministry of Science and Education of the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia and is now funded by the rector's office at the Ruhr University Bochum.

The professorship has been held by many eminent scholars with expertise in gender studies and represents the variety of disciplines researching gender topics at the Ruhr University Bochum. With a long-standing partnership of seven academic chairs with a focus on gender, the Ruhr University Bochum offers a unique and dynamic academic environment for studies on gender.

The Marie Jahoda Visiting Professor Programme in International Gender Studies is part of the Chair of Sociology/Social Inequality and Gender. The chair's research and teaching areas focus on social and gender change in welfare societies and on organised inequalities in different societal fields. Currently, it specialises in inequalities in scientific organisation(s) and on demographic change.

Contact

Chair

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Hosting Professorship

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How to Find Us



Marie Jahoda Visiting Professor Programme in International Gender Studies

Prof. Mary E. Fissell, Ph.D.
Winter Term 2018/19

Prof. Mary E. Fissell, Ph.D.

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA



As a historian Prof. Mary E. Fissell teaches at the Johns Hopkins Institute of the History of Medicine in Baltimore (Maryland) where she is also the editor of the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*. Her scholarly work focuses on the history of gender, the body, and medicine in the early modern period. Mary Fissell is the author of two books and many scholarly articles. *Vernacular Bodies* (Oxford, 2004) explored ordinary people's ideas about making babies, arguing that such ideas were a way to talk about gender relations in Tudor and Stuart England. Her current project is a cultural history of one popular medical book about reproduction called *Aristotle's Masterpiece*, first published in 1684 and still for sale in sleazy London sex shops in the 1920s.

Areas of Expertise

- Gender
- History of the Body
- Pre-Modern Medicine and Women's Health
- Cultural History

Selected Publications

Fissell, Mary E. 2008. Introduction: Women, Health, and Healing in Early Modern Europe. *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 82 (1): 1–17.

Fissell, Mary E. 2004. *Vernacular Bodies: The Politics of Reproduction in Early Modern England*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Fissell, Mary E. 2003. Hairy Women and Naked Truths: Gender and the Politics of Knowledge in Aristotle's Masterpiece. *William and Mary Quarterly* 60 (1): 43–74.

Events at the Ruhr University Bochum

Compact Course

"Gender, Sex, and the Body, 1650 – 1830"
with Prof. Dr. Maren Lorenz, Department of History

Times & Venues:

11 January 2019, 10 a.m. – 4. p.m., Uni 105 EG/014

18 January 2019, 10 a.m. – 4. p.m., SSC 2/119

25 January 2019, 10 a.m. – 4. p.m., Uni 105 EG/014

28 January 2019, 2 p.m. – 8 p.m., Uni 105 EG/014

In this class we explore gender, sex, and the body over the course of what we might consider the long 18th century, establishing continuities and probing changes. While our focus is European, we take a glance across the Atlantic for comparative materials. The course is structured in 4 modules that cut across the time period under consideration: 1. Gender & Sex: How did early modern people understand the terms? 2. Sex & Sexuality: The history of sex and sexuality is a relatively recent category of analysis. 3. Reproduction: Pregnancy and childbirth were central to early modern women's experiences. 4. Regulation: Early modern societies regulated many aspects of sexual behavior.

Inaugural Lecture

"The Extraordinary Affair at Walworth: An Abortioneer in Early 19th Century London"

Time: 15 January 2019, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Venue: GA 03/49

In October 1848, Spencer Lindfield was on trial for her life at the Old Bailey in London. She was a midwife in the south London suburb of Walworth, and one of her clients had died after Lindfield had allegedly performed an abortion. Newspaper coverage of the case reveals Lindfield's very extensive practice; we might call her a reproductive entrepreneur. At the same time, newspaper articles were framed by assumptions about gender, reproduction and medical work, assumptions that Lindfield's career challenged.

2nd Lecture

"Aristotle's Masterpiece – The Young Folks Bible: Sexual Knowledge and Courtship, 1680 – 1800"

in cooperation with the Department of English

Time: 22 January 2019, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Venue: GA 03/49

Workshop for Graduate Students

"How to Publish Your First Article: The View From the Editor's Desk"

Time: 29 January 2019, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Venue: GA 03/49

Drawing upon her experiences as an editor, Prof. Fissell will give a presentation on the nuts and bolts of the publication process for history journals, and will then answer questions how to publish your first article.

