

Call for Papers: *Forthcoming Feminisms: Gender Activism, Politics and Theories*

Organised by the BSA Gender Study Group & the Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies (CIGS), University of Leeds

26th October 2012: Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies, University of Leeds

Keynote Speakers: Julia Downes (Durham); Sasha Roseneil ((tbc) Birkbeck); Imogen Tyler (Lancaster)

Forthcoming Feminisms: Gender Activism, Politics and Theories seeks to explore the contemporary landscape of gender politics and theory at a crucial moment of feminist resurgence. Against the backdrop of political economies of austerity, in which women are disproportionately disadvantaged, and in challenge to 'post-feminist' cultural prophecies, current times indicate a renewed interest in, and commitment to, feminism. In academic climates, while women's and gender study programs face threats of closure, the popularity of such programmes continues to grow; reflecting the continuation of feminist and gender theory as a flourishing and dynamic arena. This conference speaks to these political and theoretical paradoxes and flows in exploring varied (and sometimes opposing) feminist cultures, values, ethics, knowledges, challenges and aspirations across the levels of the social and cultural.

The conference aims to examine these issues in relation to *temporality*: how do current feminisms speak to those of the past and how might we imagine feminisms' future?; the *micro and the macro*: how do grass roots feminist politics respond to structural processes and materialities?; the *local and global*: what are the similarities and differences – the uniting and dividing features – of national and international feminisms?; *place and culture*: how are feminisms formed through, and in opposition to, fields of habitus and spaces of public/private; *citizenship and recognition*: who can – and who can't – find a place within feminism, who is – and who isn't – able to 'belong'?; *equality and diversity*: to what extent has feminism been mainstreamed?, what are the effects of this on gender studies and politics in and outside the academy?; *intersectionality*: how do social identities and material positionings impact on feminist commitments and lived experiences?, how do patterns of inequality bear on feminist aspirations and imaginings?; *difference*: how can feminism productively interact with trans and queer politics, theories, and communities?, how can feminism account for embodied diversities? Papers that address these questions through the following themes are particularly welcome:

- Sites of Activism
- Political Agendas
- Knowledges and Ethics
- Spaces and Places
- Gender Mainstreaming
- Feminisms at the Local and Global
- Intersections of Class, Race, Ethnicity, Faith, Age, Gender, Sexuality and Embodiment
- Feminist Times and Generations
- Agency and Affect
- Political Economies
- Inclusions and Exclusions
- Transgender and Queer Feminisms
- Representation, Media and New Technologies

Presenters will be invited to submit papers for a Special Journal Edition

Please send your abstract + brief bio to Sally Hines: s.hines@leeds.ac.uk and to Zowie Davy: z.davy@lincoln.ac.uk by 27th July 2012 Registration fee: £30 non-BSA members, £20 BSA members. Registration will be free for 5 PG students/activists on a first come, first served basis.