

**Queer Pop**  
An Academic Symposium

- Venue: Center for Popular Culture and Music  
(Zentrum für Populäre Kultur und Musik, ZPKM),  
Albert-Ludwigs-University Freiburg,  
Rosatraße 17-19, 79098 Freiburg, Germany
- Dates: January 16-18, 2020
- Keynote Speakers: Astrid Deuber-Mankowsky, Professor of Media and  
Gender Studies, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany  
Vera Mackie, Senior Professor of Asian and International  
Studies, University of Wollongong, Australia  
Milla Tiainen, Senior Research Fellow, Department of Gender  
Studies, University of Turku, Finland
- Participating musicians,  
performance artists and  
DJ\*s at Queer Pop party  
at ArTik e.V. Freizeichen  
on Friday, January 17: Sookee (Berlin), Georgina Leo St Laurent (Düsseldorf/Berlin),  
Toulouse Low Trax (Düsseldorf), PSORIASIS (Amsterdam),  
Thomas Meinecke, Sue Lèwig (Köln), Panzerella Burner  
(Freiburg), URTE (Freiburg), Isabelle Gaultiér (Freiburg),  
Luedenscheidt (Freiburg), students from Albert-Ludwigs-  
University Freiburg and Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf

Popular culture encompasses and draws from a rich history and invokes a large repertoire of works by sexually ambiguous musicians, filmmakers, writers, photographers and performers, including but not limited to members of various LGBTQI\* communities. When encountered on stage or on screen, forms of sexual ambiguity often spark fascination. In everyday life in various socio-cultural contexts, sexual and bodily difference in all its forms still creates hostility while rendering vulnerable those human beings that deviate from the white, male, straight, able-bodied norm. Societies that stigmatize non-normative and non-binary embodiment and marginalize other than heterosexual forms of desire frequently instigate in queer, trans\* and intersex subjects feelings such as shame, outrage, anxiety, depression, and failure.

In the last fifteen to twenty years, feminist and queer scholars have investigated the political weight of such bad feelings with renewed intensity, focusing on specific negative affects and asking the question: how can negative affects be made productive? Feminist and queer scholarship on affect critically considers the societal causes of bad feelings and explores the creative employment of these affective intensities. Speaking and writing from a marginal position, feminist and queer scholars offer a wealth of sharp-sighted analyses and astute interpretations of cultural phenomena.

Within the field of popular music studies, the topic of sexual difference has been part of the discussion for a long time. Especially in recent times, however, musicians place a distinct emphasis on matters of gender and sexual identity. Thus the pressing question arises: how and to what extent do bad feelings, sparked by social exclusion, inform aesthetic strategies in popular music and culture?

This symposium seeks to consider how feminist, queer and trans\* musicians, filmmakers, writers, photographers and performers contribute to popular culture. Which affects do their works engender, how do they rouse their audience and to what ends? How do queer popstars

use fame, fashion and performance to fabricate and circulate ambiguous messages about new forms of gender, race, class and desire and even about the limits of what is considered to be human? Which other ways of living and relating to difference in all its forms do their contributions enable?

Concept and Coordination: Dr. Bettina Papenburg, Institute for Media and Cultural Studies, Albert-Ludwigs-University Freiburg and Dr. Kathrin Dreckmann, Institute for Media and Cultural Studies, Heinrich-Heine-University Dusseldorf.

Hosted by: ZPKM.

Financially supported by ZPKM, Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf, Kulturstadt der Stadt Freiburg, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg.

Please register for the symposium by sending an email with your contact details to [conference.queer.pop@zpkm.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:conference.queer.pop@zpkm.uni-freiburg.de)

**Queer Pop**  
**Academic Symposium**  
**at the Center for Popular Culture and Music**  
**(Zentrum für Populäre Kultur und Musik),**  
Albert-Ludwigs-University Freiburg, Rosastraße 17-19, 79098 Freiburg,  
January 16th until January 18th, 2020

**Conference Program**  
Conference languages: English and German  
(Live translation: German-English)

**Day 1 – Thursday, January 16th, 2020**

- 2:00– 2:15 pm      Arrival and registration
- 2:15 – 2:20 pm      Welcome address, Michael Fischer, ZPKM
- 2:20 – 2:30 pm      Topical introduction, Bettina Papenburg (Freiburg) and  
Kathrin Dreckmann (Düsseldorf)
- 2:30 – 3:45 pm      **Keynote 1: Queer Pop Citizenship: Representing Alternative Relation-  
ships in Contemporary Japan**  
Vera Mackie (Wollongong)  
Chair: Bettina Papenburg
- 3:45 – 4:00 pm      Tea and coffee break
- 4:00 – 5:30 pm      **Panel 1: Authenticity and Artificiality**  
Panoptifying Queerness: Celebrities under Heteronormative Surveillance  
Dirk Schulz (Köln)  
„A post-*Pose* world“ – Changing Transgender Representations in Television  
Anna Smitderk (Kassel)  
Queering the Glam – Self-Fashioning between Conchita and Wurst  
Björn Dornbusch (Düsseldorf)  
Chair: Kathrin Dreckmann
- 5:30 – 5:45 pm      Tea and coffee break
- 5:45 – 7:15 pm      **Panel 2: Stagings of the Body as Labour**  
„Holding out“ and „Staying true to oneself“. Lesbian Self-Fashioning in  
Popular Music  
Katharina Rost (Bayreuth)  
*A Labour of Love: Love Island's Hyperreality as Heteroactivism*  
Louise Ryan / Ellen Reid (Limerick) – cancelled

„You wanna hot body? You better work bitch!” – Stagings of Gender as Labour  
Franziska Haug (Frankfurt a. M.)  
Chair: Nina Degele (Freiburg)

8:00 pm Joint dinner

**Day 2 – Friday, January 17th, 2020**

10:15 – 10:30 am Welcome address, Robin Curtis (Freiburg)  
Welcome address, Dirk Matejovski (Düsseldorf)

10:30 – 11:45 am Keynote 2: **Media of Queer Aesthetics: *Bridgit* – an iPhone Film and a Celtic Deity**  
Astrid Deuber-Mankowsky (Bochum)  
Chair: Bettina Papenburg

11:45 am – 12:00 pm Tea and coffee break

12:00 – 1:00 pm Panel 3: **Aesthetic Strategies between Stereotyping and Empowerment**  
80% sexy, 20% disgusting: Yekaterina Petrovna Zamolodchikova and Ideas about Race and Whiteness in RuPaul's *Drag Race*  
M. Katharina Wiedlack (Wien)  
Operating from an\_other World – Cyborg Performances in Music Videos  
Ina Holev (Düsseldorf)  
Compulsive Repetition in Contemporary Feminist Writing – A Critique  
Constanze Stutz (Merseburg)  
Chair: Björn Dornbusch

1:30 – 3:00 pm Lunch break

3:00 – 4:30 pm Panel 4: **Queer Utopia**  
Neo-Burlesque as Queer Carnival  
Joanna Staśkiewicz (Potsdam)  
Haunt me Baby one more Time! – Tracing Queer Temporalities in Contemporary Pop Music  
Lisa Tracy Michalik (Düsseldorf)  
Rewind. Queer Asynchronicity and Afrofeminist Chronopolitics  
Vera Mader (Bochum)  
Chair: Robin Curtis

4:30 – 4:45 pm Tea and coffee break

4:45 – 5:45 pm Artist Panel (participating artists: Sookee, Georgina Leo St Laurent, Parisa Madani aka PSORIASIS, Thomas Meinecke)

5:45 – 8:00 pm Dinner

**20:00 – late Queer Pop – the Party**

**ArTik e.V. Freizeichen**, Haslacher Str. 43, 79115 Freiburg

8:00–9:30 pm Student performances

9:45 pm Sookee (Berlin), hip hop

10:15 pm Georgina Leo St Laurent (Düsseldorf/Berlin),  
voguing performance

10:45 pm Sue Lèwig (Cologne), electronic live music, vocals

11:15 pm Panzerella Burner (Freiburg), Riot Grrrl DJ set

12:15 am PSORIASIS (Amsterdam), Drag show

12:30 am DJ sets by URTE (Freiburg), PSORIASIS (Amsterdam),  
Isabelle Gaultiér (Freiburg), Thomas Meinecke, Toulouse Low  
Trax (Düsseldorf), Luedenscheidt (Freiburg), each 1-1,5 hours  
on 2 floors

until 4:00 am

**Day 3 – Saturday, January 18th, 2020**

11:30 am – 12:45 pm Keynote 3, Milla Tiainen (Turku): **Transing Voice Studies: Exploring the Mattering Materialities of Singing and Trans Existence with Demian Seesjärvi**

Chair: Bettina Papenburg

12:45– 1:30 pm Lunchtime snack at conference venue

1:30 – 3:00 pm Panel 5: **Subversive Music Politics**

„These haters on my body shake em’ off”. Realness, Black Female Masculinity and Queer Disidentification in Young M.A

Naomie Gramlich (Potsdam) – cancelled

„I’m looking for someone to help me get into here”. The Queer Factor in the Work of the Pet Shop Boys

Daniel Baranowski (Berlin)

German Hip Hop Feminists and Social Activism: „Giving the possibility of a voice”

Amy Makota (Bloomington)

Chair: Fatma Sagir

3:15 – 5:15 pm Voguing Workshop by Georgina Leo St Laurent

Student assistants: Jan Knöferl (Freiburg), Lisa Tracy Michalik (Düsseldorf), Laura Vogelhöfer (Freiburg)

Please register for the symposium and/or for the voguing-workshop:  
[conference.queer.pop@zpkm.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:conference.queer.pop@zpkm.uni-freiburg.de)

Further information:

[www.zpkm.uni-freiburg.de/queerpop](http://www.zpkm.uni-freiburg.de/queerpop)

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