

## **Public Lecture: Linda M. G. Zerilli** **“Feminism, Critique and the Realistic Spirit”**

**Date:** Thursday, 30.11.2017, 18:15 – 20:00

**Place:** Alte Universität, Hörsaal -101, Rheinsprung 9/11, 4051 Basel

Introduction and chair: Katrin Meyer

Contemporary debates over the future of critique perpetuate a reliance on the philosophical tradition, with its disdain for the contingent and indifference to local audiences. A *realistic* (as opposed to a philosophically realist or antirealist) feminist critique would be rooted in ordinary first-order practices such as politics. It would question received notions of the relationship between theory and practice. Theory should not be understood as epistemological second-order enterprise whose task is to justify the basis of critique. Instead, theory should be conceived, with the rhetorical tradition, as a world-creating, first-order practice that generates figures of the newly thinkable and objects of common concern.

**Linda M. G. Zerilli** is Charles E. Merriam Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science and Professor of Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University of Chicago, where she teaches modern political theory and feminist theory. Her most recent books include *Feminism and the Abyss of Freedom* (2005) and *A Democratic Theory of Judgment* (2016), both published by University of Chicago Press.

## **Program Workshop with Linda M.G. Zerilli:** **“Feminism and the Abyss of Freedom”**

**Registration for Workshop until November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017:** [anika.thym@unibas.ch](mailto:anika.thym@unibas.ch)

### **Friday 1.12.2017**

Room U4.002, Rheinsprung 21, 4051 Basel (fourth basement floor)

**10.15-10.45: Welcome and round of introduction (Andrea Maihofer, Anika Thym)**

**10.45-13.00: Presentation and discussion: Freedom and Democracy  
(Input: Linda Zerilli, chair: Anika Thym)**

#### Texts (compulsory):

- Arendt, Hannah (1961): What is Freedom? In Dies.: Between Past and Future. Six Exercises in Political Thought, New York, S. 143-172.
- Zerilli, Linda (2016): Democracy and the Problem of Judgment. In: Dies.: A Democratic Theory of Judgment, S. 15-51 (E-Book).

13.00-14.15: Lunch (Spiga)

**14.15-15.45: Text discussion: Feminism, Judgment and Critique  
(Input: Andrea Maihofer, chair: Susanne Nef)**

Text (compulsory):

- Zerilli, Linda (2009): Toward a Feminist Theory of Judgment. *Signs*, 34/2, S. 1-24.
- Zerilli, Linda (2016): Feministische Kritik als eine politische Praxis der Freiheit. In: Grubner, Barbara/Birkle, Carmen/Henninger, Annette (Hg.): *Feminismus und Freiheit*, Taunus: Helmer, S. 128-138.
- DE: Zerilli, Linda (2010): Einleitung. Warum Feminismus und Freiheit beide mit einem F anfangen. In: Dies. (Hg): *Feminismus und der Abgrund der Freiheit*. Wien/Berlin, S. 26-34 (Freiheit als Subjektfrage)
- EN: Zerilli, Linda (2005): *Introduction. Why Feminism and Freedom Both Begin with the Letter F. In: Feminism and the Abyss of Freedom. Chicago/London, 9pp. (Freedom as a Subject Question)*

15.45-16.15: Coffee break

**16.15-17.00: Further discussion (also of evening lecture)**

**Saturday 2.12.2017**

Room 00.004, Rheinsprung 21, 4051 Basel (ground floor)

**10.15-12.00: Introduction and discussion: Power and Domination  
(Input: Linda Zerilli, chair: Susanne Richter)**

Text (compulsory):

- DE: Zerilli, Linda (2010): Drittes Kapitel. Feministinnen geben Versprechen: *Wie weibliche Freiheit entsteht* des Mailänder Kollektivs und das Projekt des Welt-Bildens. In: Dies. (Hg): *Feminismus und der Abgrund der Freiheit*. Wien/Berlin, S. 131 – 170.
- EN: Zerilli, Linda (2005): *Chapter Three. Feminists Make Promises: The Milan Collective's Sexual Difference and the Project of World-Building. In: Feminism and the Abyss of Freedom. Chicago/London, pp. 93 – 124.*

12.00-13.00: Lunch (Acero)

**13.00-14.30: Text discussion: Feminism: from Paradoxes to a World-Building Practice  
(Introduction and chair: Katrin Meyer)**

Text (compulsory):

- DE: Zerilli, Linda (2010): Schlussfolgerung. Die Freiheitsfrage im Feminismus neu gefasst. In: Dies. (Hg): *Feminismus und der Abgrund der Freiheit*. Wien/Berlin, S. 221-242.
- EN: Zerilli, Linda (2005): *Conclusion. Reframing the Freedom Question in Feminism. In: Feminism and the Abyss of Freedom. Chicago/London, pp. 165-182.*

14.30-15.00: Coffee break

**15.00-16.00: Discussion and closing remarks**