

TÁRSADALMI NEM TUDOMÁNYA KUTATÓCSOPORT
Angol-Amerikai Intézet

Public Lecture Series 2008/09

Szeretettel meghívja a Kar Oktatóit és Hallgatóit
Vendégelőadók előadás sorozatának következő
rendezvényére.



Hanna Hacker

Professor of Sociology, University of Vienna

2009. Április 29.

BTK Kari Konferencia Terem, Ady tér

Lecture 15:00

with introduction by Erzsébet Barát, Convener of Gender Studies Programme

Az előadás és az azt követő vita angol nyelven folyik.

Without Queering There Is No Border: Translocality, sexual subjects, and history

A starting point of my paper is the exploration of relationships between bodies and space – that is, between desire and migration, sexual subjectivity and transcultural moves, marks of sex/gender and geopolitical marks.

I will concentrate on two analytical perspectives that seem particularly pertinent for the purpose of this exploration, namely border studies and queer theories. As both “border” and “queer” are becoming nearly omnipresent concepts within cultural and postcolonial studies, does this mean that contesting geopolitical boundaries, and challenging hegemonic sex/gender systems is basically one and the same analytic move? The main focus of my investigation is on situating the approaches of border critique and queer critique in a historical perspective. The theoretical deconstruction of geopolitical borders on the one hand, and of sex/gender boundaries on the other, is closely linked to discourses and practices of the late 20th century. How can we understand the relationship between geography, sexuality and gender in a broader historical frame? I will discuss this question in the light of two texts, Richard Francis Burton’s “The Sotadic Zone” (1888), the “terminal essay” in his translation of “Arabian Nights”, and Laurie Essig’s sociological study “Queer in Russia” (1999), in particular the fictional parts of her final chapter “Sex. Conclusion.” Between the orientalist and the post-modern traveler, what border is there to be queered?