

# NOI♀SE 2017 Summer School

## ***Reclaiming Critique in Times of Crisis: Feminist, Queer and Postcolonial Interventions***

**28 August – 1 September 2017, Utrecht University, The Netherlands**

**Organized by the Netherlands Research School of Gender Studies**

- **How are the diverse fields of feminist, queer and postcolonial studies facing the multiple crises (economic crises, environmental crises, political crises in the aftermath of mass revolts, and the so called “refugee and migrant crisis”) that over-determine our times?**
- **What are the limits and potentialities of critical theory and post-critical perspectives in formulating new responses and alternatives to the current crises?**
- **How do non-Western approaches to crises exceed the legacy of Western critical theory and historical narratives of progress?**
- **Can we approach critique as a feminist embodied praxis that is performed, enacted *in and of the everyday*?**

**Join the 2017 Summer School!**

This year, the 25<sup>th</sup> edition of NOI♀SE will introduce you to diverse and debate-provoking scholarship on the relationship between critique and crisis at the intersections of feminist, queer and postcolonial studies, cultural studies, activism and the arts.

### **Topical urgency and focus**

The status of critique today is undoubtedly in trouble. At the current socio-political conjuncture, one that is deeply characterised by multiple crises, the urgency, and paradoxically, redundancy of critique today has led to a widespread questioning of its political efficacy and theoretical appeal. Although the entanglement of both notions appear to be less prominent in feminist, queer and postcolonial traditions, both crisis and critique have resurfaced, sometimes in tandem with one another or as objects of enquiry, in many recent contributions within these fields.

Recent debates over the inefficacy of critical theory to move beyond oppositional and reactionary rhetoric signal a condition of paralysis qua critique; one that is implicated in the development of post-critical paradigms in the (post)humanities today. Paradoxically, the two seemingly dominant critical paradigms in feminist, queer and postcolonial studies – critique as negation and critique as affirmation – have raised some urgent questions pertaining to the place of critique vis-à-vis structures of domination, oppression and exploitation (gendered, racial, political and economic) that permeate our contemporary societies. Is it possible to engage in feminist and queer theories that are critical of normativity without giving traction to opposition and counter-strategies? Can we conceive of feminist decolonial and anti-colonial perspectives through/as affirmative critical practice?

The 25<sup>th</sup> edition of the NOISE Summer School will navigate this uncharted terrain, at the heart of which lies the uneasy relationship between the *crisis of critique* and the *critique of crisis*, to borrow Ghassan Hage's phrase. Featuring established and emergent scholars and activists in the field, the summer school will explore the ways in which feminist, queer and postcolonial studies articulate a critique of present crises. We ask: how can we navigate this (post) critical conjuncture? Can we reclaim critique as a crucial counter-hegemonic strategy as well as a constellation of embodied practices *in and of the ordinary*? It is within these questions and debates that the NOISE 2017 five-day program seeks to intervene.

## **Aims**

Summer school participants will be:

- Introduced to feminist, queer and postcolonial approaches to critique, with a particular focus on critical vs. post-critical debates, affirmative practices, theories of embodiment, normativity, anti-normativity and intersectionality.
- Trained in theories, methods and ethics of feminist interventionist and critical practices.

## **Target audience**

This advanced training course offers a diverse yet coherent program of study from an interdisciplinary perspective. The Summer School is meant for PhD and MA students. Separate seminars for these two groups will be provided in the afternoons.

## **Formula**

- Two lectures in the morning
- Separate PhD and MA-seminars in the afternoon
- Round table discussions
- Performances
- Social program
- Students prepare before NOI♀SE by reading and collecting material for assignments (approximately 40 hours of work). After the school has ended, participants who fulfilled all requirements (preparation of assignments and reading, active participation, and final essay of 10-15 pages) receive a NOI♀SE Certificate (5 ECTS).
- All students are expected to participate in the entire program for the duration of five days.

Please check the website for more information, registration and regular updates:

<http://www.graduategenderstudies.nl> → Education → NOI♀SE 2017

## **Venue**

The NOI♀SE Summer School 2017 will be hosted by Utrecht University, the Netherlands.

## **Tuition Fees**

The tuition fee is €450,- This includes digital reading materials but excludes accommodation and subsistence costs (i.e., food, meals, drinks, etc.).

## **Teachers in the course**

The NOI♀SE Summer School is organized by the Netherlands Research School of Gender Studies (NOG, Utrecht University). The 2017 edition is coordinated by dr. Jamila Mascat, dr. Layal Ftouni and dr. Gianmaria Colpani.

Several renowned international scholars from various disciplines including gender and postcolonial studies, cultural anthropology and inquiry and affect theory will be teaching at the Summer School.

Confirmed speakers are Dr. Ramy Aly (Assistant Professor of Anthropology, American University in Cairo), Prof. Rosemarie Buikema (Professor of Art, Culture and Diversity, Utrecht University),

Dr. Peter Drucker (Research Fellow, International Institute for Research and Education, Amsterdam), Prof. Lisa Duggan (Professor of Social and Cultural Analysis, New York University), Quinsy Gario (artist and performer, Amsterdam), Dr. Nahal Naficy (Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Allameh Tabatabaie University, Tehran), Prof. Andrea Peto (Professor of Gender Studies, Central European University, Budapest), Belit Sag (visual artist, Amsterdam), Soundz of the South (musicians/performers, Cape Town) and Dr. Veronica Vasterling (Associate Professor of Gender studies and Philosophy, Radboud University, Nijmegen).

## **Registration and Deadline:**

Deadline: April 30, 2017. You can find the application form on the website:

<http://www.graduategenderstudies.nl> → Education → NOI♀SE 2017

## **For more information**

NOI♀SE Central Coordination  
Utrecht University  
Muntstraat 2a, 3512 EV Utrecht  
The Netherlands  
noise@uu.nl

**COME TO THE NOI♀SE SUMMER SCHOOL AND BE CHALLENGED!**