

## NOISE Summer School 2018

# Social and Political Suffocations

Netherlands Research School of Gender Studies

27-31 August 2018, Utrecht University, The Netherlands

- How can we (the participants of NOISE) identify, analyze, and challenge contemporary operations of social power relations that constitute daily dynamics of living that are breathable for some while suffocating for others?
- What forms of transformative interventions and politics can be developed across different feminist goals and (geopolitical and intersectional) positionings?
- How can we envision politics that take into account not only recognized forms of protest (such as diverse types of public gatherings that require physical and affective presence and strength) but cherish also other forms of vulnerable engagements – that may be less visible due to, for example, difficulty to participate in public spaces – as political?
- How can we account for the affective and embodied dimensions of our academic, activist, and artistic work and ‘stay with the trouble,’ to quote Haraway, to formulate breathable alternatives?

As feminist scholars have pointed out for decades, the unequal distribution of wealth, privilege, and social and political agency and recognition take place along intersectional power dynamics structured by, for example, gender, race, class, mental and physical dis/ability, sexuality. While the last year’s NOISE summer school examined the relevance of critique in times of crisis, this year we continue this timely exploration by turning attention to how intersectional dynamics of social power relations operate in constituting whose lives and what forms of living are currently un/breathable. By approaching this topic as a matter of an entanglement of structural, individual, and quotidian operations of bio- and necropolitics, we seek to discuss possible feminist transformative interventions that can be developed to combat the suffocating atmospheres of our times.

Inspirational forms of creating alternatives to the existing social and political structures demand time, involvement and active participation in dismantling the structures of oppression we are implicated in. In neoliberal societies time, however, is a scarce resource, involvement requires existence of and access to the spaces for breathable engagements, and active participation demands extra bodily and affective energy. Considering the differential distribution of resources of quotidian, social and political survival, what are the possibilities for a feminist transformation of the social and political suffocation and resistance to the growing right wing populism, racism, xenophobia, and state and regional protectionism?

The 26th edition of the NOISE Summer School seeks to address experiences of social and political suffocations, as well as accompanying strategies of resistance, through a series of lectures by scholars and activists who are all also embodied practitioners in their critical practice(s). With these, the five-day program of NOISE 2018 will offer innovative interventions into the debate on political involvement as theory *and* embodied practice, as well as a discussion of strategies of organizing in the face of individual, institutional and structural enclosures.

### Aims

Summer school participants will be:

- Introduced to diverse feminist, intersectional, corporeal and affective theories
- Learn to develop critical and affirmative analytical practice
- Mobilize theories and critical and affirmative analytical practices for investigating contemporary individual and structural operations of power relations and developing transformative interventions

**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**

- Lectures in the morning
- Separate PhD and MA-seminars in the afternoon
- Round table discussions
- Social program
- Students prepare before NOISE 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) receive a NOISE Certificate of 5 EC.
- 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 → NOISE 2018

**Venue**

The NOISE Summer School 2018 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 NOISE Summer School is organized by the Netherlands Research School of Gender Studies (NOG, Utrecht University). The 2018 edition is coordinated by dr. Magdalena Górska and Milica Trakilovic, MA. Several renowned international scholars of gender, postcolonial, postsocialist, queer and affect studies will be teaching at the Summer School. Confirmed teachers are Prof. Nina Lykke and Dr. Damir Arsenijević.

**Registration and Deadline:**

Deadline: April 30, 2018. You can find the application form on the website:

<http://www.graduategenderstudies.nl> → Education → NOISE 2018

**For more information**

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