Call for Papers

Kinship Relations – Gender Relations
Media Forms, Techniques and Practices of Kinship in the 21st Century

In daily contexts we are increasingly confronted with erosion processes and reorganizations of biologically-based family relationships in various, often interrelated areas, e.g. in reproductive medicine, in partner relationships and family care, in small and large families. New biopolitical, social and legal forms of kinship have emerged which require a fundamental redefinition of the rules of gender and relationships, and make the model of genealogy increasingly obsolete. Instead of family relationships with a dyadic, patrilinear structure based on family background and blood relations, new plural forms of social and biological relationships are now possible (same-sex parentage, adoption rights, donor children, children with three genetic parents). These emulate in part the old family models, but also test new alliances and networks and thereby readjust the function of the category gender in family relationships.

This special issue encourages discussions on new forms of kinship, especially from the perspectives of cultural and social sciences and gender theory. Experimental models of new forms of kinship in the media as well as family storytelling, one of the oldest and culturally most stable form of narrative, will be in the focus. They are examples of genealogical patterns providing room for anxieties, transgressions and emotions with which kinship is loaded. As a cultural technique they constitute and stabilize human forms of socialization, while it is an important cultural-hermeneutical task of literary and cultural studies to analyze the representation of new forms of kinship in the media. The focus will also be on perspectives from social studies and the humanities on the meaning and creation of kinship, on legal aspects, especially in socially-based kinships, and on new forms of relationships in which membership to social groups provide a frame for intimate relationships. All these topics will be discussed in relation to the question of the importance of these changes with regard to gender relations.
Possible questions/research topics:

- Genealogy as a literary and cultural pattern of gender relations
- Interdependencies of legal, biotechnological and literary/media discourses
- Creation and relevance of kinship relations for gender relations
- Elective affinities, alliances, networks: related metaphors
- Trans-human models of kinship
- Innovative and restorative explanations of kinship

Procedure and timetable

Please submit a one- to two-page abstract by 20 November 2017. Non-German speakers are welcome to submit their articles in English. The Editorial Department works with the online editing system OJS. We would therefore like to ask you to register as an author of the journal GENDER at www.budrich-journals.de/index.php/gender and to submit and upload your abstract there. A guideline for the use of OJS is available at www.gender-zeitschrift.de/index.php?id=manuskripte. Once your abstract has been assessed and judged suitable for this issue, you will receive an invitation to submit. Notifications of acceptance will be sent by 6 December 2017. The deadline for submission of the final manuscript is 4 June 2018. Manuscripts must not exceed 50,000 characters (including space characters). All submissions will be reviewed in our double-blind peer review process based on which the final selection of contributions to be published will be made. The editors may give instructions to revise the contribution, which is the rule rather than the exception. In case of a high number of positively peer-reviewed contributions, the Editorial Department reserves the right to make a final selection of articles and to publish some contributions in a later issue.

GENDER. Journal for Gender, Culture and Society

GENDER. Journal for Gender, Culture and Society was founded in 2009 as a journal on women and gender studies. It provides a forum for academic debate and discourse between academics and practitioners.

The journal covers a broad range of social and cultural topics, addressing both socio-political issues on equality and justice as well as issues regarding the staging and cultural interpretation of gender. The journal aims to cover a wide range of topics and academic disciplines in which women, men and gender issues are reflected. Given the journal’s multi-disciplinary setting, we welcome analyses from, for instance, sociology, educational science, political science, cultural science and history which correspond to the interdisciplinary nature of gender studies. Analyses of local, regional and global influences on gender relations are also of interest.

GENDER. Journal for Gender, Culture and Society is published in three issues a year and some 480 pages per annum. Contributions to the special issues and to the free section are double-blind peer reviewed.

Contributions to the free section are always welcome, irrespective of the focus of the special issue.
Do you have any questions?

For further information please contact the editors of the special issue “Kinship Relations – Gender Relations”: Prof. Dr. Sigrid Nieberle (TU Dortmund; sigrid.nieberle@tu-dortmund.de), Prof. Dr. Barbara Schaff (Göttingen University; bschaff@uni-goettingen.de), and Dr. Jenny Bünnig (University Duisburg-Essen; jenny.buennig@uni-due.de), or the editorial team (redaktion@gender-zeitschrift.de).

A style sheet for authors is available at http://www.gender-zeitschrift.de/en/manuskripte/

We look forward to receiving your contribution.