



UNIVERSITÀ
DI TRENTO



CENTRO STUDI
INTERDISCIPLINARI DI **GENERE**

Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies
Conference 2025

Of Love and Struggle.
Shaping Gender Politics, Alliances, and Relationships

Trento (Italy), 14-15 February 2025

Call for Papers

The title "*Of Love and Struggle*" refers to dynamics that the sixth conference of the Interdisciplinary Gender Studies Centre at the University of Trento seeks to explore. Feminist and transfeminist theories and practices have generated networks and divisions, affinities, and controversies. It is precisely at the intersection of these seemingly distant paths that political alliances and relationships of love and struggle continue to be shaped, aimed at promoting freedom of existence and identity recognition, dismantling oppression, and breaking down prejudices. In this sense, love and struggle are not abstract or irreconcilable concepts but practices of affiliation, claim, and affirmation, where genders, bodies, minds, emotions, thoughts, histories, individuals, communities, systems of power, and counter-power intersect.

The conference will offer an opportunity to reflect on the alliances that have been built and those that can still be built, in the social dimension of activism, in the cultural dimension of feminist artistic expressions, and in the academic dimension of feminist and gender studies research, to bring about radical change in the name of social justice, rights, and freedom.

In a historical moment marked by conflicts and violence, where power and domination undermine human rights, norms, and the sense of humanity that the international community had built after World War II, we want to reflect on the contribution of gender, transfeminist, queer, LGBT+, and post-colonial studies in understanding and redefining these scenarios of alliances and struggles, and in fostering a debate that moves beyond the reductive logic of friend vs. enemy, sisterhood/brotherhood vs. division, love vs. hate. This conference aims at providing a space for dialogue between revolutionary practices and critical knowledge, such as gender studies, LGBT+ studies, fat studies, disability studies, Black feminism, lesbian feminism, transfeminism, queer activism, and antispeciesism. Our goal is to reflect on conceptual tools, practices, theoretical and applied approaches, representations, and knowledge developed over time to shape gender politics, alliances, and relationships capable of countering anti-democratic threats, the dismantling of rights, and anti-intellectualism. We believe that refining our critical perspectives on the past and present is a crucial step in shaping our practices of love and struggle for the future.

Below, we propose a series of keywords related to gender, which can intersect artistic, cultural, economic, educational, philosophical, legal, political, psychological, sociological, and historical

perspectives. Theoretical and empirical contributions are welcome, as well as case studies and comparative research with different methodologies.

- (anti)capitalism
- (self)regulation of bodies
- (un)doing gender and spaces of sports and movement
- action and revolution
- class and race/ethnicity
- collectivity and relationships
- control of bodies and relationships
- intergenerational gaps
- economy, work, and insecurity
- sex and affective education
- empowerment
- fascism and anti-fascism
- Southern feminisms
- war, peace, and international law
- artificial intelligence, new technologies, and gender
- freedom, rights, citizenship
- languages of hate and love
- language, narratives, and voices
- struggle and love as political, social, and cultural practices
- progressive and anti-gender social movements
- nation and borders
- new forms of intimacy, families, and (non)families
- oppression and (de)regulation of non-conforming bodies
- patriarchy and heteronormativity
- collective care practices
- religions and politics
- health and reproductive rights
- sexuality, norms, and eroticism
- solidarity and alliances
- interspecies solidarity
- public and private spaces
- public spaces and safety
- gender-based violence and relationships of possession and control

Keynote Speakers

RACHELE BORGHI, Professor at Sorbonne University in Paris, currently teaching social sciences at the Academy of Fine Arts in Marseille. She is a geographer and queer transfeminist activist. Her work focuses on deconstructing dominant norms and contaminating spaces through dissident and militant bodies. Inspired by feminist and decolonial thought, she seeks to break down the walls of the university, circulate people, knowledge, reflections, and practices, and develop radical pedagogy methods. She uses her privilege as a white person with a permanent academic position to experiment with decolonization practices of knowledge and direct action. A great admirer of Monique Wittig and bell hooks, she believes one is either born or becomes a guerrilla. She has authored *Decoloniality and Privilege* for Meltemi (Radical Cultures, 2020).

Second keynote speaker: to be confirmed.

Deadlines

Submit an abstract of no more than 1500 words with an essential bibliography in Word/Open Office format (.doc, .docx, .odt) to the email address convegno.csg.srs@unitn.it by **November 10, 2024**.

In addition to the abstract, please include the following information:

- Full name(s) of the author(s)
- Title and affiliation, if applicable
- Title of the proposal
- Maximum 5 keywords

Abstracts will be selected by the scientific-organizing committee. Confirmation of acceptance will be communicated via email by **November 31, 2024**.

Conference registration must be confirmed by **December 21, 2024**. More information regarding registration procedures will be provided in the acceptance email. During registration, it will be possible to inform the organization of any accessibility requests or specific needs.

Languages

Italian and English.

Main venue of the conference

The event will be held in person at Palazzo di Sociologia, Via Verdi 26, Trento. The conference will take place in person, but the organisers may schedule one or more online synchronous sessions to ensure greater accessibility.

Registration fees

- €80: (non-UniTn) academic staff and professionals
- €35: research staff on temporary contracts
- Free: students, UniTn staff (permanent/temporary), and CSG members (active membership as of September 2024)

The registration fee includes conference materials, coffee breaks, and buffet lunch. The social dinner will take place on the evening of Friday, February 14, 2025, buffet-style, at an estimated cost of €40 per person (more details will be available during conference registration).

Conference Proceedings

A selection of scientific contributions will be published in a conference proceedings volume (open access with ISBN). After the conference, information on selection and editorial criteria will be provided.

Scientific-organizing committee

Luisa Antonioli, Gabriella Berloff, Maria Micaela Coppola, Francesca Di Blasio, Alessia Donà, Cecilia Nubola, Maria Paola Paladino, Aurora Perego, Greta Perletti, Barbara Poggio, Carla Maria Reale, Alexander Schuster, Anna Simonati, Alessia Tuselli, Stefania Yapó.