

“Embodied Feelings”: Master Class with Linda Williams

21 June 2017 | 9:00-14:00 • Kleiner Hörsaal | Tiefparterre | University of Vienna

Linda Williams is Professor of Film & Media and Rhetoric at the University of California, Berkeley. She is a leading film scholar specializing in the study of popular moving-image ‘body genres’: especially melodrama, comedy, horror, pornography. Her books include *Hard Core: Power, Pleasure and the Frenzy of the Visible* (1989), *Viewing Positions: Ways of Seeing Film* (1993), and *Playing the Race Card: Melodramas of Black and White from Uncle Tom to O. J. Simpson* (2001); her 2014 book, *On the Wire*, investigates the HBO television serial.

“Embodied Feelings” will be held in a master-class format: students and young researchers at the University of Vienna and the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna are invited to present their research in 15-minute presentations, which will be discussed by Linda Williams and workshop participants. Presentations should provide think pieces on work in progress rather than closed arguments as the workshop is designed to generate peer exchange and feedback which can be incorporated into the work. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Body genres (pornography, horror, melodrama, comedy, etc.) across media
- Screening sex and embodiments of sexual identities (heteronormativity and beyond)
- Disgust, shame, abjection, trauma, the ‘gross’
- Feminist film criticism and feminist approaches to sexualities and pornography
- Representations of bodies and feelings in the visual arts and media
- Documentary and historiographic genres as body genres
- Spectacular bodies and bodily spectacles
- Representations and embodiment of ‘race’, gender, class, and other cultural identities
- Film spectatorship and viewing positions
- Photographic, cinematic and technological bodies and affect
- Psychoanalytic criticism
- Bodily excess and transgression

The workshop will be organized in conjunction with the distinguished lecture series *Screening Pleasure* at the Department of English and American Studies: Linda Williams will give a guest lecture “On the Academic Pleasures of Screening Sex: A Feminist Perspective”, which will be held at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna as part of the *Feminist Idols* series. Attendance at the guest lecture or lecture series is not required for participation at the workshop.

Registration to the workshop is required and open to both researchers wishing to present a project and other interested participants.

Interested presenters send an abstract of no more than 250 words and a brief bio-note to elli.lechner@univie.ac.at and/or iris.gemeinboeck@univie.ac.at by **31 March 2017**. Accepted speakers must send their proposals in the format of a long abstract (max. 1000 words) or written presentation by **21 May 2017**. All submissions must be written in English.

Interested discussants register via email by **21 May 2017**.



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