Tracing the Heroic Through Gender (Freiburg, 26–28 Feb 15)

Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS), Albertstr. 19, 79104 Freiburg, Feb 26–28, 2015

Andreas Friedrich, SFB 948 "Helden - Heroisierungen - Heroismen"

Tracing the Heroic Through Gender
Conference - Collaborative Research Center 948 "Heroes - Heroizations - Heroisms",
Thursday, 26 - Saturday, 28 February 2015
University of Freiburg, Germany

In most societies the heroic is in many ways gendered. When considering the heroic, attributes of masculinity might first come to mind. Yet, from a historical perspective it becomes apparent that heroizations also often have feminine connotations. The social and cultural production of the heroic cannot be analyzed exclusively in terms of masculinity, nor can we regard women or femininity merely as exceptions in this field. Rather, we need to reconsider the relational character of the category gender.
We propose to use gender as an analytical tool in a new way. Metaphorically speaking, gender as a 'tracer' can help us uncover new aspects of heroic ideas and concepts. In natural science experiments, a 'tracer' passes through different environments and reacts to each of them in a different way. Hence, the tracer is not the object of study, but is used to examine a third element: our conference shall try to use gender systematically to 'trace' various historical 'environments' of the heroic.
By using gender as a tracer, the conference will explore forms, mediums and processes of heroization as well as discourses of heroic transgression, exceptionality or veneration. The conference will focus on three points in time (1650, 1750, 1850) and the continuities and transformations that may become apparent from interrelating the tracing results in a diachronic perspective.

Program

Thursday, 26 February 2015
Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS), Großer Seminarraum, Albertstr. 19, 79104 Freiburg

14:00 - 14:30
Introduction

Panel 1: 1650

14:30 - 15:15
Women in writings on the heroic in 17th century academic instruction

Joseph S. Freedman (Montgomery, AL, USA)

15:15 - 16:00
Anti-heroes. Masculinity and civic ethics in literary academies of 17th century Florence
Eva Struhal (Québec, CA)

16:30 - 17:15
Gendering fear. Transformations of courage and masculinity in heroic drama
Christiane Hansen (Freiburg, DE)

17:15 - 18:00
Testing times for anxious he-roes. Tracing the end of a heroic figuration in England and France, ca. 1650
Andreas Schlüter (Freiburg, DE)

Evening lecture
18:30 – 19:30
From viragos to valkyries. Transformations of the heroic woman from the 17th to the 19th century
Helen Watanabe-O'Kelly (Oxford, UK)

Friday, 27 February 2015
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Panel 2: 1750

9:30 - 10:30 (Keynote lecture)
When heroes sigh... Sentimental heroism in 18th century opera
Melanie Unseld (Oldenburg, DE)

11:00 - 11:45
A reigning woman as a heroic monarch? Maria Theresa and the roles of emperor, wife and mother
Anne-Marie Wurster (Freiburg, DE)

11:45 - 12:30
Creating and subverting German models of 'Galanterie'? Heroes and heroines in texts by Christian Friedrich Hunold and Maria Aurora von Königsmarck
Madeleine Brook (Oxford, UK)

Panel 3: 1850

14:00 - 14:45
Heroism of a melancholy look from blue eyes
Petra Polláková (Prague, CZ)

14:45 - 15:30
What is the Polish peasant hero's gender? Representations of peasant citizenship in Polish culture, ca. 1850
Alicja Kusiak-Brownstein (Ann Arbor, MI, USA)

15:30 - 16:15
Untangling the heroic from the sacrifice. Malwida von Meysenbug's attempt to appropriate a common female topos in and for her political novel "Phädra" (1885)
Birgit Mikus (Oxford, UK)

Lecture and round-table discussion

16:45 - 18:45
Rethinking the heroic. Difference as a tracer?
Monika Mommertz (Freiburg, DE)

Concert talk
(Haus "Zur lieben Hand", Großer Saal, Löwenstr. 16, 79098 Freiburg)

20:00 - 21:00
'En travesti' - the female as male in early 19th century operas
Thomas Seedorf (Karlsruhe/Freiburg, DE)
Mezzosoprano: Felicitas Brunke
Piano: Freya Jung

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Panel 4: Connections

09:30 - 10:15
Gendering the operatic sound of the heroic. 1647 – 1749 – 1843
Anke Charton (Leipzig, DE)

10:15 - 11:00
Victorian male heroes and romance in Elizabeth Bowen's short fiction
Laura Lojo-Rodríguez (Santiago de Compostela, ES)

11:15 - 12:00
The tragic hero and the gendered imaginary in early modern German drama
Barbara Becker-Cantarino (Columbus, OH, USA)

12:15 – 13:00
Closing session

Conference Venues
Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS),
Großer Seminarraum, Albertstr. 19, 79104 Freiburg

Haus "Zur lieben Hand", Großer Saal,
Löwenstr. 16, 79098 Freiburg

Registration

Please register by an informal e-mail or by phone:
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