

Gender, Science and Technology

Interdepartmental Summer Course (Humanities and Science)

University College Utrecht

Ever since the beginning of modernity, the natural and life sciences have been the most authoritative way of speaking about nature, including the human body. This summer course, a cooperation between the UU Humanities and Science departments, explores the ways in which science, technology and medicine are gendered and racialized. Does the disengaged objective scientist merely *discover* or instead *produce* differences between men and women, or between 'white' and 'black' people?

Secondly, this course will examine the position of women working in science and technology in historical perspective and today.



Eugen Fischer, Professor of medicine, anthropology and eugenics, Berlin, studying photos of Nama women (former German South-West Africa, now Namibia), 1938. The Nazi Nuremberg laws were partly based on Fischer's racial theories

Topics covered in this course

- Gender as an analytical category: persistent dualisms and hierarchies
- Science as a social practice: The case of the making of the double helix in the lab and the role of Rosalind Franklin
- The gendered history of the natural sciences
- Science of gender: the production of the gendered and sexed body in the life sciences
- Olympic sports and gender: The case of Caster Semenya
- Imperialism, science and race: Scientific racism, the case of genetic ancestry testing and the case of Saartjie Baartman
- Women in science: The case of mathematics
- Gender bias in medical research and surgery
- Neuroscience: Are brains blue or pink?
- Critiques of feminist epistemology and science studies
- Evolutionary psychology: Promiscuous men, passive women?
- The force of gender stereotypes in scientific practice: Implicit bias



Course details

Dates, times, venue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer term (May 22-June 23); Monday, Wednesday, Friday; 10:00-15:00 • UCU, Newton G., GEN11
Lecturers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. M. Borren, Humanities (Gender Studies) • Dr. C. Kreisbeck, Johanna Westerdijk Fellow, Science (Mathematics)
Teaching formats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures on <i>Gendered and racial perspectives on science and technology</i> • Text reading seminars • Case studies of gender and scientific practices • Seminars on <i>Women of mathematics throughout Europe</i> • Public guest lectures. Confirmed speaker: Prof. dr. Hanneke Takkenberg, Dept. of Cardio-Thoracic Surgery, Erasmus Medical Centre & Chief Diversity Officer, Erasmus University Rotterdam on <i>Diversity and Inclusion in Medicine and Science</i> (June 6, 10:00 – 12:00)
Contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. M. Borren, coordinator: m.borren@uu.nl



Johanna Westerdijk on the occasion of her inauguration as a professor of plant pathology, Aula Utrecht University, February 10, 1917. Westerdijk was the first woman professor in the Netherlands. In 2017, the centennial of her inaugural address is commemorated