

Inconvenient attachments: Thinking and acting queerly with/after Berlant

Lauren Berlant, who passed away in 2021, has a tremendous reach inside and beyond the academy in challenging normative assumptions about modern life at every level, from the most intimate to macropolitical structural inequalities. They published groundbreaking and deeply influential books over decades, such as *The queen of America goes to Washington: Essays on sex and citizenship* (1997), *Female Complaint* (2008), and *Cruel Optimism* (2011). Their posthumously completed book, *On the Inconvenience of Other People* is forthcoming. This plenary engages insights and reflections based in Lauren Berlant's formidable legacy, and brings together scholars to share, inspire and think together in a queerly collaborative conversation.

Responsible: Centre for gender research, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies of Culture at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology; and Centre for Gender Studies, University of Stavanger.

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Moderators

Elisabeth Lund Engebretsen is an Associate Professor with the Centre for Gender Studies, University of Stavanger. Engebretsen is the author of *Queer women in urban China: An ethnography* (Routledge, 2014), and has co-edited *Queer/Tongzhi China* (NIAS Press, 2015; with Will Schroeder and Hongwei Bao), *Anthropology's queer sensibilities* (special issue of *Sexualities*, 2018; with Paul Boyce and Silvia Posocco), and *Transforming Identities in Contemporary Europe* (Routledge, forthcoming; with Mia Liinason). Current research projects are concerned with Pride politics, queer and lesbian history, queer and feminist activism, and anti-gender movements. Engebretsen is editor-in-chief of the Nordic lgbtq and queer studies journal *lambda nordica* (with Erika Alm).

Elisabeth Stubberud is an Associate Professor at the Centre for gender research, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies of Culture at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. Elisabeth has been working on a range of projects focusing mainly on queer lives, and ethnicity and belonging among Sámi and Kven people. Among her latest publications are *Queer young people's identity work: SKAM after homotolerance* (2018, with Svendsen & Djupedal), *A Wager for Life: Queer children seeking asylum in Norway* (2019, with Akin & Svendsen), and *Exposure to violence among queer people with a migrant background* (2020, with Eggebø).

Panelists

Mons Bissenbakker, Associate Professor, Ph.D., is head of the Centre for Gender Studies at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. His research concerns the biopolitics of affect in the intersections between queer, feminist, de-colonial and crip theory as reflected in a wide range

of cultural products such as fiction, film & TV, public debates, discourses of law, etc. His current research project “Attachment Required: Danish Migration Legislation 1999-2018” investigates the ways in which the concept of national attachment has come to govern Danish love migration. This project is part of the collective research project *Loving Attachment: Regulating Danish Love Migration (LOVA)* of which Mons Bissenbakker is the project leader: <https://koensforskning.ku.dk/forskning/lova/>

Ulrika Dahl is professor of Gender Studies at Uppsala University. She has published widely in critical femininity studies, queer studies, on intersectionality and critical whiteness studies as well as on queer kinship and reproduction. Among her publications are *Femmes of Power: Exploding Queer Femininities* (with Del LaGrace Volcano, 2008), *Skamgrepp: Femmeinistiska essäer* (2014) and *The Geopolitics of Nordic and Russian Gender Research 1975-2005* (with Marianne Liljeström and Ulla Manns) and articles in *Feminist Theory*, *Sexualities*, *Somatechnics* and *Biosocieties*. Currently, Ulrika is working on the affective politics of race and nation in queer assisted reproduction across Scandinavian borders (together with Rikke Andreassen) and on the cruel optimism and female complaints of what she calls the conservative turn in feminism. In her spare time she is working on a literary essay/queer biomythography provisionally entitled *La Profesora: Resor i Venusdeltat*.

Kata Kyrölä is a Lecturer in Media Studies at University College London and specializes in feminist, queer, and decolonial/critical race studies of popular culture. They co-edited the collection *The Power of Vulnerability: Mobilizing Affect in Feminist, Queer and Anti-racist Media Cultures* (2018), a special issue on Nordic queer cinema (2021) for *lambda nordica*, and are the author of *The Weight of Images: Affect, Body Image and Fat in the Media* (2014) as well as articles in e.g. *Journal of Cinema and Media Studies*, *Feminist Theory*, *Sexualities*, and *Subjectivity*.

Stine Helena Bang Svendsen is an Associate Professor in the Department of Teacher Education at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. Stine’s research focuses on how sexuality, gender and race come to matter in current Nordic cultural politics and education. She is currently concerned with developing decolonial perspectives in and on education, starting from Saami school history and philosophies of education. She also works on diversity and inclusion in education, schools' support for gender diversity and sexual diversity, social studies didactics that promote minority knowledges, and sex education.