

# SOMATECHNICS

## QUEER THEORY AND BIOPOLITICS

Research Workshop with **NIKKI SULLIVAN**  
(Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia)  
also with Paula-Irene Villa (LMU München)

Hegemonic western notions of the gendered body imply the ontology of a naturally given material entity, which precedes cultural processes and is in itself split between body and mind. In contrast, the emerging and much debated notion of 'somatechnics' (Sullivan/Murray 2009) argues that embodiment is always and necessarily interdependent with the technological and technical contexts in which it exists. According to this view, soma and techné of the body co-inform each other. Thus, biopolitical technologies of gender, 'race' or sexuality, include quite conscious techniques of (self-)discipline as in sports, dieting or work as well as manifest technologies like prosthesis, computer or surgeries. Queer Theory has for decades been analyzing seeming ontologies and regimes of normalization, especially in regard to desires/sexuality.

This workshop will bring together both lines of critical research: queer somatechnics. Can the technologisation of bodies be queered? How would we do according research?

**OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup> 2014, 10 AM - 5 PM**  
**LMU MUNICH, INSTITUTE FOR SOCIOLOGY**  
**KONRADSTR. 6, ROOM XXX**

# CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

This research workshop will present and discuss current research in the interdisciplinary field of Queer Theory and Biopolitics. We wish to pool insights about the complex interplay of (gendered) embodiment, technology and techniques. Topics of discussion might be: Empirical research designs, conceptual tools, somatechnics in relation to sexuality, 'race' and identity, reproduction, technoscience, commodity culture, biopolitics of health and disease, film, art, education or historical change. We invite graduate students as well as academic staff and researchers in other institutions to share their current work in the broad field of Queer Theory and Biopolitics.

Nikki Sullivan will provide brief overview of her work on somatechnics and queer theory.

In order to plan a fruitful seminar, we ask you to apply for participation by sending us an abstract of your project/research/study, and your proposals for the questions you would like the workshop to address (max. two pages) + your Curriculum Vitae

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION  
VIA E-MAIL BY SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2014**

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