

The Politics of Intersectionality and the Right-Wing Populist Complex: Brazilian and German perspectives

1-Day Workshop, Center for Interamerican Studies (CIAS), Bielefeld University

As normative institutions, the Governmental States established in the mid-eighteenth century might be approached as a creation of the representation of interests of wealthy white men. Currently, far-right political actors benefit from technological solutions and the neoliberal social engineering models of internet platforms (Chun, 2022) to participate and mix political discourse and cultural processes. As the traditionally masculinist model of the state is being increasingly challenged towards more plurality and inclusion, right-wing actors have been working the already biased architecture and policies of online social media in order to dispute cultural perspectives and shift discourse to gain/maintain hegemony in a polarized climate. This panorama brings forward the interweaving of politics, culture, media and different intersectional structures of domination (Roth & Sauer, 2022) that order transformations of contemporary societies.

This workshop is interested in the ways in which actors, discourses and practices that can be subsumed under the term ‘right-wing populist complex’ (Dietze & Roth 2020; Roth & Sauer, 2022) instrumentalize notions of intersectionality to expand extreme projects of neoliberal individualism. Often, it is not quite clear who benefits from these intersectional exclusions and how (and which) social and technological structures are being arranged in order to create and participate in such conflicts. Increasingly, right-wing actors use the strategy of the contestation of rights – often bringing gender center stage – as a strategy to create segregations through internet platforms (Chun, 2022) of and between minoritized groups. The right-wing populist complex not only participates in the production of intersectional exclusionary structures by contesting the rights of groups allied by gender, race, class, etc. Right-wing actors also produce their own (e.g. national, ethnic, political) group as the hegemonic (or normative) one in which markers of race, gender and class should not go unnoticed. Against this backdrop, the aim of the mini-conference is to advance reflections on how the ‘right-wing populist’ complex in Brazil and Germany co-produces different intersectional structures (or, a sort of “intersectionality from above”), be it in terms of hegemony (e.g. masculinists movements) or contestations (e.g. anti-abortion rights). The conference also takes into account how social movements confront these right-wing formulation of hegemony and contestations (e.g. #EleNão demonstrations in Brazil).

Language: English

6th July (Thursday)

X B2 103

Registration: cias@uni-bielefeld.de

(10:30 – 12:00) Opening presentations

Intro: Julia Roth and Gracila Vilaça

Weaponizing Femininity in Right-Wing Populist contexts

[Gabriele Dietze](#)

(Humboldt University, Berlin – gabriele.dietze@ici-berlin.org)

[Julia Roth](#)

(Bielefeld University, Bielefeld – julia.roth@uni-bielefeld.de)

(12:00 – 13:30) Lunch

(13:30 – 15:00) Panel 1

Gender contradictions in the democratic imaginary: the right-wing populist response

[Paula Diehl](#)

(Kiel University, Kiel – diehl@politik.uni-kiel.de)

The Politics of Presence of Black Women Politicians in Brazil: reclaiming ‘Political Representation’ as a Territory to be Occupied

[Livia de Souza Lima](#)

(Bielefeld University, Bielefeld – livdesouzalima@gmail.com)

Comment: [Joachim Michael](#)

(Bielefeld University, Bielefeld – joachim.michael@uni-bielefeld.de)

Moderation: [Diana Fulger](#)

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(15:00 – 15:30) Coffee break

(15:30 – 17:00) Panel 2

The Banality of Whiteness: Exploring Intersectionality in the Rise of Right-Wing Populism

[Bruno de Araújo](#)

(University of Hamburg, Hamburg – araujobms@gmail.com)

Homosociotechnical ambiances: internet memes and masculinities of the Brazilian manosphere in Reddit

[Gracila Vilaça](#)

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Comment: [Julia Roth](#)

(Bielefeld University, Bielefeld – julia.roth@uni-bielefeld.de)

Moderation: [Philipp Wolfesberger](#)

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(18:00 – 19:30) Roundtable

How agents/discourses/practices that can be subsumed under the ‘right-wing populist complex’ co-produce intersectionalities in the Americas?

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[Ragna Verhoeven](#)

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Moderation: Julia Roth and Gracila Vilaça