Inaugural Lecture

The inaugural lecture is part of the lecture series „Diversität und Exzellenz – Ein Spannungsverhältnis?!" of the Berlin University Alliance.

Thu, 01 Dec 2022 | 5.30 – 8.00 pm | Henry Ford Building
Garystraße 35, 14195 Berlin, lecture hall A

INVITATION

The Berlin University Alliance, the Institute of Sociology of the Freie Universität Berlin and the Cluster of Excellence "Contestations of the Liberal Script (SCRIPTS)" have the pleasure to invite you to the inaugural lecture of

Prof. Kathrin Zippel, Ph.D.

Diffusion of Policy Ideas on Gender and Diversity Change in Academic Institutions

- Moderation and Welcome Address by Prof. Robin Celikates, Professor of Social Philosophy at the Freie Universität Berlin and member of the Steering Committee for Diversity and Gender Equality of the Berlin University Alliance

- Welcome address by Armaghan Naghipour, State Secretary for Science, Research and Equality of the State of Berlin

- Welcome address by Prof. Dr. Günter M. Ziegler, President of the Freie Universität Berlin

- Welcome address by Prof. Dr. Joachim Trebbe, Dean of the Department of Political and Social Sciences at the Freie Universität Berlin

- Welcome address by Prof. Dr. Christian von Scheve, Head of the Institute for Sociology at the Freie Universität Berlin

- Lecture by Einstein Professor Prof. Kathrin Zippel, Ph.D.

The lecture is public without registration.
The lecture hall is accessible to those with disabilities and has wheelchair spaces.
All guests are cordially invited to a reception afterwards.
The lecture will be livestreamed here:
https://www.scripts-berlin.eu/news-events-media/events/2022_Inauguration-Lecture_Zippel.html
A recording of the lecture will be available afterwards on the same website.
Guests are kindly asked to wear an FFP2 masks during the event.

The most acceptable justification for inequality in the liberal script of societies is meritocracy, the idea that people get success, status, power, or rewards because of what they achieve rather than their wealth or social position. Thus, meritocracy depends on fair judgments of the quality of work and qualifications. Implicit bias presents a stunningly popular theory to explain how people can act based on prejudice and stereotypes about social groups without intending to do so, thus problematizing our ability to measure excellence fairly. To improve the quality of evaluations of others in academia and in industry, diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts often discuss implicit bias in their training programs. This talk addresses what is it about implicit bias that explains its widespread use and exceptional academic and public trajectory. Kathrin Zippel uses the case of implicit bias theory to suggest specific features of ideas that help move them into public conversation and practical use. She also asks what consequences arise from addressing diversity and inequality primarily through the lens of implicit bias. What does such an approach to evaluation and selection leave out, and what does it say about meritocracy overall? She concludes with some thoughts about her current research questions and future research agenda.

Photo: Dirk Ahlgrim

Prof. Kathrin Zippel, Ph.D. is Einstein Professor of Sociology with a focus on Gender Studies at the Institute of Sociology at Freie Universität Berlin and a member of the Cluster of Excellence SCRIPTS. After her Vordiplom in Mathematics and Political Science at the University of Hamburg, she received a Master's degree in Sociology from The Ohio State University. She then earned a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Sociology with a certificate in Women's Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She held a Postdoctoral Fellow at the European Union Center of New York at Columbia University. Since 2001, Kathrin Zippel was professor at Northeastern University; in addition, she was visiting assistant professor in the Social Studies Program at Harvard University and taught in the Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexuality at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She also served as co-chair of the Seminar on Social Exclusion and Inclusion at the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard University and was a residential fellow in the Women and Public Policy Program at Harvard Kennedy School. In 2007, she received the Victoria Schuck Award for the best book on women and politics from the American Political Science Association. In 2019, she was awarded the prestigious Alumni Award for Innovative Networking Initiatives from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. She uses institutional, comparative research approaches and her interests include gender equity and diversity measures as well as gender aspects of global transformations in science and higher education.