



# — Interdisciplinary Hauntings: The Ghostly Worlds of Naturecultures?

**June 16th, 2016, 6-8 pm**

**Room 100, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Herderbau, Tennenbacherstr. 4**

## **Banu Subramaniam in Dialogue with Sigrid Schmitz on Feminist STS, Postcolonial Issues and EcoDiversity**

**Welcome: Michael Pregernig (Professor for Sustainability Governance)**

**Presentation: Marion Mangelsdorf (Managing Director Freiburger Gender Studies)**

What do morning glory flowers or alien plant and animal species have to do with the histories of gender, race or eugenics? In this exchange Banu Subramaniam will trace the genealogies of ecology and evolutionary biology to demonstrate how foundational ideas of "variation" in biology are inextricably connected to ideas of "diversity" and "difference" in the humanities. Making a passionate case for interdisciplinary work across the humanities and natural and social sciences, this talk explores how histories of gender and race shape contemporary biological theories and what lessons we can learn about the relationships between natures and cultures.

Banu Subramaniam and Sigrid Schmitz will then talk about current Feminist STS and postcolonial perspectives, on the potentials and limits of their inclusion into eco-diversity discourses, and on their importance for questions of "environmental governance".

**Banu Subramaniam** is professor of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She is author of *Ghost Stories for Darwin: The Science of Variation and the Politics of Diversity* (University of Illinois Press 2014), and coeditor of *Feminist Science Studies: A New Generation* (Routledge, 2001) and *Making Threats: Biofears and Environmental Anxieties* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2005). Trained as a plant evolutionary biologist, she seeks to engage the social and cultural studies of science in the practice of science. Spanning the humanities, social sciences, and the biological sciences, her research is located at the intersections of biology, women's studies, ethnic studies and postcolonial studies. Her current work focuses on the xenophobia and nativism that accompany frameworks on invasive plant species, and the relationship of science and religious nationalism in India.

**Sigrid Schmitz's** research and teaching covers approaches in Feminist Science Technology Studies since 30 years, with particular focus in NeuroGendings, neurocultures, body discourses in neo-liberal societies, and in feminist epistemologies. Coming from Biology, she was university lecturer at the University of Freiburg, where she headed the Forum of Competence "Gender Studies in Computer and Natural Sciences" [gin] together with Britta Schinzel. She has held professorships of Gender Studies at the Universities of Vienna, Graz, HU Berlin and Oldenburg. She published *Geschlechterforschung und Naturwissenschaften. Einführung in ein komplexes Wechselspiel* (VS, 2006, together with Smilla Ebeling), and her latest book was on *Gendered NeuroCultures. Feminist and Queer Perspectives on Current Brains Discourses* (Zaglossus, 2014, together with Grit Höppner).

In cooperation with Freiburger Gender Studies, Journal 'Freiburger GeschlechterStudien',  
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