

A cooperation between Dampfzentrale Bern and the University of Bern Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies

Herbstlabor

Call for contributions

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Taking a time out is all the rage at the moment, it seems to have become the latest hype and, therefore, also a lucrative market. While some people take a time out from work and travel to Thailand for a three-month yoga retreat, others treat themselves to a five-minute extra break each day with a cup of «Time-Out Tea».

Herbstlabor explores the broad and vague meaning of the term «time out», whilst taking into account how closely intertwined it is with the neo-liberal basic structure of the current economic and social system. On the one hand, taking a time out fits in well with our high-performance and self-optimisation society, in which «unproductive» breaks are deemed less desirable and taking a short break should lead to everyday life being more efficient. While on the other hand, a self-empowerment (illusion) can arise while taking a time out. Since the individual trapped in everyday life can – so the promise – enjoy a relaxing, albeit limited, break and step «out of time» for a moment.

The issue of «time out» is to be illuminated in a variety of artistic and/or scientific contexts as part of Herbstlabor. The focus is firmly on the close links to religion, (gendered) bodies as well as resistant practices and appropriations, and is tailored towards the following questions:

- What sort of relationship exists between religion and time out in view of the often religious themes and practices?
- Which significance does the body have within the context of time out and related offerings such as yoga and tea? What does time out actually mean for different (gendered) bodies? And which natural time outs does the body take in the form of illnesses, for instance, in order to demonstrate its independence?
- To what extent does the concept of time out expose itself to the potential for criticism and for infiltration, the queering of neo-liberal system conformity?

Herbstlabor, organised by Dampfzentrale Bern in cooperation with the University of Bern Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies, is open to interested individuals and groups who are dedicated to artistic and scientific approaches and practices with the predetermined aim of merging them in their works on the aforesaid themes and questions. Herbstlabor is process-oriented but not intended to lead to specific results; although any resulting projects/initiatives may be presented later on at Dampfzentrale Bern.

When and where

20 and 21 September 2019 at Dampfzentrale Bern, Marzlistrasse 47, CH-3005 Bern

Participation conditions

Application: Please send a CV and a letter of motivation - no more than 2000 characters - (also possible as a moodboard, sketch, short video, collage, etc.) to bewerbung@dampfzentrale.ch.

Deadline: 27 June 2019

Expense reimbursement and limitation of participants: The total number of participants is limited to twelve. We will endeavour to find solutions in cases where the participants are unable to pay the fees themselves.