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Call for articles Topic

“Marriage and Weddings – Cultural, Aesthetic and Social Practices and Perspectives”

We can see that traditions and practices in regard to institutionalising relationships are changing both significantly and rapidly. Partnerships, which are (often) institutionalised out of love, are on the one hand giving rise to new plural relationship models and new marriage practices, whilst on the other hand traditional forms of partnership and old rituals continue to exist or are being reinforced.

This issue will not focus on the (love) relationship itself. Instead, it will concentrate on the diverse institutionalisation practices, ranging from the proposal of marriage to the engagement to the wedding, including their performative implementation and realisation in the media, social factors and socio-cultural consequences. The critical analysis may be broad both in the disciplinary and thematic sense, focussing for example on new forms of registered civil partnerships, to the ever-increasing media staging of rituals in the public space, or to consumption-related influences and decisions in regard to weddings.

In order to avoid the risk of universalisation, the “Marriage and Weddings” issue will look at the multifarious cultural, aesthetic and social practices for institutionalising dyadic relationships. With an eye to the increasing globalisation of our everyday worlds it aims to investigate to what extent multiethnic, multireligious and increasingly transnational societies have a decisive influence on changing traditional, historical and social rituals and institutions such as the marriage proposal, wedding and marriage in a world that is increasingly shaped by social and spatial mobility, new media communities and individualisation processes.

We would welcome original articles from all disciplines dealing on a theoretical and/or empirical level with “marriage and weddings”, for example sociology, educational, cultural and literary studies, as well as other disciplines such as economics and psychology.

Possible questions could be:

- What normative power does the cultural practice of marriage have? How does it contribute to both reinforcing and reorganising relationship models and social structures?
- How are weddings represented in contemporary art, film, literature and on TV? What impact do media images of what is categorised as an “ideal” wedding have? To what extent is, for instance, the tension between intimacy and public domain staged which makes the practices for staging a marriage proposal in the media visible?
- What rituals are there for bidding farewell to one’s single status and how should they be analysed from the gender perspective?

- What is the significance of new, frequently internet-based ways of finding a partner? How are the forms of marriage proposal changing in the light of an increasingly globalised marriage market?
- To what extent does the consumer industry influence our image of weddings? What economics of marriage and weddings can be made out?
- Are the new rituals still culture-specific or already transcultural? What cultural exchange or appropriation processes are in evidence?
- Are there more differences or commonalities between heterosexual and homosexual couples and forms of civil partnerships?

Timetable

Please submit your one- to two-page abstract by **15 March 2012**. Non-German speakers are welcome to submit their abstracts and articles in English. The Editorial Department works with the online editing system OJS. We would therefore like to ask you to register as an author of the journal GENDER at: www.budrich-journals.de/index.php/gender and to submit and upload your abstract there. Guidelines for using the OJS are available at: www.gender-zeitschrift.de.

Once your abstract has been positively reviewed, you will be invited to submit your full article by **15 April 2013**. The deadline for the finished article (max. of 50,000 characters) is **30 November 2013**. After submission, your article will be double-blind peer reviewed, after which the final selection of articles will be made. For that reason, information relating to the editing process will usually only be communicated in exceptional cases. The editors will then communicate directly with authors. In the event that the Editorial Department has a large number of positively reviewed articles, it reserves the right to make the final selection and, possibly, to publish articles in a later edition.

About GENDER. Journal for Gender, Culture and Society

GENDER. Journal for Gender, Culture and Society was founded in 2009 as a journal on women and gender studies. It provides a forum for academic debate and discourse between academics and practitioners.

The journal covers a broad range of social and cultural topics, addressing both socio-political issues on equality and justice as well as issues regarding the staging and cultural interpretation of gender. The journal aims to cover a wide range of topics and academic disciplines in which women, men and gender issues are reflected. Given the journal's multi-disciplinary setting, we welcome analyses from, for instance, sociology, educational science, political science, cultural science and history which correspond to the interdisciplinary nature of gender studies. Analyses of local, regional and global influences on gender relations are also of interest.

GENDER. Journal for Gender, Culture and Society is published in three issues a year, each with a thematic focus, and some 480 pages per annum. Contributions to the special issues and to the section for open contributions are double-blind peer reviewed. Contributions published in the section "From Research, Politics and Practitioners", conference proceedings and book reviews are not peer reviewed. The procedure for inclusion in the international citation index is underway.

Further information

For further information please contact the guest editor of the special issue on "Marriage and Weddings", Prof. Dr Andrea Bührmann (andrea.buehrmann@uni-goettingen.de) or Prof. Dr Barbara Schaff (Barbara.Schaff@phil.uni-goettingen.de). A style sheet for authors can be found at: www.gender-zeitschrift.de/index.php?id=manuskripte

We look forward to receiving your contribution!