

Media, Culture, Society (Gender & Generations in a Digital World)
Proseminar 560.401, Summer Semester 2022

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Office hours: by appointment (Please make an appointment via e-mail)

Two trends are currently about to change structures of Western societies: demographic shifts and digitalization. This class explores what it means to *age in the digital era*, particularly for activists of different generations. Building on the method of the “intergenerational feminist mic,” pioneered by Chazan & McNab (2018), this class invites participants to learn about intergenerational activism through digital storytelling. In this class, we will (a) discuss key theoretical texts on feminist aging studies, digital storytelling, and other innovative qualitative research methods, and (b) do hands-on research, co-producing digital ‘media capsules’ in a workshop setting. Throughout the class, participants will be encouraged to develop their own critical research questions investigating the topic of gender and generations in a digital world.

Required readings & materials: The required readings and materials will be available on Moodle.

Missing class: Missing one class (= 1 ½ hours slot) is no problem. Missing twice (3 hours in total) means that you will be asked to write an additional summary of a theoretical text. Missing three times (more than 3 hours) is not acceptable.

Class requirements:

- ***Class participation:*** This class is a “Proseminar,” i.e. a class in which active participation plays an important part in evaluation. A central part of any cultural studies class is the discussion of texts in a class forum. In order for this class to have the prospected outcome, you need to read the assigned texts before class so that you can contribute fully to **in-class discussions and group work**. (20/100 points)
- ***Engagement with texts:*** To document your engagement with assigned readings and materials, you will be asked to write 3 ‘reading journals’ (~ summaries) on 3 texts of your choice (choose from all assigned readings and materials). In addition, there will be short assignments related to readings and materials which you have to complete. (20/100 points).
- ***Research workshop and report:*** Instead of writing a classical proseminar paper, you will in this class learn how to co-produce digital ‘media capsules’ and how to employ the method of the “intergenerational feminist mic” (Chazan & Macnab, 2018). To document your learning outcomes, you will have to write a short research report on the media capsules workshop we will hold. (60/100 points)

All requirements have to be met in order to obtain a positive grade.
I look forward to working together!

Schedule

Class	Date & Place	Topics
1	Thursday, 05.05.22 15:30-17:00 SR 81.21	Introduction to Aging Studies in the Digital Era Assigned readings: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Gullette, Margaret Morganroth</i> (2004). Chapter 1: "Trapped in the New Time Machines," in: <i>Aged by Culture</i>. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, pp. 3-20. 2. <i>Cruikshank, Margaret</i> (2009). Chapter 1: "Cultural Myths and Aging," in: <i>Learning to be old. Gender, culture, and aging</i>. Lanham. Rowman & Littlefield. 2nd edition, pp. 10-23. 3. <i>Sonntag, Susan</i> (1972): "The double standard of aging," in: <i>Saturday Review</i>, pp. 29-38.
2+3	Thursday, 12.05.22 15:30-18:30 SR 81.21	The "Intergenerational Feminist Mic" (Chazan & McNab) Assigned readings/materials: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. <i>Chazan, May & Maddy Macnab</i> (2018). "Doing the feminist intergenerational mic: methodological reflections on digital storytelling as process and praxis," <i>Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung / Forum: Qualitative Social Research</i>, 19(2), 1-19. doi.org/10.17169/fqs-19.2.2949. 5. Please watch at least 3 of Aging Activism's "Montreal Media Capsules": https://www.agingactivisms.org/montreal-media-capsules
4	Friday, 13.05.22 18:00-19:30 SR 81.21	Opening of Workshop on Intergenerational Feminist Story-telling (Graz Media Capsules) Assigned materials: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Research documents for story-telling workshop
5+6 7+8 9	Saturday, 14.05.22 09:00-12:00 13:00-16:00 16:30-18:00 SR 81.21	Research Workshop: Doing the Intergenerational Feminist Mic (Graz Media Capsules) Co-Creation of Graz Media Capsules with educators of different generations
10+11	Wednesday, 18.05.22 15:30-18:30 SR 81.21	Reflection of Research Experience Sharing experiences, time for exchange and reflection of workshop <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Text on reflexivity in qualitative research
12+13 14+15	Thursday, 19.05.22 10:00-13:00 14:00-17:00 SR 81.21	Input on Qualitative Methods: Conceptualizing, Doing, and Analyzing Interviews During the Pandemic and Beyond <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. <i>Kvale, Steinar</i> (2007). <i>Doing Interviews</i>. London: Sage. Choose at least 2 chapters for reading 9. <i>Ratzenböck, Barbara</i> (2016). "'Let's Take a Look Together': Walking Interviews in Domestic Spaces as a Means to Explore ICT Experiences of Women 60+," <i>Romanian Journal of Communication and Public Relations</i>. 18(1), 27-47. doi:10.21018/rjcpr.2016.1.201. 10. <i>Roberts, Kessa, J., Alexandra E. Pavlakis, & Meredith P. Richards</i>. 2021. "It's More Complicated Than It Seems: Virtual Qualitative Research in the COVID-19 Era," <i>International Journal of Qualitative Methods</i>, 20, 1-13. doi.org/10.1177/16094069211002959