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Abstract

Keynote: Maria Pober

Department of German Studies, University of Vienna

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Gender Orders Today: Of Cis-, Transgender and Intergender in Language and Law

For a long time, gender was something simple, either human* was born as female or male, and accordingly, only very specific general human behavior was conceded to her or him as feminine or masculine, which was also sanctioned in the event of non-compliance. This changed with the women's movement, which questioned this supremacy and superiority of the heterosexual man. To this day, despite legal equality within this heteronormativity, there is still a male hegemony, which is expressed socially and linguistically in the equation of the hetero male with the general human being. All others such as heterofemale, bisexual, homosexual, transgender and intergender are subordinated to it.

Through human beings whose gender identity does not correspond to their sex at birth - transgender individuals - a gender language gap became visible. For if trans individuals are located "beyond" their gender, then those who completely identify with their assigned gender with which they were born should also be named accordingly - after all, until then they were "nameless" and thus linguistically unmarked. Since the latter represent the majority and are regarded as the norm, this supposedly self-evident coincidence of birth gender and gender identity was also called into question - cisgender as a counterpart to transgender was established.

With the legal recognition of intersexuality and its inclusion in civil registry, new terms such as "inter", "diverse" and "open" became necessary. In addition to these neologisms, traditional terms for all human beings must also be questioned, analyzed and reconceptualized as heteromale because of their subordination to the general human condition.