

Synopsis of the lecture:

Dealing with past violations of human rights calls for strategies that enable considering the complexity, that is, the multilayeredness of oppression and the multilayeredness of victimhood.

In feminist and postcolonial theories this is an all too familiar problem. Oppression as well as internalised oppression is a complex process to work through. The biggest obstacle standing in the way of enduring change often is the lack of a new structure, a new language of address, once the yoke of oppression has been cast off. Once the representatives of an oppressed or marginalised group begin to partake in the public space, how will they manage to arrange, for example, that this public space is transformed in such a way that it can realise their own particularity?

In this lecture I will investigate the role of art in the process of trying to find alternative scenarios for justice and change after a period of gross human rights violations. I will take examples from the way in which South African artists have dealt with the legacy of apartheid and the disclosure of the past through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Finally, I propose to dedicate the discussion after the lecture to drawing parallels and/or listing differences with possible trajectories of transformations in the Arab context.

Profile of Prof. Dr. Rosemarie Buikema:



Rosemarie Buikema is professor of Art, Culture and Diversity at Utrecht University (Utrecht, the Netherlands). She chairs the UU Graduate Gender programme and is the scientific director of the Netherlands Research school of Women's Studies. She has widely published in the field of feminist and postcolonial theory, especially on the topic of political transitions and the arts. Her latest co-edited publications are *Doing Gender in Media Art and Culture* (Routledge 2009, with I. Van der Tuin) and *Theories and Methodologies in Feminist Research* (Routledge 2011, with G Griffin and N. Lykke). See also www.genderstudies.nl and www.graduategenderstudies.nl