UNRAST VERLAG

Rights Catalogue
2018/2019
UNRAST started in spring 1989 as a collective and still is today, more than 25 years later. During this period it took several steps from being enthusiastic laymen to become a team of professional publishers. Today the total amount of available titles is more than 400. Our programm covers various topics:

- Antifascism
- Antiracism
- Feminism
- Gender studies
- Internationalism
- Anarchism/Autonomy
- Society & politics
- Social theory
- Novels

From the beginning it was a project not only to publish radical left-wing books but we also try to work in a way that is different from the usual conditions we find in a capitalist organized economy. Nevertheless we have to make money just that we do not accumulate it as profit but it goes back to the registered association we are. Our understanding is being part of a movement that is not homogenous, to publish authors from within this movement, giving activist perspectives as well as academic studies a platform and encourage debates.

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Challenging sexism is becoming widely socially acceptable. The issue of gender equality in state politics is not a new one, but today feminism is being sold – and not just on t-shirts. This popularisation is welcome and yet ambivalent as it shows that feminism can be marketed within the logic of capitalism. Thus feminist theories and practices have been confronted with the appropriation and commodification of their ideas. On the other end they are facing a populist right authoritarian turn, which is frequently carried out ›in the name of women‹. Meanwhile, recent developments within feminist theory have shown that feminist theory does not always engender a comprehensive structural analysis nor the tools to evaluate social relations since relevant skills for this analysis have not been developed sufficiently.

The anthology highlights the current challenges that feminist theory and practice is facing. At the same time, the authors argue the case for an emancipatory and materialistic feminism. It is a feminist critique that reinforces a decidedly materialistic reflection on the very foundations of society and the pertinent gender relations.

The authors

Friederike Beier is a lecturer and researcher at the Otto-Suhr-Institute for Political Sciences at the Freie Universität Berlin, specialising in feminist political theory. Dr. Lisa Yashodhara Haller is a research assistant at the department/chair of the Law of social Services at the Institute of Social- and Organisational Pedagogy of the Stiftung Universität Hildesheim. Lea Haneberg studied Political Sciences and German Studies in Hannover/Buenos Aires and has been working in the field of literary science at FU Berlin since 2018.

https://www.unrast-verlag.de/vorankuendigungen/materializing-feminism-detail
Identity politics means to define oneself in line with one’s identity, for example as Afro-American, Jew, woman, Lesbian or worker, and ideally to organise and fight for one’s rights accordingly. But in spite of being at the heart of various social movements, identity politics was, at the latest, radically challenged by Queer and Postcolonial Theory, that rejected it for being exclusionary and homogenising. Yet referring to categories of identity is not just theoretically called into question, but instead it is within the left that identity politics is denounced as being counter-revolutionary. Those who follow this critique of identity politics often argue that identity politics damages class struggle, since the recognition of cultural difference supposedly distracts from the central and universal fight against social inequality.

However, even during the early workers’ movements, there was a vivid debate around the identification of the workers. And within both the feminist and Black liberation movements of the 1960s racial and gender identity played an essential role. The many pitfalls of reaffirming collective identity – exclusion and homogenisation – were also criticised and contested within those movements. Covering the theoretical and historical origins of the term ‘identity’ as well as the controversy around identity politics within the left after Donald Trump’s election as US president, the book offers an undogmatic overview of the discourses and history of leftist identity politics.

The authors

Lea Susemichel is the senior editor of an.schläge. The feminist magazine.

Jens Kastner is a sociologist and art historian and lectures at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna.
Patu & Antje Schrupp

A Little History of Feminism
in a Euro-American Context
4th, extended edition

Publishing date: August 2016, 86 pages

All rights available, except Brazilian, English, Korean, Russian, Spanish and Turkish

Philosophers, rebels, activists: this graphic novel tells the story of feminism in a euro-american context from antiquity to the present. Not only does it present the feminists themselves but important feminist discussions about equal rights, reproduction, free love, equality and difference (in gender mainstreaming), all in their historical context.

“A highly recommended book if you want a compact overview about feminist herstory and entertain yourself with brilliant drawings and speech balloons at the same time.« Tina Schulze, Missy Magazine

It makes clear that feminism is not some special political content but part of active social participation by women – changing in subjects as the feminist movement is going on accordingly. Whether they are medieval mystics, modern philosophers or contemporary radical activists: they all share the desire for female freedom.

The authors
Antje Schrupp is a journalist and Political Scientist living in Frankfurt am Main.
Patu, artist and co-founder of the artistic collective radical jetset.

TRANSFORMATIVE WORK WITH VIOLENT PERSONS combines approaches from the second women’s and lesbians’ movement (Federal Republic of Germany) with community-accountability-approaches used by Black communities (USA). It is about offering a process of long-term reflection and change to people who have carried out sexual violence. The process is contingent on the voluntary choice of the violent person who wishes to enter into it.

One basic assumption of Transformative Work is, that people are not *bad* when they act in a sexist fashion, but rather that it is their actions that need to be rejected, because (among other factors) they are an expression of violent power relationships in a broader sense. The important contribution of Transformative Work is to provide an opportunity for the people who exercise violence to change their behaviour and to allow people in their environment to realise that (sexual) violence is not acceptable.

The manual uses a concept for concrete Transformative Work and examines various other approaches that are connected to this work or that facilitate it.

**The authors**

RESPONS have been meeting since 2009 and are working practically and theoretically on Transformative Work in the US and Berlin. Melanie Brazzell and Ann Wiesental are cofounders of RESPONS, Melanie Brazzell has also c-founded the Transformative Justice Kollektiv Berlin.

[https://www.unrast-verlag.de/vorankuendigungen/was-tun-bei-sexualisierter-gewalt-detail](https://www.unrast-verlag.de/vorankuendigungen/was-tun-bei-sexualisierter-gewalt-detail)
The critique of psychiatry is a topic which disappeared from the agenda of feminist activism. The »helping< measures of psychiatry are not analysed in a critical way, nor are psychiatric or medical approaches discussed regarding their structural meaning. Psychiatry seems to have no history, although there are a lot of unanswered questions: How do mental diseases evolve in this society? How do we differ between illness and health? Is homosexuality actually not seen as a mental disease any more? How is psychiatric violence legitimated? Which role do legal drugs play in psychotherapy? Is the feminist demand »my body, my choice« useful in the context of eating disorders and self-injuries?

In this introduction psychiatric approaches are questioned critically. The author uses the knowledge of people who have made experiences with psychiatry. The book is about the separation between mental illness and health and about the genesis of diagnoses. Further subjects are homosexuality, hysteria and the power of psychiatric expertise. The author describes how psychiatric violence functions. Captivation, medication and the psychological access of psychiatry are analysed.

In the conclusion the author presents opportunities of individual capacity for action in a psychiatric context that seems to be no place for »helping and healing«.

The author

Peet Thesing studied Cultural Studies and is a Wendo-Trainer. She engages in feminist and anti-psychiatric subjects since many years, giving lectures and running workshops on these topics.

https://www.unrast-verlag.de/neuerscheinungen/feministische-psychiatriekritik-detail
Plantation Memories
Episodes of Everyday Racism
5th edition

Publishing date: November 2018, 152 pages

All rights available, except Brazilian and Portuguese

Plantation Memories explores everyday racism. It is a compilation of episodes approaching racism as a psychological reality. Everyday racism, argues Grada Kilomba, is experienced as a violent shock which suddenly places the Black subject in a colonial scene – depriving one's link with society. Unexpectedly, the past comes to coincide with the present and the present is experienced as if one were in that agonizing past, as the title Plantation Memories announces.

Linking postcolonial theory, psychoanalysis and poetic narrative, Grada Kilomba provides a new and inspiring interpretation of everyday racism, memory, trauma and decolonization in the form of short stories. The book is essential to anyone studying African studies, postcolonialism, critical whiteness and psychoanalysis.

The author

Writer, lecturer and psychologist with origins in São Tomé and Príncipe born in Lisbon. Grada Kilomba has taught at universities in Germany and Ghana on postcolonial studies and holds a Doctorate of Philosophy from the Freie Universität Berlin. Further informations: www.gradakilomba.com.

https://www.unrast-verlag.de/gesamtprogramm/allgemeines-programm/antirassismus/plantation-memories-290-detail
Tupoka Ogette

exit RACISM

learning how think about racism in a critical way

4th edition

Publishing date: November 2018, 136 pages

All rights available

Although racism affects all parts of society, it’s not easy to talk about it. Nobody wants to be a racist and many shy away from using this term. This book accompanies the readers at their possibly first examination of racism without using a moralizing undertone. The readers are rather invited to a racism-critical journey, throughout which they receive not only an insight into the history of racism and the ways in which racism works, but also support in the emotional encounter with this subject.

Numerous exercises and further reading tips open up the opportunity to look more extensively at certain subject areas. QR-Codes lead to secondary articles, videos and images. Additionally, each chapter is accompanied by extracts from so-called racism-logbooks – anonymous diaries that former students of Tupoka Ogette kept during their own examination of racism and in which they tell about their emotions and thoughts on the subject. Readers even won’t miss possible courses of action. The aim of the book is to develop together with the readers a racism-critical perspective, which they can put into place in their ever-day lives.

The author

Tupoka Ogette, born 1980 in Leipzig, studied African studies and economics. She works as an expert on diversity and anti-discrimination and gives trainings, workshops and seminars on racism and its effects on German society.

https://www.unrast-verlag.de/neuerscheinungen/exit-racism2016-12-05-22-25-07-detail

See also:

Alte Feuerwache e.V.
(Editor)
Methodical Manual regarding Antiziganism
For Educational Purposes in and outside Schools
2nd, revised and extended edition.

Publishing date: August 2014,
168 pages,
DVD included!

All rights available
Audre Lorde (1934-1992) was one of the most influential Black American woman writers of the twentieth century. The works of this Black Lesbian Warrior Poet Mother – as she defined herself – activist, essayist and novelist were seminal for various Black, feminist and liberation movements in different countries, including Germany, and continue to be recognized and acclaimed. This book, published by one of her close friends in Germany on the 25th anniversary of her death, pays homage to Lorde from an intimate perspective.

In ten essays, two speeches and an interview with Audre Lorde, Marion Kraft illustrates Lorde's great transnational literary and political influence on Black women's movements. This volume is an example of Black women's bonding across borders and differences and presents a condensed survey review of this great writer's philosophy.

The author

*Marion Kraft* is an African-American-German scholar, retired college and university teacher, lecturer, author, editor and translator. She holds a Doctorate of Philosophy from the University of Osnabrück and has published numerous essays on racism, literature, feminism and the Black movement in Germany, and four books, including *The African Continuum* and *Contemporary African-American Women Writers*. She also translated a bilingual English-German edition of selected poems by Audre Lorde.

https://www.unrast-verlag.de/neuerscheinungen/empowering-encounters-with-audre-lorde-detail
Andreas Kemper, Heike Weinbach

Klassismus
Eine Einführung
2. Auflage
188 Seiten | 13,00 EUR [D] | ISBN 978-3-89771-467-0

Classism is a, so far not well known, term describing the individual, institutional and cultural discrimination and oppression due to the real, supposed or assigned social or educational status. As assumed and presented by the media people living in poverty are stereotypically supposed to be violent and addicted to alcohol, although these phenomena exist in all classes equally. The term classism describes the experience of individual discrimination as a problem of social structures. Thereby it completes and overlaps the analysis of racism, sexism and other forms of discriminations. The authors explain the origins of the term, its applicability in the every day life and its significance for the practices of opposition in the US, showing the potential of its connectivity to the German context.

The authors

Andreas Kemper studied Sociology. In theory and practice he engages himself primarily against discrimination due to social origin. Heike Weinbach is a philosopher, journalist and Social Justice Trainee, giving workshops on classism, racism, anti-Semitism, heterosexism, ableism, ageism.

See also:

Lea Schmid, Darla Diamond, Petra Pflaster (Editors)

Lookism
Body Images – Discriminating Mechanisms – (Self-)Empowerment

Publishing date: March 2017, 88 pages.

All rights available

https://www.unrast-verlag.de/gesamtprogramm/allgemeines-programm/politik-gesellschaft/klassismus-265-detail
Blossoming, growing, yet letting assailants feel the thorns: since 2012 people in the majoritarian Kurdish North of Syria/Rojava have started to establish grass roots councils in order to politically administer and defend themselves. They are choosing a third path, beyond secular dictatorship and Islamism on the one hand, and dependence and exploitation by imperial power blocs on the other. Rojava is the biggest freedom movement since the revolution of the Spanish civil war.

The strategy of the rose is a contribution to the debate around the freedom movement in Kurdistan, the revolution in Rojava and the war in Northern Syria. Through his vivid documentations and a writing style that at times employs scenic depictions Anselm Schindler offers a first approach to the issue written in solidarity with the movement. A nuanced analysis of the state of the Syrian war and the situation in West-Asia in general make the book a worthwhile read even for those, who have been following the events of the freedom movement in the Kurdish regions for some time.

The author

Anselm Schindler is a freelance journalist and activist. He writes for taz, analyse & kritik, junge Welt and neues deutschland. Since 2015 he has visited the Kurdish regions in the Middle East several times and wrote first essays and reports on the Kurdish struggle for freedom and the revolution in Rojava from there.
The objective of this book is to sketch the most important historic and contemporary approaches to critiquing capitalism in their context, to identify the differences in each approach and to emphasise the specific value of Marx's analysis of the capital. The most important branches of criticisms of capitalism during the last two centuries are depicted and critically analysed within their context. Thus, it becomes evident that the critique of capitalism is not and has never been a privilege of the left. There were conservative, reactionary, right-wing, racial, national liberal and socialreform-orientated approaches, alongside anarchist, socialist and communist theories.

The book highlights the affinities, overlaps, reductions as well as the traditional faultlines that re-emerge in current political trends, for example within Occupy or populist and right-wing movements. A main focus lies on the concise depiction of the Marxist critique of political economy, in contrast to Lenin's theory of imperialism, in addition to contemporary antimonopolist and financial market based trajectories of the left.

The author

Peter Bierl is a political scientist, sociologist, psychologist and political activist. He works as a freelance journalist for publications such as Jungle World, konkret, iz3w und Rechter Rand. Bierl is a member of Verdi (German workers union) and the German Journalists Union (dju). His last publication with Unrast Verlag was Grüne Braune. Umwelt-, Tier- und Heimatschutz von Rechts (Green Fascists. Rightwing environmental and animals' rights activism).

https://www.unrast-verlag.de/vorankuendigungen/einmaleins-der-kapitalismuskritik-detail
Virtual reality, robotization, big data, industry 4.0, the brand new smartphone – debates about these developments with a high potential to change society are marked by deep ambivalences: robots may destroy jobs but also free people from wage labour; mobile phones may endanger the traditional family meal but also make future insurrections possible; algorithms may rule humans but also make political organizations ever smarter. *Cybernetics, Capitalism, Revolutions* is about a ›digital-technological change‹ that is taking place as a gradual development, rededication and appropriation and is becoming visible in historical gearings, long-lasting continuities and also in dead ends. The articles deal with the open ends of this technological change and its, in parts, extremely complex phenomena. They also look at emancipatory positions that actively and openly examine the technological potentials instead of blindly condemning them.

**The editors**

*Simon Schaupp* works at the Munich Center for Technology in Society at the Technological University of Munich. In his dissertation, he does research on self-organization and control in the Industry 4.0. *Anne Koppenburger* is a scientific assistant at the Institute for Health Research at the University of Osnabrück. She does research on technicalethical questions in the fields of technology and care. *Paul Buckermann* taught sociology at the University of Bielefeld and was a scientific assistant at the Research Training Group Automatisms at the University of Paderborn. Today he is a research assistant at the University of Luzern.

https://www.unrast-verlag.de/neuerscheinungen/kybernetik-kapitalismus-revolutionen-detail
We must break out of the future now! We must thwart the logic of control of Big Data animated self-optimization. We must break out of the functionalizing ›connectedness‹ and expose and attack the smart instrument of our experience and our future control system. Our refusal to participate in the digital constant sending and our self-defence against digital access are insufficient when it comes to the attempt to free ourselves in the long run from complete surveillance and extensive control from the outside. A counter attack against the practice and ideology of complete surveillance is absolutely necessary.

Unfortunately, in order for this to even be a possibility, a prevision is necessary. If we wait until all manifestations and consequences of the attack on our sociality become omnipresent, we will have lost. Technological advances which are driven by power are difficult to reverse once they have been implemented in society and the ›Zeitgeist‹ which has been shaped by these in turn strengthens these developments and leads to the necessary stabilization:

›The technological changes will be so fast that they will irreversibly change human life.‹

Ray Kurzweil, chief engineer of Google

The author

The capulcu redaktionskollektiv 2017 is a group of technology-critical activists and hactivists. For more information, go to: capulcu.blackblogs.org

https://www.unrast-verlag.de/vorankuendigungen/disrupt-detail
Andreas Blechschmidt

Gewalt. Macht. Widerstand.
Streitschrift um die Mittel zum Zweck anlässlich des G20 in Hamburg
c. 100 Seiten | ca. 8,90 EUR [D] | ISBN 978-3-89771-829-6

Pamphlet on the means to the end concerning the G20 in Hamburg
Publishing Date: November 2018, ca. 100 pages

All rights available

The project of an emancipatory left alternative to the capitalist system is always accompanied by questions concerning the adequate means of overcoming it. During the G20-summit in Hamburg in July 2017 images of the protest dominated the public reception of the meeting. Militant actions played a major part in this. Were those events precursors of an insurgency on the rise, or just a spontaneous outburst of a revolt that exhausted itself after confrontations with the police? Barricades on fire, burning cars, looted shops and a temporary police-free zone have led to different political evaluations within the radical left.

The given book endeavours to analyse the events of July 2017 in Hamburg with regard to the militant forms of action. One line of inquiry tries to establish in how far radical leftists today connect the choice of their means with the political reflections of left theorists. Referring to works by Hannah Arendt and Herbert Marcuse the current prospects and perspectives of revolutionary change are investigated.

The author

Andreas Blechschmidt studied Modern German Literature, social and economic history and social psychology. He has worked for many years in geriatric nursing and was involved in the works committee as a member and president. He has been active in the occupied Rote Flora in Hamburg since 1989. He is a freelance writer and publishes in jungle world. Blechschmidt writes on the topics of gentrification, urban development and legal policy. He co-published the book Free Oz. Streetart inbetween revolt, repression and commerce.

https://www.unrast-verlag.de/vorankuendigungen/gewalt-macht-widerstand-detail
Political and personal challenges are constantly increasing for involved people. How can we face these circumstances wisely without risking to burn out? What makes activists as well as social movements more resilient, creative and successful? First, the concept of Sustainable Activism is systematically introduced. In the style of a manual, the author introduces different approaches that can help activists to develop long-term involvement (in political movements). Taking the descriptions of different situations into account and building on foundations like the psychobiology of negative stress and trauma, or factors that enhance the risk of burnout, three pillars of sustainable activism emerge: reflection, individual resilience strategies and collective resilience strategies. The manual gives an overview and highlights the relations between different dimensions of political change. The aim is to reflect upon political practice and the development of a useful strategy that enhances individual self-realisation as well as collective liberation. A section devoted to resources, practical exercises and a glossary add to the book.

The author

Timo Luthmann has been active in various social movements since the mid 90s: from the environmental youth movement to anti-nuclear protests to the fight against cuts in social services. Since 2010 he is part of the climate movement organisation ausgeCO2blt and is the co-initiator of the Ende Gelände Campaign. He regularly acts as an educational consultant and trainer, giving talks and workshops on sustainable activism.
Afrokids differs from other manuals on educating babies and children in a decisive aspect: Fajembola mainly addresses parents of black children and their questions and anxieties concerning the healthy development and education of their children. The author discusses everyday situations, challenges and decisions, like choosing a name, hair and skin care or dealing with multilingualism. Such matters are seldom subject of other manuals. Thereby Afrokids attends to a group of children, whose existence rests mainly unmentioned in other manuals. These children, having black and/or white parents, need informed parents. Parents that are able to explain appropriately for children what racism is and how it works. Parents that can answer a child’s question, like »Mum, can you braid me some Cornrows?«, sovereignly with »Yes!«, and parents that aren’t afraid of giving their child an African name.

The author

Olaolu Fajembola is a German-Nigerian scientist of cultural studies and mother of a small daughter.
Afroculture gathers black German history, present and future, in a global context. To finally establish German “afroculture” as “culture of knowledge”, author Natasha A. Kelly puts black German history in a global context by discussing the biographies of black scientists and activists W.E.B. Du Bois, Audre Lorde and May Ayim. Thus the author connects self-determined black knowledge with the worldwide communication of black scientists and activists.

The author

Natasha A. Kelly, a Pan-Africanist born in London and socialized in Germany, has a PhD in communication science and sociology. She is an “academic activist” focusing on race & gender.
Uncertainty before him, agony behind him, despair within him. There is no way back for the seeker, for those who return a loser, put a viper round their necks. But he does not want to end up as a sufferer either, like his uncle Djo Ngo'o, crushed between his own ideals and an environment, that doesn’t accept idealists. Based on his own experience Péguy Takou Ndie asks fundamental questions in his third novel: How to maintain humanity and hope, when surviving means not being allowed to look back or empathise with those who are dying of thirst when traffickers abandon them in the desert or get killed by the Moroccan police? When dreams burst behind every obstacle, when beyond the razor-sharp fences of Melilla only more and more fences await? The Seekers is an unsparing novel, towards destroyed communities of origin, brutal conditions in North Africa and Europe, profiters and ignorants – and also towards the seekers themselves. The sharp analysis of the traumatising effects of neocolonialism, the European border regime, the German asylum system and everyday racism meet a language that is rich in imagery, haunting depictions and a magnificent sense of the absurd.

The author

Péguy Takou Ndie was born in 1981 in Bafoussam/Cameroon and went into political exile in 2013. He now lives in Germany where he is involved among others, with the Afrique-Europe-Interact network. The Seekers is his third novel.

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