

KEYNOTE LECTURE 2025

Top Girls No More? Feminism, After Neoliberalism and in Times of the Right

Tuesday, 2 December 2025

17:00 hours s.t.

Senatssaal, Main Building,
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Unter den Linden 6, 10999 Berlin

Prof Dr Angela McRobbie, FBA

Professor Emeritus, Goldsmiths University of London

This lecture provides a conjunctural account (echoing Stuart Hall) of feminism and gender politics in the UK over the last two decades with reference to the analytic purchase of a series of figurations (top girls to tradwives) which permit a fuller understanding of the passage from neoliberal cultural formations to the new authoritarianism. Contesting the landscape of recent 'popular feminisms' the lecture makes the case for feminist theory rather to endorse 'pedagogic feminism' conjoining this with a re-visiting of the category of the 'ordinary woman' if not the 'housewife'.

Angela McRobbie is Prof. Em. Goldsmiths College University of London and Fellow of the British Academy. Her academic career began at the Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies University of Birmingham in 1974. The most recent books and publications include 'On Phantasms of Gender: A Feminist Cultural Studies Perspective' in *European Journal of Cultural Studies* (2025); *Ulrike Ottinger: Film, Art and the Ethnographic Imagination* (2024); and *Feminism, Young Women and Cultural Studies: The Birmingham Essays from 1975 Onwards* (2024).

with an introduction by

Prof Dr Gesa Stedman

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