



Universität  
Zürich<sup>UZH</sup>

Medizinhistorisches Institut und Museum

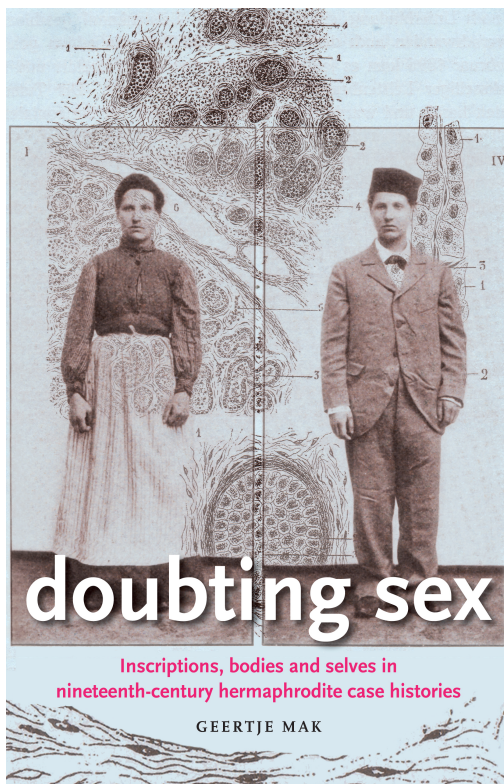
In Kooperation mit Gender Studies und dem Institut für Biomedizinische Ethik

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22. Mai 2012, 18:15 - 20:00, Universität Zürich, Rämistrasse 71, Hörsaal G 209

## The Changing Logics of Sex. Hermaphrodites in Nineteenth Century Clinical Practice

Public lecture with Dr. Geertje Mak, Radboud University (NL)



Geertje Mak is Assistant Professor at the Institute for Gender Studies and the History Department of the Radboud University (NL). Her new book, *Doubting Sex*, was published by Manchester University Press in 2012. Based on her research into cases of hermaphroditism in the 19th century, Mak discusses the way that doubtful sex was enacted in social and medical practices. She shifts her focus from theories, concepts and ideals about the body to the way people actually dealt with bodies. From this innovative perspective a new picture of the history of sex and its relation to the self emerges. Not concepts of sex were central, but tacit logics of medicine steered decisions on the category of sex to which a hermaphrodite was assigned. Rather than the emergence of a two-sex system, it was the introduction of anaesthesia that turned out to be crucial. It cut off sex from its moral and social ligaments but also caused what Mak calls *phantom pain*: no longer an indication of one's proper *place* in the social order, sex returned as something anchored in the interiority of the *self*. From then on, physicians and medical scientists have tried to understand, control and 'manage' this relation between an objectified sex-body and an interiorised sex-self.

23. Mai 2012, 10:00 - 12:00, Universität Zürich, MHIZ, Hirschengraben 82, HIT 10

## Doubting Sex: Praxiographic Approaches to Medical Case Studies

Workshop with Dr. Geertje Mak and Dr. Sandra Eder

This workshop offers the opportunity to discuss the issues raised by Dr. Mak in her lecture, particularly with reference to the participants' own research. Recommended readings tba. Please register by e-mail with Sandra Eder <s.eder@mhiz.uzh.ch> (limited number of participants).