

The *Institute for Queer Theory* (iQt) in Berlin is a place where academic, activist, political, intellectual, and artistic practices intertwine. The institute has multiple objectives: As an organization for research, theory, and international academic exchange it devotes itself to gender and sexuality research, relaying the results into practice and the public eye. As a space for cultural education iQt initiates projects which connect critique of identity with strategies of queering, not least by putting experimental event formats to the test. As a political entity iQt unites demands for legal equality and expansion of possibilities for participation under the common notion of social and sexual justice. It is in this multidimensional approach and for its love of experimentation that this independent institute, founded by Antke Engel in Hamburg in 2006, remains unique in Europe.

The institute's work is defined by a zest for complexity, irritation, and political conflict. Its overriding concern is to reflect critically on both the binary gender order as well as heterosexual dominance. Its focus is on dismantling hierarchic, exclusionary, and normalising kinds of organising gender and sexuality, without losing sight of how different power structures interweave with (and amongst) each other. Accordingly, iQt questions how gender and sexuality interlace with other forms of social and geopolitical difference and thus contribute to aggravating inequality and injustice.

Queer politics works within the paradoxical tension between fighting difference as a construction of inequality while at the same time reinforcing this difference as a distinctive feature. The goal, however, is to promote non-hierarchic diversity and to find an equally respectful and empowering way of interacting with asymmetries and the ineluctable otherness of others. This is how, counteracting a policy of tolerance and diversity, a strategy and attitude of queerversity can arise, that strengthens the "difference of the differing within diversity" and subverts the logical appropriation of difference as cultural capital in the marketplace.

Experimental methods which are seen as a crucial moment in the production of knowledge and political practice are characteristic. The question of what constitutes practices of queering influences research and theorizing. How can these practices be used in subcultures, political movements, art, and science? How can queering be translated into novel means of disseminating knowledge and outreach work? What does it mean to free diversity from its connection to minority politics and practice it within a post-identitarian frame?

The Institute for Queer Theory works in an interdisciplinary way. In addition, it provides for mutual inspiration between academic, cultural, and political approaches. Contact and cooperation with actors within the corresponding areas of practice is important to the institute's work. Different forms of knowledge production, representation, and communication customary in these areas are examined in projects which bring these actors together, producing a fertile examination..

Five thematic blocks organize the content of the institute's work, with each individual activities and events usually contributing to more than one of them:

- embodiments
- racialization of sexuality
- desiring politics
- neoliberal <> queer
- art and cultural activism

For more detailed information about the program see: <http://www.queer-institut.de/en/>

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