

# About Heartfelt Wishes, Solidarity and New Possibilities – Katja Brunner

How loudly does your feminist heart beat and which rhythm does it set?  
What do you want from a debate that deals with the canon?

KATJA BRUNNER:

Okay. Hi. So: How loudly does my feminist heart beat and which rhythm does it set? I would say that I don't have one feminist and one non-feminist heart, but that between them, they are simply my heart. And neither is it queer-feminist and then I can switch it off and then it's no longer queer feminism; instead, it was given to me – good luck and bad luck and curse and blessing, all at the same time, and treasure and burden and so forth. But as we know, we make the best of what we have and that is why I would like to say a few words about what is currently my strongest issue or what I'm concerned about, and then a few more about canons and canon adaptations. Well, I am currently strongly concerned about the question of how we can promote intergenerational solidarity among persons read as female in the cultural, literary and whatever scene. I've had many unpleasant experiences with – I'll just come out with it – older women (and I'll have to have them over and over) and I keep being confronted with the narrative, the completely internalised narrative: There is only one space and we can't share it, we have to fight for it. And at the same time, I don't want to judge this, in a way I want to give it due deference, because – someone who is, let's say, 80 years old now has been through very different domains and struggles than I have at age 30 and I'm aware of that, but sometimes I feel that the thread has been torn and it is very difficult to ... to interact with each other in a way that builds trust. And I think that's a real shame. I wish that we could change this as quickly as possible, across the generations. And I notice that in my dealings with those who are younger than me, that I am sometimes at risk of reproducing similar tendencies, and really don't like it when I do that. Alright, that is my concern and now I'll talk about the issue of canon.

Okay, now the issue of the canon. I wish that the canon could be more comprehensively exposed, dissected and shown as an instrument of power. When did what get read and why? Why does it enter history and stories and how? That would be one level. And the other level: I would love to enter into a more proactive exchange about what might be systems, opportunities, ways and detours of digging through the canon and to – let me make use of this already slightly outdated verb – deconstruct it. What ... well ... For example, I would love to have a panel on the wealth of strategies, including intertextual references. How can we destroy something and expose it and how can we reach the lighter space of as yet un-thought possibilities – together?