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Bringing a queer perspective in qualitative research about scientific cultures

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The reflection about a queer perspective in science and research has increased over the last few years. Most of

the research deals with a queer perspective in a theoretical way, but methodological and methodic

considerations have barely been considered (cf. Klesse 2007). Based on this fact we try to show how a queer

perspective could be integrated in qualitative research. Which methods or procedures could contribute to

exceed the manifested man/woman dichotomy in research and therefore consider not only gender as category

of analysis but also sexuality? As an example for our presentation we will use a project about scientific cultures

and their influence on the new generation of scientists. It is the goal of the project by means of (social and

epistemic) practices to show how PhD-students in different academic fields become to those protagonists, who

assume to be as scientists. In our contribution we would like to make hypothetical considerations how, in a

project of that kind, to transcend over a straight gender viewpoint and thus integrate a queer perception. With

the help of selected socio-scientific and psychological concepts and methods (i.e. intersectionality and identity)

we will exemplify how empirical research could look like.

Kleese, Christian (2007). Heteronormativität und qualitative Forschung. Methodische Überlegungen. In: Jutta Hartmann, Bettina Fritzsche, Kristina Hackmann, Christian Klesse & Peter Wagenknecht (Hrsg.). Heteronormativität. Empirische Studien

zu Geschlecht, Sexualität und Macht. Wiesbaden: Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften. S. 35-54.

Our presentation contributes to the conference theme Gender - Technology - Environment, Special Session:

Queerness in science and technology studies.

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