



# **TRANSforming Research: Feminist, Experimental, and Arts-Based Practices**

**19-20th June 2023**

**Vienna, Department of Gender Studies, CEU**

**Speakers and Performers:**

**Maria Hlavajova, Dr. Paula Andrea Hoyos-Hernández, Nerea  
González, and DJ Maliha Mohsen**

**The Department of Gender Studies in cooperation with the Experimental Humanities Collaborative Network (EHCN) and the Romani Studies Program at Central European University invite you to join us for our first Vienna-based conference.**

The conference brings together scholars, artists, and activists who are engaged in *TRANS*forming research. Through lectures, performances, discussions, praxis-based workshops, musicality, and posters, the conference encourages participants to re-imagine our institutional space differently and proposes ways of queering formal research practices.

The focus of the conference is to set conditions for the encounter of different strands of feminist, experimental, and arts-based research practices so that we can collectively re-imagine the spaces of academic conferences and the limits of what feminist research can encompass.

The conference is organized around the idea of three intersecting and overlapping pathways – *TRANS*itioning, *TRANS*ing, and *TRANS*forming – and how these work in concert to shape new and experimental practices across academic traditions and disciplines. We aim to center new feminist theoretical approaches and strands, including transfeminism and research related to transness and trans bodies.

We imagine the first pathway, *TRANS*itioning, taking place across and between myriad intersections including: theory and practise, social and political imaginaries, ways of being and becoming, affects and affectivities, publics, and various practises – academic, artistic, activist, and/or institutional practices. We understand transitioning as the state of in-betweenness within which becoming occurs, and that which can traverse and encompass all aspects of transformations. The second pathway, *TRANS*ing, is linked to becoming in all of its complex meanings, and specifically addresses the embodied and spatio-temporal dimension of transitioning. As the third pathway, *TRANS*forming is then the culmination point – yet not endpoint - of transitioning and transing. We understand *TRANS*forming as a practice of opening up spaces of possibility for transformation/s of feminisms, feminist practices, and feminist research.

[Maria Hlavajova](#), Founding General & Artistic Director of BAK will open the conference with a keynote discussion on art as politics and institutional praxis. Hlavajova's praxis is positioned at the intersections of academia, art, and publics. The talk will lead into a guided workshop led by the speaker based on the main ideas of the keynote address. Discussion questions and ideas will be pre-circulated, as will a suggested text by Hlavajova. The first day of the conference opens the poster session where participants are invited to bring together visual and textual modes of representation and interpretation to create a poster-sized thesis installation. The session will include presentations by the participants and a mediated panel to discuss the three conference pathways: *TRANS*itioning, *TRANS*ing, and *TRANS*forming. (Poster session submission details included below.)

The second day of the conference opens with a panel featuring [Dr. Paula Andrea Hoyos-Hernández](#), professor at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana Cali, lead researcher and cofounder of the TranSER project in seven cities in Colombia. Using reflexivity and positionality as research tools, the project has become a relational process of permanent, transdisciplinary, and horizontal community-based dialogues for transformation. The panel will be moderated by [Juan Sebastian Rueda-Toro](#), a Colombian psychologist, psychotherapist, and currently a student of the Erasmus Mundus Master's program at CEU, and with discussant [Nathalia Orozco Espitaleta](#) joining online. Nathalia is a psychologist, researcher and trans leader in Colombia with experience working with inclusion policies, gender equality, diversity, inclusion and psychosocial intervention.

In thinking through who produces academic knowledge, and for whom, and why, we aim to subvert the usual English-language hegemony of academic conference discussion and exchange. Rather than attempt to create an exchange through the medium of English, the panel will adopt a more experimental and fluid approach to translation and translingual as it relates to language and communication. Drawing upon decolonial practices including delinking and translingualing, the panel will allow presentations and discussions to meander across English- and Spanish-language spaces fluidly.

The second day of the conference will be divided between academic and artistic practices. We will have use of two different kinds of spaces with the morning starting on campus and the afternoon's performances moving to [Das Lot](#), a nearby artist-run space. The afternoon will open with a performance and discussion by Nerea González followed by a guided informal outdoor discussion session for reflection, and breaking in the evening for drag performances with guest DJ Maliha Mohsen.

## Conference Schedule

### 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023: Auditorium (CEU)

10:00 - 11:00 Maria Hlavajova Keynote  
11:00 - 11:30 Coffee Break  
11:30 - 13:00 Maria Hlavajova: Workshop  
13:00 - 14:00 Lunch  
14:00 - 16:00 Poster Session  
16:00 - 17:00 Lecture / Performance / Panel  
18:00 Welcome Drinks / Open Mic

### 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023: Auditorium (CEU); Das Lot

11:00 - 13:00 TranSER: TRANSfeminist TRANSdialogues for Research-Action-creation  
13:00 - 14:00 Lunch (Das LOT)  
14:30 - 16:00 Nerea González: Performance  
16:00 - 17:00 Coordinated Reflections on TRANSing, TRANSitioning, TRANSformation  
17:00 - Performances

## Poster Session and Open Mic Submission Guidelines

We invite submissions from students of any level and institutional affiliation for the **poster session**. The purpose of the poster session is to encourage you to think of your thesis research within the context of TRANSitioning, TRANSing, and TRANSforming academic practices. Posters can take on any form and should take up key themes, topics and theories from your thesis research and transform these into a form of visual representation, interpretation, and critique. Posters can take the form of textual based and printed format, performance, installation, and any other practice that spaces of exchange between academic and non-academic publics. The poster and performance installations will be exhibited all day so that participants can circulate freely. Each participant will be invited to provide a 5-minute presentation of the key ideas of their research and reflect on how they are related to the three conference pathways. Please submit a short abstract of up to 250 words with your name and institutional affiliation by the **1<sup>st</sup> June 2023**.

For the **open mic** session which will conclude the first day of the conference, we encourage you to share – in the format of your choosing but not for more than 10 minutes per intervention – how you understand the three pathways in relation to embodied practices. Formats might include poetry, free verse, stand up comedy, bodily performances, soundscapes, shared ideas, or posed questions. Please submit a short statement of interest with your name and institutional affiliation by **1<sup>st</sup> June 2023**.

Please submit your poster session and open mic submissions to Nadia Jones-Gailani, [jonesn@ceu.edu](mailto:jonesn@ceu.edu) or Kristina Orszaghova, [orszaghova\\_kristina@ceu.student.edu](mailto:orszaghova_kristina@ceu.student.edu).