After the public reactions to the sexual violence in Köln on New Years, we have to ask ourselves a few hard questions: How can ‘good ideas’ like protecting survivors of violence go so very wrong by supporting racist policing and security regimes? What happens when feminism goes ‘mainstream’ and works together with the State? How do feminist politics come to collaborate in State violence against people of color, particularly trans and cis women? This course will look at the question of feminism’s relationship to the State through current discussions in the U.S. about feminist and anti-violence collaboration in the prison industrial complex, with comparisons to the German context. We’ll use sociological, philosophical, and activist approaches to explore this ‘carceral feminism’, as well as what might lie beyond it, answers we will seek in the prison abolition, community accountability, & transformative justice movements. A number of Berlin-based activist-thinkers have been invited to present their perspectives and explore potential connections between the U.S. and our own context.

**Block 1: Understanding Violence**

**April 21 / 1. Introduction**

**Recommended Reading:**


**Connecting Sexual & Gender-based Violence with State Violence**

**Recommended Reading:**


**April 28 / 2. The Prison Industrial Complex**

**Guest: Nadija Samour (Jurist of color, Beratungsstelle für Migrantinnen & Migranten, Palästina Netzwerk Berlin)**

**Reading:**


**In-class Materials:**
“Picturing the Prison Industrial Complex Exercise.” Captive Genders: Trans Embodiment

**Extra Reading:**

**May 5** – *no class due to holidays*

**May 12 / 3. Prison Abolition & Queer Women of Color Resistance**

*Guest Speaker(s): Member(s) of Kiralina & ARAP (Against Repression Against Prisons)*

**Reading:**

**In-class Materials:**

**Extra Reading:**

**Block 2: Feminism and the State**

**May 19 / 4. De_Colonial Feminisms**

**Reading:**

**Extra Reading:**

**May 26 / 5. Victimhood & State Protection**

**Reading:**

**Extra Reading:**

**June 2 / 6. Feminisms & the Security State**

**Reading:**
Extra Reading:

Block 3: Carceral Feminism

June 9 / 7. What is ‘Carceral Feminism’?
Guest: Lisa Monz (Berlin Transformative Justice Collective)

Reading:

In-class Materials:

Extra Reading:

June 16 / 8. Carceral Feminism Group Presentations
Guest: Jennifer Petzen (Lesbenberatung Berlin)

Group 1: Sexual & Intimate Partner Violence

Recommended:

Group 2: Hate Crimes

Recommended:

June 23 / 9. Carceral Feminism Group Presentations continued
Guest: Hydra e.V. (angefragt)

Group 3: Safe Space & Gay Gentrification

Recommended:
Hanhardt, Christina B. “Introduction.” Safe Space: Gay Neighborhood History and the Politics of
Group 4: Sex Work, Anti-Trafficking, & Migration

Recommended:


Block 4: Community Accountability & Transformative Justice Alternatives

June 30 / 10. Introduction to Community Accountability & Transformative Justice
Guest: Jaya Chakravarti (active in the Berlin queer POC community)

Reading:

In-class Materials:

July 7 / 11. From the State to the Community
Guest: members of LesMigraS - Antidiskriminierungs- und Antigewaltbereich der Lesbenberatung Berlin e.V.

Reading

Extra Materials:
Interviews from the Story Telling & Organizing Project (STOP), Oakland, CA.

July 14 / 12. Survivors: Safety Beyond Security

Reading:

In-class Materials:
Safety building exercises from Generative Somatics

Extra Reading:

**July 21 / 13. Perpetrators: Accountability Beyond Punishment**

**Reading:**


**Extra Reading:**

**Date TBD / 14. Final Class: Case Study Violence in Köln**

After the events in Köln from Silvester/New Year’s of 2015, what could a transformative response look like?

**Reading:**
“Gegen sexualisierte Gewalt und Rassismus. Immer. Überall. #ausnahmslos.” ausnahmslos.org/.

Participation:
1. All seminar participants should participate in one of the group projects and presentations in sessions 8 or 9.
2. All seminar participants should choose a session where they will:
   • give a short summary of the text assigned (5 minutes) via various media (visual, written, multimedia)
   • raise several questions
   • facilitate class discussion (15 minutes).

Statement on Language Access and Justice:
Presentations and discussions can occur in English or in German, according to the desires of the participants. No participant will be penalized for their choice of language, and particular consideration and support will be given to students who choose to speak in a language that is not one of their first languages. This means concretely: maintaining a tempo in class that facilitates everyone's participation regardless of language access, organizing translation when necessary, and being vigilant for language miscommunications or translation needs.

Discussion Agreements for a Safe & Productive Learning Space
1. What is said here, stays here
   What is learned here, leaves here
2. Space of co-creation & caring, shared responsibility
   -Self-care: take responsibility for your own needs
   -Safe space vs. learning space
   -Discomfort & learning edges
3. Solidarity in listening and speaking
   -Avoid interrupting
   -Generative listening - “Is that what you mean? Did I understand you? Can you say more?”
   -“Step up, step back”
4. Respect and openness as basis for disagreement
   -“Oops, ouch” principle
   -Practice accountability
   -Effect vs. intention
   -Call in vs. call out
5. Be open to what you don't know
   -Avoid judgment & generalizations
   -Speak from the ‘I’
6. Consent
   Ask rather than assume (for example, gender pronouns)
7. Accessibility
   -Language & materials