



**II International Conference
Social Sciences & Medical Innovations:
Doing Things Together**

Keynote lecture

«Politics of Blood»

May 21, 13:30 (Conference Hall of the main TSU building, Prospect Lenina, 36)

Professor Boel Berner (Linköping University, Sweden)

The lecture will discuss how blood during the 20th and beginning of the 21st century would circulate, not merely within individual bodies but also within the body politic, nationally and globally. How it entered into political discourses and institutions, into practices to make possible and to designate, to order, exclude and exploit – but also to save lives and advance knowledge.

From the early years of the 20th century, blood gained an unprecedented new visibility and importance in medicine, science and society. Blood transfusion was re-introduced during the First World War, and expanded rapidly thereafter, based on a number of social, organizational and technical innovations. In the early 20th century, too, a number of new illnesses were identified and defined as being some form of deficiency in the blood. Blood tests could reveal or clarify doubtful paternity and even help solve crimes. And a new language of heredity was inscribed upon a new conceptualization of blood.

We can look upon these and later developments as social, medical, scientific, and technical innovations, brought together by a variety of social actors and artifacts. Their usage and the ideologies behind them can also be seen as forms of *biopolitics*. Three such innovative moments of the biopolitics of blood will be in focus in my talk. They deal with, respectively, the politics of truth, the politics of money, and the politics of risk. In line with the theme of the conference Professor Berner will also discuss how social sciences have come together with politics and medical practice to understand, advance, and regulate bodies, citizenship and health.

Boel Berner is Professor emerita at the Department of Thematic Studies – Technology and Social Change, Linköping University, Sweden.

With a background in sociology (Ph.D. at the University of Lund), since 1991 Professor Berner is Professor at an interdisciplinary department at the University of Linköping oriented towards studies of technology and society. Her research is both historical and contemporary, focusing on issues of technical expertise; gender, science and technology; risk; medical technology, and research methodology. Her current research concerns the history and politics of blood transfusion, blood donation, and blood research. Recent publications include the books *Technology and Medical Practice* (ed. with Ericka Johnson, 2010); *Blood Flows. Blood Transfusion*

and Blood Donation in Swedish Society (in Swedish 2012); *Knowledge and Evidence* (ed. with Corinna Kruse, 2013). Home page: <http://www.tema.liu.se/tema-t/medarbetare/berner-boel>

«The Social Study of Collaboration»

May 22, 11:00 (Conference Hall of the main TSU building, Prospect Lenina, 36)

Bart Penders (Maastricht University, The Netherlands)

This keynote will dive into the growth and changing character of collaboration in science. Drawing from developments in the life-, health- and nutritional sciences, it moves away from the view of academia as an isolated group of individuals making knowledge. As the result of many converging developments, first scholars and scientists teamed up with their peers, later with peers from other specialisations and even more recent with other knowledge creators from society. What counts as a 'legitimate' collaborator and as legitimate expertise to contribute to a collaboration steadily changes and expands.

This also creates tensions, for it has become increasingly difficult to decide what relevant, significant or important means - both in terms of produced knowledge or things, as well as with respect to the collaborations themselves.

For these and other reasons, many scholars have taken up the study of collaboration (the work) and collaborations (the structures). For while we thought we knew what is going on in epistemically demarcated communities, we increasingly struggle with what is going on in the hybrid, heterogeneous constellations that now produce knowledge. As collaborations change, so does the study of collaboration.

Bart Penders is Assistant Professor in Biomedicine and Society, Department of Health, Ethics and Society, Maastricht University, the Netherlands. Over the last years Bart has developed a main interest into issues of collaboration. Next to a purely academic interest in how such collaborations emerge, how they are maintained, and how they change over time, his interest is additionally motivated by the fact that collaboration has consequences. Whom you work with, under which conditions and for what reasons, influences the outcome of that collaboration. It influences the character of the knowledge produced, it influences where this knowledge will land, what its audiences are and how it will be used: the politics of collaborative knowledge production.

Home page:

<http://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/web/Institutes/FHML/CAPHRI/DepartmentsCAPHRI/HealthEthicsSociety/HESStaff/StaffPZ/PendersBart/Profile.htm>

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