

Callout TBTN 2018

We're taking back the night - Space is power

Does it also annoy you, that people interrupt you, or don't even listen to you? Does it piss you off, that the guy next to you on the subway or on the dance floor takes up so much space? Do you also just simply want to be able to go the toilet? Have you been recommended to take self-defense classes, so you feel „safer“ at night?

We live in a society that categorizes people into groups. These groups have different conceptions of and influences on one another and society. But rather than these groups coexisting, they constantly judge other groups, voting them up or down. This starts with very small things, things that we don't always recognize or that upon first seeing don't take as being either particularly good or bad. Biological and cultural presumptions about other people count towards this, for example that women are more emotional and sensitive and that men can think more logically. Therein lies the conception that logical thinking is often seen as more valuable, whilst feelings are often seen as a weakness. These are many such differences, and it's not always clear, just what it is that we are differentiating between. One person can therefore experience oppression whilst simultaneously be privileged, or experience different forms of oppression that then create something new.

Drawing on this categorization of people and revisiting the questions posed at the beginning, it becomes obvious that people have differing access to spaces. With this, we don't just mean spaces in the sense of public places and buildings, but also so-called metaphorical/thought spaces. What contributes to this is the ability to say things in different situations, and to be heard and paid attention to - to „take space“ or to „create space“ for one's own thoughts. This space is often refused to people who have been divided into certain categories. These metaphorical spaces are, as opposed to built spaces, flexible and transitional.

Examples of these are things that in our society are taken as „normal“. This is constantly changing, however deviation from this always means that people, in many parts of their lives - at school, at uni, at work, in medical interactions or just generally everyday - are excluded and discriminated against or devalued. The punishment is not only restricted to exclusion. Often enough in our society (through institutions, the state and individuals) the attempt is made to enforce what is considered as normal through violence. One example for this enforcement of norms is the judgement of the BGH (Federal Supreme Court / *Bundesgerichtshof*) that women have no right to the option of using the female form of address (for example the female form of the word ‚customer‘) in forms and other paperwork.

In this world, in which the ‚normal‘ presents itself so violently and with such disregard for humanity, we celebrate the perverse, unnatural and devious. We demand our space in which we can be loud and are therefore visible. IN this way, we are fighting on this night rich with tradition for our visibility, safety and existence. For information on the conception of the Walpurgis Night and a

history of the Take Back The Night demonstrations, you can find a text on our blog.

Not only do we all want the space to live our lives in, but we also demand space for our cause in political debate! We invite you all on this day to fight for an emancipatory togetherness, to make the world a safer place for all.

The Take Back The Night is a demo WITHOUT cis-men.

Because we think that a classless society is only achievable when we all educate each other and get along with each other based on grounds of solidarity, we'd be very happy about cool actions from cis-men outside of the demo.

That goes for, amongst other things, childcare (badkidz-tbtn@riseup.net) and the preparation and serving of food at the opening rally speeches.

Diverse DJs, glitter and cold drinks have been organized for a worthwhile end to the evening.

Together and with solidarity, we'll conquer the night back for us

- LET'S TAKE BACK THE NIGHT!

If you have questions or comments, please let us know!

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