

UN / DOING G E N D E R FATUK

A POSITION

The Technical University of Kaiserslautern and the Campus Landau of the University of Koblenz-Landau are merging to form the forward-looking University of Kaiserslautern-Landau (RPTU). Situated in the Federal State of Rhineland-Palatinate, it is the successor institution of two locations with a long tradition in the Palatinate region, creating the state's only Technical University. In accordance with its guiding principles, the RPTU commits to the encouragement of gender equality, diversity and equal opportunities. Its wide range of engineering, science, humanities and social-science disciplines creates a field of tension between

“Engineering, Society and the Environment”, forming a key focus of the university's research. Study on the intersections between these fields enhances targeted innovation and new insight.

The RPTU has declared its aim of increasing the proportion of women* in leadership positions and in professional fields where they are under-represented. The representation of women* in leadership roles, especially professorships, is thereby regarded as a precondition for equal opportunities, since they act as role models to empower young women* at the uni-

versity. A gender-sensitive approach to research also takes into account aspects of gender stereotypes and (in)equality, not only in the research itself, but also with respect to the transfer of research results into practice.

Pursuing gender issues in Architecture, motivating women* to present their ideas, interweaving the university with the city and region, filling as yet unoccupied fields with content, and empowering young architects all form aspects of the Endowed Chair that is supported both by the umbrella institution of the RPTU and specifically by the Faculty of Architecture.

B STATEMENT

In 2023, the Science Council advising the Federal Government committed to anchoring gender research more firmly into teaching and practice, thereby strategically implementing the stronger integration of gender perspectives – above all in fields where they have hitherto been poorly represented. Generally, gender studies are still inadequately institutionalised in research on regional planning and development, urban planning and architecture.

1 The RPTU would achieve a unique content-based selling point. It is the first and only university in Germany with a gender focus in Architecture.

2 Founding an intellectual “school”. Its core is formed by the inclusive, inviting perspective on gender-sensitive architecture, from intellectual access to technical implementation.

3 The RPTU would thereby generate international attention/attraction. For researchers and students, the FATUK offers opportunities that are under-represented both in Europe and worldwide.

4 Achieving regional sustainability. We can attract talented people who can find an intellectual and regionally-related home within a newly emerging cluster.

5 Broadening the perspective of Architecture. With our multi-, trans- and interdisciplinary approach, we position Architecture across other disciplines: including social sciences, research on sustainability, and urban and regional planning, as well as other related disciplines such as mobility research, logistics and humanities.

6 Uncovering a blind spot of digitisation. We can research, negotiate and reveal the potential effects of digitisation on UN/DOING GENDER in architecture: from stabilising heteronormative role models to the gender bias of AI.

7 Changing architectural discourse. Our research, designs and debates change architectural dialogue. We work towards a new normal – with a gender-sensitive focus as the starting point of forward-looking architecture.

8 Our graduates produce better architecture. We encourage the foundation of new practices and the development of confident, autonomous positions.

9 Raising awareness of ESG-relevance. By 2030, businesses and architectural practices will be required to prove that they have integrated this EU standard into their compliance framework as standard.

C ENDOEWD CHAIR / CONTACT

The Endowment Collective of this Chair can create its own active profile and position itself regarding current political debate. Commitment to an Endowment Chair guarantees a high profile and a forward-looking reputation – both with respect to the university and the endowers. Gender Studies at the Faculty of Architecture, RPTU KL is an interdisciplinary research field to address a general social task, by studying and presenting the relevance of gender differences, gender roles and gender identities to society and the built environment. The intrinsic talents of the next generation of architects must be nurtured and educated to become the avant-garde of today and tomorrow:
UN / DOING G E N D E R FATUK.

Endowed Chair

Christiane Fath is an architect, curator and publisher. She studied Architecture in Berlin and Weimar, receiving scholarships to Aleppo and Milan. She also studied Cultural Management in Berlin. She founded the architectural gallery framework in Berlin and Vienna, managing it to present positions of the young European avant-garde architectural scene. As Editor in Chief of the magazine Bauwelt / Corporate Publishing, she developed publishing formats in partnership with industry and the international architectural elite. As an appointed member of the Board of Trustees of the Schelling Architekturstiftung, she has participated in nomination and jury processes. She is active as an

appointed Associate Member of the Bund Deutscher Architekten und Architektinnen (BDA) Berlin, working on the greater visibility of female architects. She is a founder-member and Committee Member of NPO Diversity in Architecture. Currently, she is teaching and researching as Guest Professor at the Klara Maria Fassbinder Chair of the State of Rhineland-Palatinate in Kaiserslautern, RPTU/Fatuk. Publishing and lectures on transformation: Gender-sensitive planning and professional culture.

