



7th Edition: Global Congress on
**Gender and Sexuality
Studies**

March 10 - 11, 2025

www.genderstudycongress.com

PROCEEDING BOOK



Introduction

The Gender and Sexuality Conference 2024, organized by the Sciinov Group, was successfully held on March 10 - 11, 2025. This two-day event brought together experts, scholars, activists, and thought leaders from around the world to discuss a wide range of topics related to gender, sexuality, and their intersections with social, cultural, and political issues.

The event provided a platform for both established and emerging voices, with participants from diverse backgrounds contributing to dynamic conversations about the evolving understanding of gender and sexuality in today's world. The Sciinov Group was proud to host this inspiring and impactful conference, which not only highlighted critical issues but also offered hope and actionable solutions for a more inclusive future.

Keynote Presentations



Design and Sexual Health Innovation: a discussion on social and technological progress

Judith Glover

Industrial Design, RMIT University, Australia



Abstract:

Gender and Sexuality, and the ability to live an authentic life of our choosing greatly enhances wellbeing, including the ability to have well-functioning sexual relationships of our choice and is seen by the WHO as a basic human right (World Health Organization, n.d.). The design category of sex toys can become important sexual therapy devices as we age—yet the industry is still seen as part of the Adult Industry and not a legitimate sub-field of Product Design. To ask the question ‘how do you make a better sex toy?’ is not a technological problem, sex toys being as complicated as electric toothbrushes. It is the historical socio-sexual taboos, particularly around female sexuality that hold back development (Glover, 2019, Glover, 2013). The same historical taboos that surround the sex toy industry also cross over into the medical and health fields, making innovation into areas of sexual function/ dysfunction (for all genders and sexualities) slow. Even the health field has trouble discussing ‘the bits downstairs’.

This presentation will discuss the work of Dr Judith Glover, an Australian Industrial Designer who works in what she calls Design and Sexual Health Innovation (DaSHI). Starting her design and research career by developing a sex toy brand 20 years ago, she noticed that the same taboos around sexual wellbeing afflict the medical and health fields and developed an approach which was to bring these problems into the academy and apply rigorous research methodologies and methods to them (Cliterate Australia, n.d.). She will discuss how the domains of design can bring both social and technological innovation to an area too often deemed taboo, that products contain important messages beyond just function, and the visibility of bringing these projects into the world are important markers for sexual freedom and progress.

Cliterate Australia. (n.d.). Cliterate Australia: Supporting sexual health and education. Cliterate Australia. <https://www.cliterate.com.au/>

Glover, Judith. "Design culture in the sex toy industry: a new phenomenon." *Design Culture: Objects and Approaches*, Bloomsbury Visual Arts (2019): 115-130. Glover, Judith. *Taboo to Mainstream: An Industrial Design Solution to Sex Toy Production* (PhD diss., Swinburne University of Technology. 2013)

World Health Organization. (n.d.). Sexual health. World Health Organization.
https://www.who.int/health-topics/sexual-health#tab=tab_1

Biography:

Dr Judith Glover is an award-winning design researcher, educator and Industrial Design practitioner at RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia. Her PHD thesis "Taboo to Mainstream" (2013) on the sex toy industry explored the technical capabilities that Industrial Design process and methods could offer in improving manufacturing and design quality for the sex toy industry. It also explored how gender and sexuality notions are embedded within mass production to explain the lack of suitability of products for contemporary women and how Industrial Design process and methods are an important part of changing industry standards. She is currently exploring the possibilities for new design research, service and product innovation under the umbrella of Design and Sexual Health Innovation (DaSHI). This involves cross collaborative research between Design, Engineering and Health fields. In 2019 she was a finalist in the inaugural Good Design 'Women in Design' awards, recognised for her contribution to developing a new field of design in a taboo area. In 2024 her research team won an Australian Good Design award for 'Cliterate', an interactive sexual health model of the vulva, clitoris and pelvis. Her favourite t-shirt says, "I'll be a post-feminist in a post patriarchy" and she considers herself to be a Feminist Designer. Having lived over half a century, she has been the beneficiary of so many activists who came before, who fought for gender and sexual rights in harder times. Feminism for her is about equality of access and opportunity, don't give ground and being able to live an authentic life- whatever gender or sexuality you want to be.

Transoceanic Creole Practices and Gendered Kinships: A Study of Women's Participation in the Siddi Cultural and Spiritual Practices in Gujarat

Dr Sayan Dey

Bayan College (Affiliated to Purdue University Northwest), Al-Athaibah, Sultanate of Oman



Abstract:

The term 'Siddi' refers to the Afro-Diaspora community in India, which traces its ancestry from parts of eastern Africa, such as Ethiopia, Zanzibar, Sudan, Kenya, and Tanzania. During the 13th century, they arrived in Gujarat with the Islamic invaders as slaves, harem-keepers, army guards, palace guards, and musicians. Eventually, they settled in Gujarat, and their eastern African ancestral traditions intersected with the local Sufi Islamic practices, giving birth to Afro-Sufi cultural and spiritual traditions. The Afro-Sufi cultural traditions are practiced during their religious festivals (Urs) and musical performances (Dhamaals and Zikrs). Within these practices, the gender dynamics of the Siddis, especially with the participation of women in these festivals and performances, are an essential aspect to engage with. Generally, within the Siddi community, the position of the women is confined to households and domestic work, with very few refuting the patriarchal norms and working in banks, hospitals, and schools. In such restrictive circumstances, spiritual rituals like Mai Misra's Khichdi, centrally organized by the Siddi women, serve as momentary spaces for gendered kinships. This lecture will explain how the transoceanic Creole practices of Mai Misra worship unfold possibilities of gendered kinships amongst the Siddi women in Gujarat.

Biography:

Sayan Dey is currently working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of English Studies, Bayan College (affiliated to Purdue University Northwest), Oman. He is also a Faculty fellow at the Harriet Tubman Institute, York University, Canada. His latest monographs are *Green Academia: Towards Eco-friendly Education Systems* (Routledge, 2022) and *Performing Memories, Weaving Archives: Creolized Cultures across the Indian Ocean* (Anthem Press, 2023). His areas of research interests are post humanism, DE colonial studies, environmental studies, critical race studies, culinary epistemologies and critical diversity literacy. He can be reached at www.sayandey.com

Colonialisms and Queer Politics: Thinking Comparatively about Colonial Legacies

Matthew Waites

University of Glasgow, United Kingdom



Abstract:

What have been the significant specificities of, and differences between, Eurocentric empires and colonialisms in relation to sexualities and genders beyond heterosexual norms? Moreover, following from this, what are the differences between colonial legacies in such respects? This presentation will discuss the specific history and legacies of the British Empire, while also drawing comparisons to the history and legacies of other empires such as the Portuguese and French—focusing especially on contexts in Africa. The presentation will draw from certain chapters in the forthcoming book *Colonialisms and Queer Politics: Sexualities, Genders and Unsettling Colonialities*, co-edited by Sonia Corrêa, Gustavo Gomes da Costa and Matthew Waites (Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2025). As is well known, the British Empire became associated with criminalisation of same-sex sexual acts (primarily between males) from the second half of the nineteenth century, and this has yielded an ongoing legal legacy of such criminalisation in a majority of states in the Commonwealth of Nations. Yet the legacies of wider social regulation, such as through Christian religion and schooling, also need examination. By comparison, the Portuguese Empire shaped by fascism in the twentieth century also criminalised same-sex sexual acts, yet in recent decades former colonies in Africa have reformed penal codes and thus have enacted comprehensive decriminalisation of same-sex sexual acts. It appears that limited Catholic Church funding for schooling led to usually less effective sharing of religious discourse about same-sex sexualities than by British missionaries. Meanwhile in the French case, legal regulation was usually absent in African colonies, and Christian religious influence seems more variable, with legacies in former colonies varying partly according to Muslim or Christian majority contexts. By thinking comparatively about empires and present colonial legacies, drawing on insights about the continuing relevance of colonial frames from decolonizing approaches and the third wave of global historical sociology (discussed by authors such as Julian Go), we can better understand current contestations of legal and social regulation related to sexualities, genders and an inclusively reconceptualized global queer politics.

Biography:

Dr. Matthew Waites is Reader in the Sociological and Cultural Studies Division within the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Glasgow, UK

(webpage: <https://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/socialpolitical/staff/matthewwaites/>).

He is co-editor (with Corinne Lennox) of Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the Commonwealth: Struggles for Decriminalisation and Change (London: School of Advanced Study, 2013. Open access at: <https://uolpress.co.uk/book/human-rights-sexual-orientation-and-gender-identity-in-the-commonwealth/>).

He has published extensively on international LGBTIQ+ politics and movements, in relation to contexts including Africa, India, the Caribbean and the UK, in fields such as the sociology of human rights, international political sociology, comparative historical sociology and queer genocide studies. Journal articles have been published in leading journals such as Current Sociology, International Sociology, International Review of Sociology, International Politics, Sociological Review and the Journal of Genocide Research.

The empowerment of Arab women in decision-making positions worldwide

Najet Zammouri

Tunisian human rights league (LTDH), Tunisia



Abstract:

The Arab woman is a multifaceted figure, enriched by cultural diversity, remarkable resilience, and significant contributions to all aspects of society. She is a vital and indispensable force in the construction and development of the MENA region. Her role is essential in both the private and public spheres, and her potential serves as a driving force for progress and transformation, both within the region and beyond. The role of women in global transformation raises several key issues, particularly from the Arab perspective. These include access to education, healthcare, employment, and equitable economic opportunities for women. Moreover, addressing gender discrimination, violence against women, and the cultural and societal barriers that limit their full participation in development and decision-making processes is of critical importance. Recognizing and valuing women's contributions at all levels of society, while promoting their leadership and representation in political, economic, and social spheres, are essential to achieving inclusive and egalitarian global transformation.

Arab women are essential actors in various fields such as the economy, politics, civil society, culture, and education. Here are some aspects of their contribution:

In the economy, they are increasingly involved in entrepreneurship, small business development, and leadership in corporate sectors. Despite existing challenges such as limited access to capital and societal expectations, many women are driving innovation and contributing to economic growth in their countries. Governments and organizations across the MENA region have begun implementing initiatives to empower women economically, recognizing their potential to bolster productivity and diversify economic portfolios.

In politics, they have made significant strides, with growing representation in parliaments, ministries, and local governance. In countries like Tunisia, women are taking up leadership roles and actively participating in policy-making processes. These women not only advocate for gender equality but also address broader issues such as social justice, human rights, and sustainable development. Their presence is crucial for ensuring that legislation reflects the diverse needs of society, promoting inclusive governance that transcends gender barriers.

Within Tunisian civil society, women have long been at the forefront of movements advocating for social change, human rights, and community development. Many serve as activists, founders of NGOs, and grassroots organizers. Their efforts in combating genderbased violence, promoting women's rights, and advocating for equality in both private and Public life have had transformative effects, inspiring future generations to engage in advocacy.

The role of Arab women in culture is equally significant, as they contribute to the preservation of cultural heritage while also pushing the boundaries of artistic expression. Whether through literature, film, art, or music, women in the Arab world are shaping narratives that reflect their experiences and challenge traditional gender roles. Many are using creative platforms to raise awareness of social issues, promote cultural diversity, and foster dialogue between different communities.

In education, they have emerged as both learners and educators, with increasing enrolment in universities and higher education institutions across the region. Many have pursued careers As teachers, professors, and researchers, contributing to the advancement of knowledge in various fields. Women's access to education has a direct impact on their empowerment, equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to engage meaningfully in public and professional spheres.

Together, these contributions make Arab women indispensable to the development of their societies. By overcoming obstacles and advocating for systemic changes, they are shaping the future of the MENA region and asserting their role as key actors in regional and global progress.

However, geopolitical tensions and conflicts can have devastating consequences on the wellbeing of women, their security, and their access to humanitarian aid, particularly in conflict zones. Four major reasons can be cited that hinder the flourishing and advancement of women:

1. Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV): Women are often victims of sexual violence, including rape, domestic violence, and sexual slavery, during times of conflict. Armed groups may use sexual violence as a weapon of war to intimidate, humiliate, and terrorize civilian populations. These atrocities result in deep physical and psychological trauma for women and compromise their personal security.
2. Forced displacement: Conflicts often result in massive population displacements, with women and children constituting a significant proportion of displaced persons. These forced displacements expose women to increased risks of violence, exploitation, and human trafficking. Additionally, displaced women may be separated from their families, lose access to healthcare and education, and face precarious living conditions in refugee camps or displacement areas

3. Restricted access to humanitarian aid: Geopolitical tensions and conflicts can impede humanitarian organizations' access to affected populations, notably due to security restrictions, blockades, roadblocks, and other logistical obstacles. Consequently, women and girls may have limited or non-existent access to essential services such as healthcare, education, clean water, food, and shelter. Women attempting to access humanitarian aid may also be exposed to risks of violence and exploitation.

4. Weakening of social support systems: Conflicts often disrupt existing social support systems, including healthcare services and social protection networks. This can make women more vulnerable to poverty, malnutrition, illness, and maternal and infant deaths. Moreover, conflicts can destroy critical civilian infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, and water supply systems, further exacerbating the humanitarian crisis and women's living conditions.

Biography:

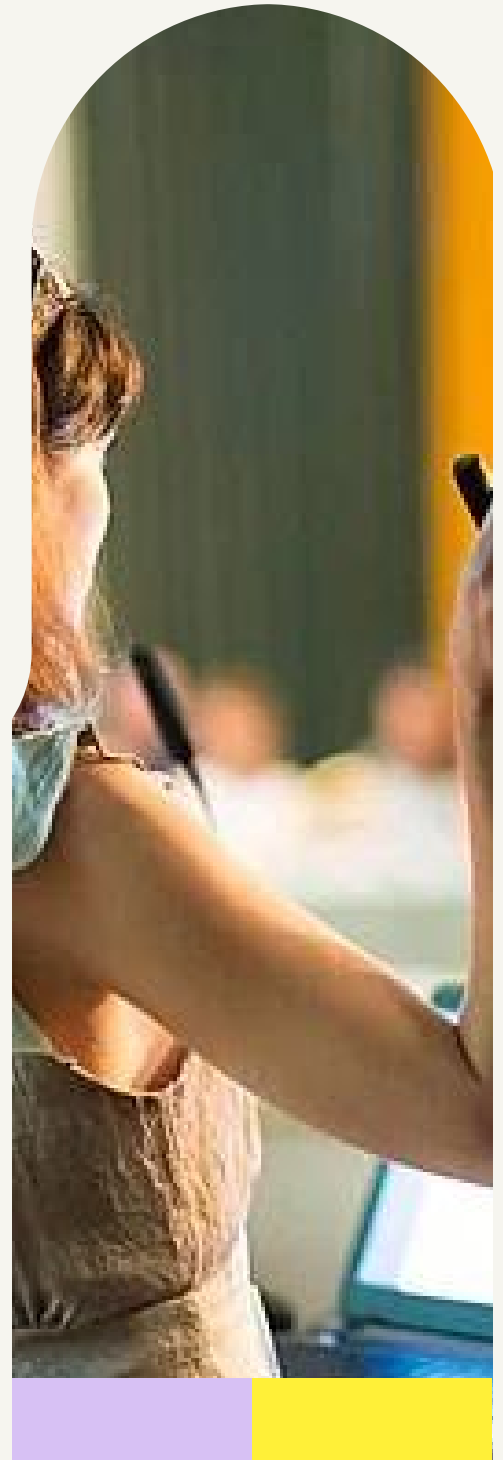
Najet Zammouri is a pedagogic consultant and a prominent Tunisian human rights activist and a key figure in the struggle for gender equality and individual freedoms. She has been active in the human rights field since the 1990s and has made significant contributions to advocating for women's rights and public liberties in Tunisia. Currently she serves as the prime vice president of *La Ligue Tunisienne des Droits de l'Homme* (Tunisian Human Rights League), an organization that was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2015.

President and founder of the feminist association "Felha pour la culture et la citoyenneté".

Throughout her career, Najet Zammouri has focused on protecting human rights, sub-saharian migrant rights and particularly in the context of gender equality. She has also played a vital role in organizing feminist movements and coordinating efforts between civil society, politicians, and public institutions on national, regional and global levels.

Zammouri is the focal point of the "Every Woman Treaty" Coalition in Tunisia advocating for a global treaty to end violence against women and girls. She has received several national and international awards for her activism and author of many op-eds related to HR.

Oral Presentations



"Issues Preventing Access to Justice & Judicial Reform for Females"

Jennie Williams

Lawyer and Gender Equality & Inclusion Consultant; Asia Pacific

Abstract:

The Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) and Gender Equality & Mainstreaming (GE&M) approaches are accepted in several international agreements and are strategies to ensure equal rights between male and female genders. The common agenda being social justice but also encompasses legal justice. Both women and men should be able to access and receive fair and equal treatment within political and economic institutions as well as from the judiciary. This is frequently not the case for females who systematically suffer disproportionately from judicial bias - particularly in sexual assault cases - where points of attrition are common, arbitrarily applied and condoned pre, during and post-trial.

This is primarily due to the dominant and persistent patriarchy that exists in all societies that encourages, re-enforces and excuses male-designed legislation and stereotypes that are harmful to females, reflecting male privilege and entitlement that perpetuates and consistently disregards often nefarious abuses committed against females by males.

This talk references in-depth research undertaken by the speaker as well as recommendations made within an ASEAN context. The purpose is to constructively raise awareness of gaps within high level policies and legislation that discriminate against females; highlight unconscious attitudes and behaviours of judicial stakeholders and support services; as well as indicating best practices that should be replicated and upscaled across the region and globally.

Biography:

Jennie Williams is a UK Lawyer and Gender Equality & Inclusivity Expert, currently working as a Key International Expert on an ongoing GIZ Access to Justice for Women project in Bangladesh. Jennie relocated to Thailand in 2010 and completed a Master's degree in Human Rights and Peace Studies at Mahidol University. She has worked with the UN and regional NGOs and INGOs in Access to Justice & Justice Reform, Counter Trafficking, Safe & Fair Migration and Recruitment, Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls, Gender-Based Violence and the Empowerment of Females and Minority Groups (sex workers, LGBTQI+ and ethnic communities). Jennie Williams has written and presented several papers at international conferences and continues to advocate for and achieve positive constructive change for the most vulnerable in our societies.

Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Tradition, trauma, transformation

Dr Haddijatou Hughes

Emergency Medicine Specialist, NSW Health.

Affiliations: UNSW School of Rural Clinical Campuses

Abstract:

Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) refers to the practice of intentionally altering or excising part or all of the external female* genitalia without any medical justification. Globally, it is estimated that approximately 200 million females** have undergone this procedure. Historically, FGM/C has been perpetuated as a cultural rite of passage into womanhood, purportedly intended to preserve modesty, enhance femininity, improve hygiene, and achieve aesthetic goals. However, it is widely recognised as a misogynistic practice that inflicts harm upon women and constitutes a violation of human rights. Women subjected to FGM/C face an elevated risk of chronic health complications, including persistent pain, infections of the genital and urinary tracts, menstrual irregularities, and significant psychological distress. With increasing global migration, individuals affected by FGM/C are increasingly settling in countries such as the United States, Canada, and Australia. Evidence suggests that migration to regions where FGM/C is not customary positively influences the abandonment of this practice. Host countries play a crucial role in fostering this transition by promoting social and cultural change. Traditionally, healthcare resources for addressing FGM/C have been targeted at midwives. However, individuals affected by FGM/C may also present to primary care providers or emergency departments with related medical concerns requiring attention. Systematic reviews have highlighted gaps in healthcare professionals' knowledge, confidence, and competence in managing cases of FGM/C. For instance, one emergency department-based study revealed that physicians often failed to identify FGM/C. Addressing these deficiencies through targeted education and training is essential to improving care for affected individuals.

In this session, we will bust some myths around FGM/C with an interactive quiz and I will give an introduction to the topic. I would be happy to mould the course information specifically to fit an American audience and include anything else the committee would think is appropriate for this topic, depending on the time slot available. I will make this topic engaging so clinicians feel motivated to explore FGM/C in their patients.

*those with an assigned sex of female at birth

** recognising that there may be people who do not identify as female who have undergone FGM/C

Biography:

Dr Haddy Hughes is an Australian Emergency Medicine Specialist with English and Gambian heritage, currently practising on Gadigal and Birpai lands in New South Wales, Australia. She focuses on gender and racial equity and aims to improve outcomes for patients presenting with chronic pelvic pain in emergency departments. Dr. Hughes has a Reducing Racial Disparities in Healthcare certificate from Harvard Business School. She is completing a certificate in Effective Writing for Healthcare at Harvard University, which she hopes will further her passion for health promotion. Additionally, she is an active member of the NSW Health Community of Practice for Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting and is dedicated to enhancing health outcomes for these survivors. She is a volunteer for The Water Well Project and STARTTS (NSW Service for Treatment & Rehabilitation of Torture & Trauma Survivors).

Soft Power and Gender Discourses: Comparing Sino-US Approaches to Women Empowerment Since 1995

Fanxi He

Fudan University School of International Relations and Public Affairs, China

Abstract:

Since the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, women empowerment has become a crucial element of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, gaining prominence in discussions on economic development, political democratization, and social justice. Despite its widespread use, the concept remains ambiguous, encompassing economic, political, and Socio-cultural dimensions that challenge gender hierarchies. Women empowerment involves Increasing women's control over life choices and opportunities, integrating power, autonomy, and Agency.

This research analyzes the discursive power contestation between China and the USA in constructing narratives on women empowerment in East Asia since 1995. China's discourse emphasizes developmental rights and developmental peace, aligning with the needs of women in developing countries. In contrast, the USA, particularly since the Bush and Clinton administrations, has promoted the idea that "women's rights are human rights," advocating for liberal peace. This study examines how each nation frames its policies and rhetoric through archival research and discourse analysis, reflecting broader geopolitical strategies and cultural values. Preliminary findings suggest distinct differences in approaches and priorities, shedding light on the intersection of gender politics and international relations.

This research contributes to a deeper understanding of the role of narrative construction in global power dynamics and gender discourse, highlighting the significance of women empowerment as a multifaceted and evolving concept. By examining official statements, policies, and initiatives, the study elucidates how gender narratives are employed to advance national interests and shape international development agendas.

Biography:

Fanxi He is currently a Master's student at Fudan University, she obtained a bachelor's degree in International Politics from Nankai University and a dual degree in business administration from Tianjin University, her research interests focus on Women, Peace and Security Agenda, International norms, Middle East and East Asia studies. She has published several papers in reputed journals and chapters in books.

Can tourism favour women empowerment in tradition villages? The case Of Bali and Java (Indonesia)

Sylvine Pickel-Chevalier

University of Angers, ESTHUA (National Institute of Tourism), France,

Abstract:

Gender equality is one of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals proposed at the 2015 U.N. Sustainable Development Summit. Yet the second edition of the Global Report on Women in Tourism (UNWTO, 2019) reinforced concerns about tourism's ambiguous effect on gender equality. Even if women are predominant within the tourism sector at an international scale, subtle forms of discrimination continue to disadvantage women in their careers.

Tourism thus becomes a stimulating laboratory in which to study gender relations today, notably in patriarchal societies. The objective of this work is to examine the capacity of tourism to promote women's individual and collective empowerment within professional, family and community arenas, in traditional villages in Bali and Java. We build an intercultural approach based on the collaboration between French and Indonesian researchers.

We adopt a structural list constructivist approach and employ a qualitative Method. We interviewed, from November 2021 to November 2024, 44 stakeholders (homestay and Restaurant owners, head of administrative village, head of traditional village, head of tourism Committee), among them 22 women and 22 men, in 5 tourist villages: Ubud and Blimbingsari (Bali) and Nglanggeran, Pentingsari and Samiran (Yogyakarta province in Java). Our results tend to demonstrate that tourism favour individual and collective empowerment of women. Growing numbers of them have become business owners, even if in micro-business.

The chance to bring in income has elevated women's significance and self-esteem within their communities, where their opinions have become more valued. In minority, women may even have a leadership role in the tourism management of the village. Definitely gender bias stay, especially in traditional community in which women remain under men's authority, but tourism favour structural changes in professional and Family arenas.

Biography:

Sylvine' Pickel -Chevalier is a full Professor in Geography at the ESTHUA, Faculty of Tourism, Culture and Hospitality, of the University of Angers, France, Laboratory UMR CNRS 6590 Escapes ET Societies. She specializes in studies relating to tourism in France and in Indonesia, questioning it's Potential as an agent of sustainable development and integrating gender issues. She published more than 25 articles and books about this subject, notably in: Annals of Tourism Research; Tourism Geographies; Escape Geographies, Torso, or with Cambridge scholar publishing. She is director of the GIS (National group of research) Tourism Studies, associating 21 faculties and institutes of tourism in France.

Gender and Sexuality: Challenges and Opportunities for Women and Girls in Kloto Prefecture, Togo

Chakpla Essi Mansan Sena

ONG AIL, Togo

Abstract:

Gender equality and sexuality remain fundamental subjects for the sustainable development, particularly in rural regions of Togo, such as Kloto prefecture. Although progress has been made in education and awareness, women and young girls in this region continue to face challenges numerous challenges in terms of sexual and reproductive rights, economic empowerment and the fight against gender-based violence. Indeed, according to the latest data, almost 55% of young girls in the Kloto region do not complete their school cycle due to early pregnancies and forced marriages. Maternal mortality remains high, with estimate of 500 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2020.

Rural women, in particular, face a lack of access to information reliable information about sexuality, reproductive health services and opportunities economic, despite their essential role in agricultural production. This exclusion prevents their full and complete participation in the socio-economic development of their communities.

This presentation will focus on the challenges and obstacles faced by women and young girls in Kloto prefecture in matters of gender and sexuality. Through analysis social, economic and cultural obstacles, we will propose practical solutions to promote better integration of sexual and reproductive rights into local policies, emphasizing the importance of sex education and empowerment economic situation of rural women.

We will also explore the impact of digital technologies and platforms in online as tools for reducing inequalities, offering perspectives on how these technologies can transform access to information, training and new economic opportunities for women.

Biography:

CHAKPLA Essi Mansan Séna is a women's rights defender, gender expert and development, and activist for gender equality. Executive Director of the NGO Support for Local Initiatives (AIL), an organization founded on December 11, 2002, she devotes her career to promote the empowerment of women and girls, while combating inequalities in gender through concrete and sustainable actions.

With more than 20 years of experience in civil society organizations, Essi Mansan Séna has developed solid skills in project management, strategic communication, leadership and advocacy for gender equality. It leads innovative initiatives that combine training, professional integration and coaching, in order to strengthen female leadership and women's access to economic resources. As an expert in gender and development, she fights for an equitable society by proposing specific programs for rural women, young girls and vulnerable groups. She is one of the pillars behind flagship projects such as Noun Ahead and Decent Employment, which enabled many women to break cycles of economic dependence and become key players in their communities.

Under his leadership, the Incubator Centre for the Promotion of Entrepreneurship (CIPE) in Kpalimé is become a space of transformation where women and young people acquire skills in entrepreneurship, digital technologies and income-generating activities. Through initiatives such as the Nana Tech project, of which she is cohort president for the Plateaux Ouest region, Essi Mansan Séna inspires and trains a new generation of young girls ready to take on the challenges of digital and exploit their potential.

A visionary, she is also at the forefront of initiatives in favour of sustainable agriculture and green energy. She leads projects such as the manufacturing of bio digesters for the production of biogas, organic waste valorisation and digital marketing, thus strengthening resilience rural women and their contribution to economic development. Graduated in office secretarial and administrative management, CHAKPLA Essi Mansan Séna has enriched his academic career with modular training in leadership, inheritance rights, communication, and psychology and project management. School guidance counsellor and professional, she puts her skills and experience at the service of young people, supporting them in defining and achieving their academic and professional goals.

As a full-time trainer at CIPE, she provides theoretical and practical training, combined with personalized coaching to guarantee the success of each beneficiary. Her integrated approach, focused on developing skills and leveraging potential individuals, helps transform lives by providing young people and women with the necessary tools to flourish and excel in their personal and professional projects.

CHAKPLA Essi Mansan Séna is a model of female leadership in Togo, embodying the fight for gender equality and inclusive development. His determination, expertise and commitment unwavering continue to transform the lives of thousands of women and girls, while promoting a vision of a future where equality and social justice are at the heart of development.

Rupture and Recognition: Gendered Power, Misrecognition, and Transformation in Group Interactions

Matthew Rich-Tolsma

Centre for Nonviolent Communication

Abstract:

This presentation examines a rupture between a transgender woman and a cisgender man in a therapeutic group, using this moment of tension, misrecognition, and repair to explore how gendered power, epistemic injustice, and recognition unfold in relational encounters. While the setting is clinical, the dynamics mirror broader social structures shaping Trans intelligibility, legitimacy, and exclusion.

Drawing from Fraser's theory of social justice, Honneth's mutual recognition, Rosa's resonance and alienation, and Spivak's critique of epistemic injustice, the discussion traces how Tran's identities are positioned, contested, and negotiated within systems of authority and power.

The case study illustrates how Tran's participants in group spaces must navigate both hypervisibility and illegibility, as their identities are often subjected to scrutiny and defensive resistance while remaining structurally marginalized. These dynamics are not only theoretical but deeply implicated in the positionality of cisgender men, including myself, who participate in processes of recognition and misrecognition.

The rupture within the group was not merely an interpersonal conflict but an affective and epistemic event exposing unconscious gendered structures. Beyond ally ship, the presentation considers how cisgender individuals can participate in transforming relational power, knowledge production, and institutional practices, creating conditions for meaningful Trans recognition and justice.

Biography:

Matthew Rich-Tolsma is a South African and Dutch organisational consultant, teacher, and scholar. His work is largely focused on issues concerning violence, decoloniality, and the transformative power of empathy. His work integrates group analytic thinking with critical pedagogy, pragmatic philosophy, process sociology, applied nonviolence, decoloniality, and the performing arts. He is a Fellow of the Institute for Educational and Social Equity, and the Royal Society of Arts, serves as President of the Board of the Centre for Nonviolent Communication, and serves on the board of Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed, Inc.

Transgender Autistic Experiences of, and Identity with, Internalised Ableism with a Focus on Intersectionality

Jude Merit

University of Sunderland, United Kingdom

Abstract:

This paper will explore the intersectional experiences of internalized ableism among transgender autistic adults, drawing on qualitative data collected from seven participants across the United States, the United Kingdom, and one participant from Greece. Using an intersectionality lens, this paper will examine how multiple dimensions of identity—including gender, race, disability, housing status, health, wealth, citizenship, language, sexuality, and neurodivergence—interact to shape the participants' experiences with internalized ableism.

The diverse sample includes non-binary participants, individuals with varying sexual and romantic orientations, and participants who differ in age, financial status, and immigration status. Participants' experiences with disability and neurodivergence also vary, encompassing conditions such as ADHD, Pathological Demand Avoidance, and mental health issues. Additionally, the impact of body size and fat phobia intersects with other marginalized identities in healthcare and daily life.

This paper will reflect not only on negative experiences but also on positive experiences and perceptions of the participants, providing a well-rounded narrative of the participants. This paper will highlight the experiences of internalized ableism and how it is similar and differs from person to person and underscores the need for nuanced understanding and support that accounts for the complex interplay of intersecting identities.

Through this intersectional approach, this paper will contribute to a deeper understanding of how transgender autistic individuals navigate their identities, experiences of marginalization, and resistance to ableist structures, with, importantly, a focus on both the positive and negative aspects of the participants' identities.

Biography:

Jude Merit is an American transgender autistic multi-disabled PhD student at the University of Sunderland in Sunderland, England, studying the lived experiences of transgender autistic millennial. He has a Master of Science in Psychology from the University of Sunderland and a Postgraduate Diploma in Data Science from Leeds Beckett University. He lives in Sunderland, United Kingdom, with his wife, two cats, and roommate

Reframing masculinity: How do male-identifying youth facilitators challenge or promote particular models of masculinity?

Angharad Morgan

Lancaster University, UK

Abstract:

Initiatives to empower women and girls have been an integral part of work to increase gender Justice, reduce incidents of violence against women and girls (VAWG), and make way for a Gender-equitable world (Garcia, 2021). However, it is now more widely understood that involving men and boys in these discussions is vital to achieving these goals (Flood, 2019; Grieg, 2018). Gibbs et al. (2015) highlights the limited research on the role of facilitators in addressing masculinity.

In this paper I draw on my PhD research, which uses photo-elicitation And semi-structured interviews to understand 20 male youth facilitators' understandings of Masculinity and their potential to engage young people in reframing negative hegemonic Masculinity and challenge gender binaries. I also explore their capacity and desire to act as role Models for young people, and allies for feminist movements.

I ask participants to reflect on their own positionality, discussing their visual representation of masculinity (through an image/photograph), possible motivations to reframe different models of masculinity and any challenges that may arise from this.

My work is focused on the North of England to identify if locality impacts facilitators experiences, recognising Northern culture, in particular, working Class identities, economic decline, and community relations. Throughout the paper I am guided By a social constructivist view of masculinity, looking at how feminist and queer theory interact And acknowledging that facilitators may challenge gender binaries and endorse positive identities That are not exclusively masculine.

Biography:

Angharad is a secondary social science teacher and education consultant in Newcastle, UK. She is also the programme lead at Gender Action, supporting educators to develop gender equitable spaces in school. Angharad has a strong interest in gender and education, beginning her PhD in education and Social Justice in 2022.

Beyond the Binary: Title IX and the Search for Inclusivity in Education

Kelley Larson

Department of Education, North Dakota State University, United states

Abstract:

Queer history, marked by resilience and progress, presents a rich tapestry of experiences that challenge traditional narratives. In this policy analysis, we explore the intersection of queer history and education, focusing on the lived understanding of sexual and gender minority (SGM) youth in K-12 schools. Despite significant progress in societal acceptance, SGM youth face persistent challenges that affect their identities and well-being. In this analysis, we synthesize research on Title IX and its application in Midwest schools, particularly in Minnesota and North Dakota to understand the present landscape of DEI policies. We examine how these policies affect SGM students and identify barriers to effective implementation.

This analysis incorporates a queer perspective in which we aim to highlight the unique needs of SGM youth and advocate for inclusive practices in education. We recommend fostering active listening and creating safe dialogue spaces, allowing student feedback to shape policy revision. We use this research to underscore the importance of seeing DEI policies through a queer lens, ensuring that SGM youth voices are heard, and their diverse situations are acknowledged.

Keywords: *queer, SGM youth, Education, Inclusion*

Biography:

Kelley Larson is a third-year PhD student at North Dakota State University in Fargo, North Dakota. Kelley's research interests are focused on equity and inclusion for queer youth in grades K-12.

Sexuality Gender Question: A Subject that is Still Relevant Today

Pr. Nadia Birouk

FLSH Ain Chock- Hassan II University- Casablanca-Morocco

Abstract:

The gender issue is always a heated subject that requires intense debates when it is necessary to decide today and find radical solutions to a situation which seems unacceptable today. And find radical solutions to a situation that seems unacceptable these days. We believe that the gender approach is interesting if it is well oriented and adapted in all areas, but we note that without a real qualification of the human being, without a basic and solid education which treats both sexes on the same footing of equal equality to hope that things will change one day.

To do this, we must start by changing the laws that make women feel guilty to the detriment of man, which determine their behaviour and their clothes instead of punishing the aggressor or sexual harasser.

We must opt for a secular education, which respects the human being as a person free to wander, to move and who must have a minimum safety to carry out their daily tasks. In this intervention, we will explain why this guilt of women instead of men is due and how to try to reduce this cultural and religious gap which divides and separates such identical human beings.

Keywords: Gender, sexuality, law, culture, women's guilt.

Biography:

Nadia Birouk is a poet, essayist, author, painter and photographer born in 1974 in Agadir, Morocco. French teacher since 1998. Currently she is a university professor of French, Francophone and comparative literature. She has written several works which vary between fiction and literary criticism.

Author's personal website: <https://nadiabirouk.wordpress.com/>

Abortion rights tested by legal decisions around the world: Is international recognition necessary?

Ndzengue Amoa Sabine

Sabine Ndzengue Amoa Consulting, France

Should there be international recognition of the right to abortion? This question arises all the more since this right is being regressed throughout the world. The right to health is a fundamental right and the right to abortion impacts on women's health. The right to abortion thus becomes a fundamental right.

The right to abortion is now in decline in several countries. On June 24, 2022, the United States Supreme Court overturned a federal ruling, *Roe vs. Wade*, which had guaranteed the right to abortion throughout the country since 1973, thus leaving each state free to determine its own policy on access to voluntary termination of pregnancy (VTP).

Today, two and a half years after the decision, abortion is illegal in 14 American states, including the very conservative Texas, Mississippi and Alabama. In these countries, even rape or incestuous intercourse is not an exception. In seven other states, abortion is legal but with severe restrictions. In Georgia and South Carolina, for example, it is refused beyond a period of six weeks, while a woman generally learns that she is pregnant between five and six weeks after the start of her pregnancy. In the other 29 states, it has remained legal. Some have chosen to go further and have adopted laws to protect it on their territory.

This regression is pushing various States to include this right in their constitutions.

A right enshrined in the Constitutions

« *Ubi societas, Ibi Jus* », where there is society, there also exists law!

This famous Latin aphorism has found its place in various fields, including that of abortion!

Indeed, various countries have devoted the right to abortion to women!

- A right enshrined in the Constitution of California (USA)

Like California, a Democrat, which added the right to contraception and abortion to its own constitution in November 2022.

- A right enshrined in the Constitution of France

Since March 8, 2024, France has included IVG (voluntary termination of pregnancy) in its constitution. The law enshrined in the 1958 Constitution the guaranteed freedom of women to resort to voluntary termination of pregnancy (IVG).

It was a question of reaffirming the fundamental nature of this freedom in France.

Should there be international recognition of the right to abortion?

Will the recognition of the right to abortion as a fundamental human right by the United Nations General Assembly be essential to ensure the equality and well-being of women worldwide?

No, because each State will remain free to recognize this or not in its country. But it will still be a big plus for this right throughout the world.

Biography:

Sabine Ndzengue Amoa is a legal consultant, trainer, speaker, editor. Environmental law, public law and health law constitute her different areas of expertise.

A specialist in issues relating to the protection of biodiversity and climate change, she is the founding president of ASPROBIO AGM, an association for the protection of biodiversity and the adoption of significant actions which raise awareness of environmental protection and climate change.

Les Cocottes: High-Society Prostitution in Paris of the Belle-Epoque. The Case of Alexandre Bisson's Middle-Class Boulevard Comedies

Ioanna Papageorgiou

University of Patras, Greece

Abstract: In the upper-middle class 'salons' of Alexandre Bisson's spicy comedies and vaudevilles, performed between 1874-1911, life revolves around marital life, the pursuit of sexual pleasure, keeping up appearances, and winning money. In several cases highly paid cocottes (courtesans) invade this world either in absentia or appearing themselves on the stage. Their role in Bissonian dramaturgy is to serve or subvert middle-class expectations: to gratify male clandestine thirst for pleasure, to disturb appearances, and, always, to gain money.

Most of all, however, their purpose is to offer a titillating spectacle to middle-class audiences. Bisson, reflecting social prejudices against 'les filles de noce' is rarely sympathetic towards cocottes, though he sometimes gives them voice to defend their profession. Yet, prostitution seems to occupy his mind seriously, as much as it did that of George Bernard Shaw (*Mrs Warren's Profession*, 1893) and the playwrights of the Theatre Libre (Paris, 1888-1894).

Towards the end of his career Bisson wrote the melodrama *La Femme X...* (1908), where he condemns male maltreatment of women because it drove well-respected wives to prostitution and drags. Nevertheless, this patronizing defense did not concern cocottes but poor whores.

The paper will attempt to analyse the dramatic person of cocotte in terms of the social background of French belle époque, the status of prostitution in the same period, and the literary and theatrical tradition, that is, Émile Zola's *Nana* (1880), Alexandre Dumas' *La Dame aux Camélias* (1848), Émile Augier's *Le Mariage d'Olympe* (1855), and late-19th-century French boulevard comedy, especially George Feydeau's well-made plays.

Biography:

Ioanna Papageorgiou is Associate Professor, and currently head of the Department of Theatre Studies, University of Patras, Hellas. She has completed a Ph.D. in Drama on *The Origins of the Star Phenomenon: Stars and the Starring System in the Eighteenth-Century British Theatre* (Goldsmiths College, University of London). Her research interests lay on 18th- and 19th-Century British Theatre, History of Theatre (Renaissance-19th Century), relationship between Modern Greek and European Theatre, Theatre Star System, Greek Shadow Theatre, Boulevard Comedy, Women's Studies, Dramatic Characters. She is the principal investigator in the project: *The Repertory of Greek Shadow Theatre in Patras during the Interwar Period (1922-1940)* funded by The Research Committee, Program C. Carathéodory, and University of Patras.

Sexuality Educator Antiracist Training- A S.E.A.T. at the Table

Crystal D. Ellis

Planned Parenthood Great Rivers, USA

Abstract:

This presentation is an overview of Sexuality Educator Antiracist Training (SEAT), a newly-developed experiential program aimed at empowering Sexuality Educators with skills to confront, interrupt, de-construct, and challenge racism and white supremacy culture in education and sexuality attitudes.

Sexuality Educators navigate and manage partnerships with institutions and organizations where racism is perpetuated, and quite possibly already affecting learners. Furthermore, they themselves are not immune to the effects of racism, and can unknowingly further harm learners during classroom, workshop, or training facilitation. Striving towards establishing an antiracist ethic throughout our educational practice can reduce harm and increase effectiveness of the sexual health education delivered.

Grounded in Critical Race Theory, Intersectionality, and Sociocultural Learning Theory frameworks, SEAT helps educators of all racial identities model, engage, and use critical analysis to question, shift, and deliver education content. Sexuality Educators are able to describe effective response strategies when a student or learning participant has been hurt or wronged by bias. SEAT challenges educators to interrogate how their self-identified fears uphold, perpetuate, and maintain racism, while acknowledging and proactively working to mitigate the impact of bias on their learners' sexual health and multiple, intersecting identities. SEAT also implements trauma responsiveness as a core component to navigate moments where racialized conflict can be triggering, and identify where more educational, emotional, or peer support is needed. Our vision for SEAT is that this program influences generations of sex educators to rewrite the way we address and challenge harmful sexual health rhetoric on individual and systemic levels.

Biography:

Crystal Ellis was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. Her graduate studies at Washington University in St. Louis' Brown School of Social Work and Public Health focused on improving community access to whole foods in food deserts, such as Ferguson, Missouri, as well as comprehensive sexuality education. Crystal is an AASECT Certified Sex Educator, founder of Crystallized Sexuality, LLC, and Sexual Health Training Coordinator at Planned Parenthood Great Rivers. As an advocate for people impacted by HIV/AIDS, she incorporates the "pleasure activist" philosophy into sexuality education for all ages, including older adults, BDSM practitioners, and pregnant and parenting teenagers.

Gender, Race, and Class in International Development: Exploring the Counter narratives of Women of Colour

Ellen Bomasang

University of Birmingham, UK

Abstract:

This research examines the power dynamics and hierarchies in international development that systematically exclude and minorities women of colour in the workplace, particularly as they relate to gender, race, and class.

Narrative interviews were conducted with 24 women of colour who work in the energy and health sub-sectors in the US donor and implementing agencies to generate counter narratives or stories of minorities' individuals that challenge master narratives. Master narratives are dominant cultural, political, or historical stories used by the majority to legitimate their power and position and normalize oppression. The interviews were analysed using intersectionality and critical race theory as theoretical lenses.

Counter narratives were classified according to the four domains of power – structural, disciplinary, homogeneous, and interpersonal – to show how oppression and privilege show up and interact in different settings. Prior work in this space has highlighted the experiences of women of colour in the workplace in sectors like education, but there is limited scholarly work in international development. The present research contributes to knowledge by looking at an industry that has colonial roots. By articulating the counter narratives of women of colour who work in international development, this study lessens their invisibility as a minority and aids others who experience similar obstacles.

The study provides evidence-based support for the critical role of intersectional leadership and a comparative lens between two sub-sectors in development – energy and health – which contrast in many ways.

Biography:

Ellen Bomasang is an international development professional whose focus has been clean energy, climate, and inclusive growth across emerging economies for over 25 years. She started her career in the renewable energy space, concentrating on policy, finance, and rural access issues, and then shifted her focus to gender equality and social inclusion issues in that domain. She has since led the design and delivery of interventions geared at closing gender gaps in employment and skills, entrepreneurship, access to finance, and livelihoods. Her research interests include climate equity, inclusive development, and equity in the workplace.

When Public Health Opens Its Eyes: The Cost of Gender Disparities in Eye Health and How to Better Support Female Professionals

Clare Szalay Timbo

Technical Advisor, Gender and Special Projects Orbis Canada

Abstract:

The global burden of avoidable blindness disproportionately affects women, particularly in low-resource settings, where gender inequalities in access to healthcare and leadership opportunities persist. This talk will explore the creation and impact of the Women Leaders in Eye Health (WLEH) program, a transformative initiative led by Orbis International, Seva Foundation and Women in Ophthalmology to address these disparities by supporting women in eye health leadership roles. \

Through targeted training, mentorship, and capacity-building, the WLEH program aims to cultivate more generations of female leaders who can drive sustainable change in eye health systems worldwide. By highlighting key challenges and successes, and examining country specific case studies, the session will also delve into innovative eye health programming approaches that address gender inequities in various global settings, foster women's participation in decision-making processes, and ultimately enhance access to quality eye care. Attendees will gain insights into how intersect oral collaborations, community engagement, and evidence-based gender equity practices can help shape a more inclusive and equitable global eye health landscape.

This presentation will contribute to ongoing conversations about gender equality in eye health, leadership opportunities, and the intersectionality of health care access disparities, offering a model for addressing systemic challenges through the advancement of women in the global health sector.

Biography:

Clare Szalay Timbo (she/her) is a public health and gender expert with over 15 years of experience working in the global health space. In recent years, she co-founded The Sex Ed Justice Project (Napa, CA) and co-created the Women Leaders in Eye Health initiative. She seeks to create change and support women to thrive in leadership roles in the health sector and beyond. Clare is busy raising 3 young feminists in her own home and is always seeking ways to collaborate and connect with others in creative ways.

Proto-Feminist Furniture Forms: An Art Practice

BA Harrington

Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA, USA

Abstract:

This presentation will address my artistic practice that involves intensive object studies of historical furniture from my ancestral and vocational lineage. I focus on feminized forms with the aim of reclaiming them from the world of male production where they continue to receive most of their scholarly attention. Using a Brownian style analysis (referring to Jules David Prown, prominent Material Culture scholar), I consider the furniture in the domestic, feminine world of its use, exploring metaphors inherent in its physical structure and social relevance, and unpacking latent meanings and subtexts embedded in the forms. My most recent body of work, *Suite Américaine*, investigates three early American forms: a late seventeenth-century dowry chest, a mid-eighteenth century Queen Anne style lady's writing desk, and a late eighteenth century federal lady's worktable. I interpret the forms as "proto-feminist" furniture in order to explore and celebrate the female agency they once empowered in the facilitation and storage of work by female hands, challenging the Puritan, patriarchal mind-set that conceived of and produced them. As I consider attitudes towards women's role in the very precarious event of childbirth in colonial America, I make connections to the rhetoric being used in contemporary cultural debates around marriage, procreation, and reproduction; issues that revolve around women's rights as human rights, gender identity, and boundaries and borders. While considering these themes in the artwork I produce, I grapple with my own family history and my place in the traditionally male dominated world of woodworking.

Biography:

BA Harrington received her traditional training in Furniture-making at the North Benet Street School in Boston and holds an M.F.A. in Wood, and a Master's Degree in Art History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She was awarded the 2021 inaugural Craft Research Fund Artist Fellowship from the Centre for Craft in Asheville, North Carolina. Her work has been shown in Solo and group exhibitions at venues across the U.S. and in Austria and China. BA is currently Professor of Woodworking in the department of Art and Design and Director of The Wood Centre at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

"Love and Sex in Late Medieval Literature: Anthropological and Social-Historical Perspectives."

Albrecht Classen

University of Arizona, United States

Abstract:

World literature is deeply determined by the topic of love. In most cases, the poets seem to leave it at that and describe either the happiness or sorrow resulting from the erotic experience. However, a closer analysis of a variety of texts from the tenth, twelfth, thirteenth, and fifteenth centuries reveals that sexuality mattered as well, and this for many different purposes. Sometimes, surprisingly, poets referred quite openly to sexuality for religious purposes (prurience vs. virginity), sometimes, they revealed the crude material interests (courtly love poetry), and sometimes, they intended to mock individuals or groups of people (satire). If we want to be honest and transparent in our literary analysis, we have to acknowledge that dimension as well.

Biography:

ALBRECHT CLASSEN received his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia in 1986. He has a broad range of research interests covering the history of German and European literature from about 800 to 1600. He has currently published 132 books and well over 800 articles dealing with comparative issues, gender topics, environmental concerns, and cultural historical themes. Most recently appeared *Prostitution in Medieval and Early Modern Literature* (2021), *Charlemagne in Medieval German and Dutch Literature* (2021), *Tracing the Trails in the Medieval World* (2021), *Wisdom from the European Middle Ages* (2022), *The Secret in Medieval Literature* (2022), *Globalism in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Age* (ed., 2023), and *Der Niederrheinische Orientbericht, c. 1350* (trans., 2024). A new book on court criticism and of evil kings in medieval literature appeared in 2024. In 2017, he received the rank of Grand Knight Commander of the Most Noble Order of the Three Lions.

Fashionable and Transgressive: Queer Style and Masculinities in Contemporary Indian Fashion

Marius Janusauskas'

Ghent University, Belgium

Abstract:

This empirical research aims to explore the process of negotiating queer aesthetics while challenging hegemonic structures in contemporary Indian fashion. Contemporary representations of the predominant notions of manliness have defined the social and cultural narratives that allow men to participate in society as full-fledged players. As for those men who contravene or do not fully conform to these narratives—i.e., those who are classified as non-masculine, queer, MSM and TG—a majority have been side-lined and disregarded by mainstream culture. My dissertation helps uncover the complexity of non-heteronormative identity production by looking into aesthetic practices that transgress binary thinking. The objective is thus to visualize the spectrum of queer identities within and across local cultures and media. An experimental approach to visual ethnographic methods allows me to develop an innovative methodology to the study of fashion styles, one which embeds them in a cultural context that is reinforced by identity politics. At the same time, and through visual text production, I aim to register the presence of a variety of distinct queer styles in everyday Indian life, and to document how queer aesthetics subvert preconceptions of gender identity and performance in visual culture, thereby reshaping conventional perceptions of manliness in the postcolonial context.

Keywords: *Gender Politics, Fashion Ethnography, Sexuality, Queer Aesthetics, Photography*

Biography:

Marius Janusauskas' is a Lithuanian-born Belgian fashion designer who graduated from the Royal Academy of Fine Arts Antwerp. He is also a PhD candidate in Gender and Diversity Studies at Ghent University, where his interdisciplinary research explores masculinity, fashion, and queer studies.



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