

## ARC-GS Yearly Report 2013

### Introduction

The Amsterdam Research Center for Gender and Sexuality (ARC-GS) was founded at the end of the academic year 2009-2010 thanks to the concerted efforts of several research program groups from the Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research (AISSR). Its aim is to provide an interdisciplinary forum for synergistic research and teaching at the University of Amsterdam (UvA) in the fields of gender and sexuality, tapping into the state-of-the-art research that current staff member across disciplines are already engaged in and generating new collaborations.

It builds on the productive and innovative gender and sexuality studies tradition of interdisciplinarity and is situated institutionally at the heart of the social sciences, primarily sociology, anthropology, political science, social geography, economics, and science and technology studies. It works to situate the UvA in a global academic context, enabling new international scholarly collaborations, providing intellectual visibility to current research, attracting new students at all levels, enabling timely interventions in public debates in the Netherlands, Europe, and beyond, and producing a lively intellectual community that integrates research and teaching.

### Mission

The intellectual transformations of women's studies into gender studies, and gay and lesbian studies into sexuality and queer studies since the late 1970s have produced a new interest in the social norms, cultural forms, and political regulations that shape sexual practices and gendered identities. This new interest converges with larger societal problems around globalization and localization, nationalism and the nation-state, inequality, and new configurations of identity that concern us all. These problems are frequently connected to issues of gender and sexuality (e.g., prostitution, civil rights, human trafficking, labor movements, homophobia), and can often benefit from the theoretical and methodological insights developed within gender and sexuality studies. Whereas public debate is often mired by problematic and unrecognized assumptions, scholars in this field provide a much needed context for our understanding of these complex problems.

Gender and sexuality scholarship has opened up the investigation into identity-producing mechanisms in everyday life, such as pleasure, affection, intimacy, love, and friendship. In addition, it has tied gender to the emancipation and visibility of women while simultaneously problematizing categories such as masculinity, transgender, and intersex. It has reclaimed the body as an object of social research, locating it at the convergence of the subjective and the structural, and has foregrounded the relationship between gender, sexuality, and other categories, such as race.

The contribution that gender and sexuality scholarship can make thus reaches well beyond the confines of understanding the aforementioned categories and provides innovative approaches to a wide range of social and political dynamics, including those surrounding race/ethnicity, class, nationalism, religion, age, space, and other forms of social difference.

### **Organizational Structure**

ARC-GS is institutionally situated within the social sciences, which is reflected in its organizational structure. ARC-GS is supported by the following AISSR Programme Groups: Anthropology of Health, Care, and the Body; Political Sociology; Cultural Sociology; Globalizing Culture and the Quest for Belonging: Ethnographies of the Everyday; Institutions, Inequalities, and Internationalisation; Urban Geographies; Challenges to Democratic Representation; and Transnational Configurations, Conflict, and Governance.

The ARC-GS Advisory Board is comprised of:

Niko Besnier, Amade M'charek, Sébastien Chauvin, Jan Willem Duyvendak, Marlies Glasius, Gert Hekma, Willemijn Krebbekx, Mieke Lopes Cardozo, Liza Mügge, Rachel Spronk, Stephanie Steinmetz, and Saskia Wieringa

The ARC-GS Advisory Board is composed of full professors, assistant professors, and PhD candidates from varied disciplines within the social sciences and provides guidance and support to the Daily Board.

The ARC-GS Daily Board is currently comprised of:

- Rachel Spronk (ARC-GS Executive Director)
- Liza Mügge (ARC-GS Associate Director)
- Robert Davidson (ARC-GS Program Manager)

The Daily Board is accountable to the Advisory Board. The Daily Board meets weekly and is responsible for the day-to-day management of ARC-GS.

### **ARC-GS Monthly Lecture Series**

-January 2013: Saskia Wieringa (Chair of Gender and Women's Same-sex Relations Cross-culturally, University of Amsterdam): "Passionate Aesthetics and Symbolic Subversion; The Workings of Heteronormativity"

-February 2013: Drude Dahlerup (Professor of Political Science, Stockholm University): "(The Study of) Breaking Male Dominance in Old Democracies" (This lecture was unfortunately cancelled due to illness)

-March 2013: George Chauncey (Professor of History & American Studies, Yale University): "Gay History Goes to Court: Reflections of an Expert Witness in Recent American Same-sex Marriage Litigation"

-April 2013: Iman Al Ghafari (Research Fellow at ARC-GS, University of Amsterdam):  
“‘Lesbian Subjectivity’ in Arab Cultures: An ‘Absent Presence’ Disciplined by the Gaze”

-May 2013: Mieke Aerts (Wilhelmina Drucker Chair of the Political History of Gender in the Netherlands, University of Amsterdam): “Still a nation of queens? Looking at the history of Dutch politics through gender”

-September 2013: Prof. dr. Mary Bernstein (Professor of Sociology, University of Connecticut) and Prof. dr. Nancy Naples (Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies, University of Connecticut): “Sexual Citizenship and Reproductive Rights: Creating Dialogue Between Feminist and Queer Politics”

-October 2013: Ashley Mears (Assistant Professor of Sociology, Boston University): “Sex Work for Elites: The Conspicuous Consumption of Women in VIP Nightlife”

-November 2013: Louis-Georges Tin (Professor, Université d'Orléans and founder of the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia): “The Invention of Heterosexual Culture”

-December 2013: Anne Phillips (Professor of Political and Gender Theory, The London School of Economics and Political Science): “Our Bodies, Whose Property?”

### **Lunch Lecture**

In addition to the monthly lecture series ARC-GS began hosting lunch lectures. The lunch lecture was given by Prof. dr. Deborah Posel (Professor of Sociology, University of Cape Town): “The politics of sexual violence and the post-apartheid ‘pathological public sphere’”

### **September 2013 Event – Opening of the Academic Year**

The September 2013 Opening Event was entitled “Gender and the Crisis: Economic Transitions, Shifting Relations.” The following scholars presented a paper at the event:

Prof. dr. Sylvia Walby (Professor of Sociology, Lancaster University): “Gender Regimes and the Crisis”

Prof. dr. Susana Narotzky (Professor, Department of Cultural Anthropology and the History of America and Africa, University of Barcelona): “Gendered Expectations of Normality and the ‘lost generation’: an Ethnography of Intergenerational Transfers during the Crisis in Spain”

Dr. Akwugo Emejulu (Lecturer, Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh): “Minority Women and the Routinisation of Crisis: A Challenge for Solidarity”

## **Publications**

The November-December 2013 issue of *Women's Studies International Forum* (Volume 31, Part 3) was published as a special issue based upon the ARC-GS 2012 Opening Event. The special issue carried the same name of the event: "Pregnant Politicians and Sexy Fathers? The Politics of Gender Equality Representations in Europe." The special issue was edited by Liza Mügge.

## **MA Thesis Prize**

ARC-GS awards an annual prize for the best social science master thesis in gender and sexuality. In 2013 Zoe Neilson won the prize for her thesis: "She represents all that is wretched about Britain' Folk devils and moral panic in contemporary Britain." Two honourable mentions were also given. One went to Anouk Evers for her thesis: "Barack Obama, back off!, framing strategies and postcolonial discourse in debating Uganda's anti-homosexuality bill." The other went to Jeroen Romeijn for his thesis: "Same sex couples and their rights; an event history analysis of the introduction of same-sex unions and adoption rights for same-sex couples in western Europe."

## **Teaching**

ARC-GS plays a role in ensuring that high quality, diverse courses are offered that are grounded in the social sciences and teach students about various aspects of gender and sexuality. ARC-GS also sponsored a borrel for all teachers in gender and sexuality on MA and BA levels, thus creating an opportunity for the diverse teachers to get to know each other better, to network, and to celebrate the successes of the teaching on MA and BA levels.

## **Networking**

ARC-GS functions as a mediator between various university-based (students' associations, UvA-Pride, Amsterdam United ) and non-university based groups (such as the media, NGOs, the local city government, etc.) to facilitate contacts and organize debates about pertinent social issues. In this way ARC-GS connects scientists working in the areas of gender and sexuality with each other and to civil society and local government organizations working on similar issues.

## **Website**

ARC-GS digitalized some of the film that was made during the Sexual Nationalisms conference. The digitalized videos were placed on the ARC-GS website.

## 2013 Budget

ARC-GS was financially supported in 2013 by three program groups from the AISSR. Dynamics of Citizenship and Culture contributed €5.000; Health, Care, and the Body contributed €5.000; and Challenges to Democratic Representation contributed €2.500. The total budget for 2013 was thus €12.500.

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Costs</b>
Monthly lectures	€3.059,69
Honoraria	€800,00
Opening Event	€1.966,88
Dinners	€3.222,20
Drinks/Borrels + Coffee/Tea	€1.652,97
Lunches	€133,56
Appreciation Expenses	€517,30
Thesis Prize	€600,00
Digitalization - Sexual Nationalisms	€430,00
Gift Certificates for Books	€100,00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>€12.482,60</b>