



CENTRE FOR GENDER AND SEXUALITY

ARC-GS Annual Report 2019

By Robert Davidson & Sarah Bracke, 16 March 2020

Introduction

The Amsterdam Research Centre for Gender and Sexuality (ARC-GS) is a central hub for the study of gender and sexuality: the centre brings together and consolidates a community of scholars and scholarship on gender and sexuality at the University of Amsterdam (UvA). Founded in 2010 and embedded in the Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research (AISSR), the centre provides an interdisciplinary forum for research and teaching in Gender & Sexuality at the UvA. It brings together scholars of gender and sexuality from different disciplinary contexts, including different theoretical and epistemological approaches, relying on different methodologies, focusing on different themes and also with differences in emphasis on gender or sexuality. ARC-GS is a space where such differences are welcomed and considered to provide fertile ground for interdisciplinary conversations and new ways of thinking. As such, the centre taps into cutting edge research by its affiliated researchers and generates new local, national, and international collaborations.

ARC -GS builds on the productive gender and sexuality studies tradition of interdisciplinarity in the social sciences, primarily sociology, anthropology, political science, social geography, international development studies and science and technology studies. The centre provides intellectual visibility to current research, attracts new students at all levels, and organizes academic debates about timely public issues. ARC-GS firmly positions the UvA in a global academic context through a lively intellectual community of scholars and students.

The centre organizes monthly lectures with internationally renowned scholars as well as occasional seminars, public debates, roundtables, conferences, and workshops and ARC-GS awards an annual Master Thesis Prize awarded for the best Master thesis written on gender and/or sexuality in the social sciences at an academic institution in the Netherlands.

Organizational Structure

ARC-GS is governed by representatives of AISSR programme groups. The director and co-director rotate every three years to ensure the centre's interdisciplinarity. The Daily Board is responsible for the day-to-day management of ARC-GS. As of September 2019, the ARC-GS Daily Board was composed of:

- Prof. dr. Sarah Bracke (Sociology) – Director
- Dr. Julie McBrien (Anthropology) – Co-director
- Robert Davidson – Programme Manager
- Esther Raffell – PR Assistant

The Daily Board is accountable to the Advisory Board. The ARC-GS Advisory Board reflects the diversity of the AISSR and is composed of full-, associate-, and assistant professors and PhD representatives. The Advisory Board provides guidance and support to the Daily Board. In 2019 the Advisory Board was composed of:

- Dr. Marguerite van den Berg (Sociology)
- Dr. Saskia Bonjour (Political Science)
- Dr. Willem Boterman (Human Geography, Planning and International Development Studies)
- Prof. dr. Amade M'charek (Anthropology)
- Sherilyn Deen (PhD representative)
- Dr. Esther Miedema (Human Geography, Planning and International Development Studies)
- Prof. dr. Olav Velthuis (Sociology)
- Dr. Conny Roggeband (Political Science)
- Dr. Rachel Spronk (Anthropology)
- Anne Louise Schotel (PhD representative)
- Prof. dr. Saskia Wieringa (Anthropology)

In 2019 ARC-GS was financially supported by the following seven AISSR programme groups:

- Challenges to Democratic Representation
- Cultural Sociology
- Globalizing Culture and the Quest for Belonging: Ethnographies of the Everyday
- Health, Care, and the Body
- Institutions, Inequalities, and Life Courses
- Political Economy and Transnational Governance
- Transnational Configurations, Conflict, and Governance

Additionally, ARC-GS received support in 2019 for specific activities (see details below) from the AISSR, the Amsterdam Centre for European Studies (ACES), and the AISSR programme group Governance and Inclusive Development.

ARC-GS Activities in 2019

In 2019 the centre worked hard to further increase its online and offline visibility with the support of a PR-assistant. Next to a newsletter (since September 2019 the newsletter appears monthly), the centre maintains a Facebook page (Amsterdam Research Centre for Gender & Sexuality), which has 2020 followers as of March 2020. ARC-GS has 471 followers on Twitter as of March 2020. The centre's presence on Facebook and Twitter significantly support attendance at ARC-GS events.

The ARC-GS website includes a list of publications related to gender & sexuality produced by ARC-GS researchers in the past six months. To disseminate and share our knowledge and research as widely as possible, ARC-GS encourages visiting scholars, students, researchers and guests to share their research in blogs. Five blogs were published on the ARC-GS website in 2019.

To introduce the centre and its researchers and lecturers to students and to stimulate a dialogue between teaching and research ARC-GS opened the academic year with a 'Nice to meet you' event in CREA (see details below). The fact that this event was attended by almost 50 students demonstrates the enormous interest of students in the centre's activities.

Visiting Scholars

ARC-GS hosts visiting scholars, generally for 3-6 months, during which scholars pursue independent research and interact with ARC-GS faculty, students and staff. The centre hosted the following scholars in 2019:

- Amanda Friesen (September 2019-March 2020)
- Nina Takashino (March 2019-August 2019)
- Matthew Gichohi (September 2018-February 2019)
- Serena Cruz (September 2017-August 2019)
- Adnan Hossain (September 2018-August 2019)
- Lindsay Gezinski (September 2018-April 2019)

ARC-GS lectures, lunch seminars and ad hoc events in 2019

January

Monthly lecture: “Feminist Economics after the Crisis” Friday 18 January by Gülay Çağlar (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany) (41 attendees)

February

Monthly lecture: “The transition to parenthood in different-sex and female same-sex couples in Sweden. Identity formation, gender and the division of paid and unpaid work” Friday 15 February by Marie Evertsson (Stockholm University, Sweden) (29 attendees)

Lunch lecture: “With Hands Tied: A Woman Presidential Candidate’s Pursuit of Programmatic Politics” Wednesday 27 February by Matthew Gichohi (ARC-GS Visiting Scholar) (9 attendees)

March

ARC-GS International Women’s Day Speed-Mentoring Breakfast for AISSR Women Post-docs and Assistant Professors Thursday 8 March (Co-sponsored by the AISSR) (29 mentors and mentees)

Monthly lecture: “‘She asked for it’, ‘He didn’t mean to’: Rape myth acceptance among university students in England and India” Friday 15 March by Ravinder Barn (Royal Holloway University of London) (22 attendees)

Symposium on Work and Care Tuesday March 26 (Co-sponsored by ARC-GS)

April

Lunch lecture: “Sex Trafficking Recruitment and Exploitation on the Internet” Wednesday 3 April by Lindsay Gezinski (ARC-GS Visiting Scholar) (18 attendees)

Monthly lecture: “‘I Can Weep but not Wail’: Contemporary Young African Men’s Masculinities” Friday 12 April by Akosua Adomako Ampofo (University of Ghana) (72 attendees)

May

Lunch lecture: “The Sociability of Risk: Sex Work, Criminalization, and HIV in the Slums of Kampala, Uganda” Thursday 9 May by Serena Cruz (ARC-GS Visiting Scholar) (25 attendees)

Monthly lecture: “Migrant Sex Workers: The Impact of Different Policymaking Approaches in the Global North” Friday 17 May by Nicola Mai (Kingston University London) (61 attendees)

Lunch lecture: “SOGI Policy and Human Security in Asia: An International Comparison” Thursday 23 May by Nina Takashino (ARC-GS Visiting Scholar) (15 attendees)

July

European Conference of Politics and Gender (ECPG) 4-6 July (823 registered participants)

September

Student event: “Nice to meet you: An introduction to gender and sexuality at the FMG”
Friday 13 September (46 attendees)

September Opening Event: “The Gender of Labor Value and Social Dependence” Friday 13
September by Sylvia Yanagisako (Stanford University) (48 attendees)

October

Monthly lecture: “Disability: Between Equality and Difference?” Friday 18 October by
Barbara Arneil (University of British Columbia) (27 attendees)

November

Monthly lecture: “Home-based Telework and the Gender Pay Gap” Friday 15 November by
Anja Abendroth (Bielefeld University) (12 attendees)

Lunch lecture: “A Transnational Queer Sociological Analysis of Sexual Identity and Civic-
political Activism in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Mainland China” Wednesday 20 November by
Travis S. K. Kong (University of Hong Kong) (52 attendees)

“Who’s Afraid of Black Feminism” with Djamila Ribeiro Saturday 30 November in Pakhuis de
Zwijger (sold-out) (Co-sponsored by ARC-GS)

December

Monthly lecture: “Gender, Party Politics, and Democracy in Europe: A Study of European
Parliament’s Party Groups” Friday 13 December by Johanna Kantola (Tampere University)
(co-organized with ACES) (22 attendees)

ARC-GS PhD Club and Master Classes

The interdisciplinary ARC-GS PhD Club for PhD candidates working on gender and/or
sexuality met regularly, and the meetings were attended by 10 PhD candidates on average.

ARC-GS organised the following Master Classes for PhD candidates in 2019:

- Feedback on individual projects by Prof. dr. Johanna Kantola (Tampere University)
Friday 13 December
- Workshop “Gender and Sexuality: Rights and Recognition in Europe” Friday 13
December (co-sponsored with the Duitsland Institute/DIA)

Master Thesis Prize

ARC-GS awards an annual prize for the best social science master thesis in gender and sexuality. In 2019 Anna Wallis was awarded the prize for the thesis “‘Niet gay genoeg?’ The construction of borders around ‘credible’ queerness in Dutch LGBTI asylum interview preparations.”

An honourable mention was awarded to Paula Vermuë for the thesis “We have nothing to celebrate. At the interplay of de-politicizing and re-politicizing processes in the feminist civil society space in the fight against gender-based violence in Cape Town, South Africa.”

Teaching

ARC-GS aims to ensure 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 actively invites students and lecturers from courses focused on gender and sexuality to attend its events. This creates an opportunity for the diverse lecturers to exchange experiences and knowledge and celebrate the successes of the teaching on MA and BA levels and provides opportunities for students to extend their knowledge beyond the classroom.

2019 Budget

ARC-GS was financially supported in 2019 by seven programme groups from the AISSR. The programme groups Challenges to Democratic Representation; Cultural Sociology; Globalizing Culture and the Quest for Belonging: Ethnographies of the Everyday; Health, Care, and the Body; Institutions, Inequalities, and Life Courses; Political Economy and Transnational Governance; and Transnational Configurations, Conflict, and Governance all made financial contributions to ARC-GS resulting in a total 2019 budget of €15,753.29.

Activities	Costs
Monthly Lectures	€ 6,577.10
Extra Events	€ 3,684.47
Visiting Scholars	€ 321.00
PR Assistant	€ 2,331.80
Thesis Prize	€ 585.00
Other	€ 2,253.92
Total 2019 Expenses	€ 15,753.29