The Amsterdam Research Center for Gender and Sexuality is pleased to announce that the 2011 ARC-GS Prize for best social science master thesis in gender and sexuality has been awarded to Neyir Zerey for her thesis entitled *Officers of the Juridical System or Guardians of Morality Norms. Examination of Police Brutality towards Trans Sex Workers in Istanbul*.

Two honorable mentions have also been awarded on an equal footing. One to Michelle Reijman for *When Boys Kiss and Girls Watch: Consuming the Beautiful Boy Through Fandom in Japan*. The other to Shauna van Oosten for *Does Religiosity Work? The Labor Force Participation of Muslim Women, Compared to Christian and Non-Religious Women, in the Netherlands*.

**The prize and the honorable mentions were formally awarded on Friday December 16th, 2011, at 15.30, during a short ceremony before the ARC-GS December lecture.**

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Neyir Zerey’s thesisdeals with police brutality towards Trans Sex Workers in Istanbul. The study draws on interviews with police officers and on participant observation in their patrol cars at night. Not only did Neyir Zerey gain access to the field, she also collected police officers’ narratives on the motivation of their actions. Her solid and innovative ethnographic work generated new insights on the relation between sex workers in Turkey and state actors. In contrast to what is often reported in the Turkish media and in reports of LGBT organizations and human rights committees, police officers’ prejudices are not the main reason for their harassment and arrests of trans sex workers. Instead, duty requirements and loopholes in the juridical system motivate many of their actions. Neyir Zerey convincingly applies intersectional approaches by bridging gender and sexuality while being attentive to macro factors, for example the way religion and nationalism shape the masculinity of police officers. With this MA thesis, Neyir Zerey shows the way forward for a new generation of creative and daring researchers.

In an empirically rich ethnographic study entitled *When Boys Kiss and Girls Watch: Consuming the Beautiful Boy Through Fandom in Japan*, Michelle Reijman has provided ingenious insights into insurgent, newly aestheticized forms of masculinity and femininity in contemporary Japan, which function as challenges to the deeply entrenched traditional gender roles of salary-men (*sarariman*) and their spouses as house-bound but competitive mothers. Through her textual analysis of, and participant observation in, contemporary fan magazines, manga cartoons, and boy group musical performances, Michelle Reijman has opened up a colorful range of visions into contemporary Japanese culture. Her Master’s Thesis deserves an honorable mention because of the manner in which she successfully explores how girls and boys – and women and men – in modern-day Japan struggle creatively to legitimize a more flexible and innovative gender regime.

In *Does Religiosity Work? The Labor Force Participation of Muslim Women, Compared to Christian and Non-Religious Women, in the Netherlands*, Sanne (Shauna) van Oosten has furnished a methodologically and theoretically sophisticated analysis of the influence of relative degrees of religiosity on female labor force participation. Contrary to the proposition that the more devout women are, the less likely they are to enter the labor force, Van Oosten’s analysis establishes that this may be true for orthodox Christian women but does not apply to pious Muslim women in the Netherlands, whose labor-force participation choices are motivated by socio-economic and a range of other factors rather than religious commitments. Sanne van Oosten’s Master’s thesis constitutes a meticulously executed social-science research project which deserves an honorable mention for its clear conceptual approach and its analytical rigor.