




GENDER, DIVERSITY
& INTERSECTIONALITY
RESEARCH CENTRE

MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER

THIS WAS RHEA GENDERWEEK 2022

GENDERWEEK 2022



7-12 MARCH



**Machteld De Metsenaere lecture on
Film, Gender and Politics in Afghanistan**
Lecture and film screening by Sahraa Karimi

**EUROPALIA: Building feminist cities
an intersectional approach to mobility**
Colloquium with Leslie Kern, Apolline Vranken a.o.

**Feminist and Queer Solidarities with
Palestine**
Lecture by Mikki Stelder and Haneen Maikay
and more...

RESEARCH CENTRE
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We would like to thank everyone who participated in our annual Genderweek! This edition included events reflecting on topics of gender and diversity related to film, settler-colonialism, urban space and more. Other events addressed issues of gender inequality within the academic world. We are very honoured to have welcomed so many scholars, activists, artists and more as part of this Genderweek.

If you could not make it to the RHEA Genderweek, some of the events have been recorded and can soon be found on our [RHEA youtube channel](#).

We would like to once again thank our partners for making the Genderweek 2022 possible: Kaaiteater, VUB Crosstalks, Fatima Mernissi Chair VUB, EDGE VUB, Bozar, KVS, deBuren, EUROPALIA, Brussels School of Governance, European Liaison Office VUB, ESCO, Cyclus Biomedische Ethiek UZ Brussel, BeWiSe, FWO, FNRS, Humanistisch Verbond Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest, Aditi vzw and huisvandeMens Brussel.

RHEA IN THE NEWS

Na Pano over wangedrag aan universiteiten: 'Laten we het profiel van de 'goede' professor in vraag stellen en hertekenen.' - Marijke Roosen, Yana Jaspers en Mattias De Backer



Naar aanleiding van de reportage van Pano over wangedrag aan universiteiten schreven RHEA leden Marijke Roosen en Mattias De Backer samen met Yana Jaspers een opiniestuk in De Morgen. In een krachtige verklaring wijzen ze erop dat preventie van machtsmisbruik door het probleem van binnenuit aan te pakken vele malen belangrijker is dan een meldpunt en vertrouwenspersoon. Ze argumenteren dat we het profiel van de 'goede' professor in vraag moeten stellen en hertekenen. Werving en evaluaties moeten meer screenen op sociale



vaardigheden en *people management*. Er is bovendien een beter evenwicht nodig in de manier waarop verschillende rollen van een academicus te gelde worden gemaakt. Internationale publicaties zijn belangrijk, net als maatschappelijke impact en de inzet als goede lesgever. De ideale prof is een degelijke mentor voor jonge onderzoekers en een fijne collega.

Lees het opinieartikel [hier](#).

Foto door Stefaan Temmerman.

AFROEUROPEANS CONFERENCE 2022: CALL FOR PANELS AND PAPERS



The call for papers and panels for the 8th Biennial Network Conference of the AfroEuropeans Network is out! The AfroEuropeans conference, taking place from 22 to 24 september 2022, is envisioned as an academic, activist, and intellectual space centering Blackness in Europe—including, but not limited to, Black identity, Black art, Black politics and Black struggle. The conference will follow seven streams along the central theme of “Intersectional Challenges in AfroEuropean Communities”.

You either submit a panel (including chair and presenters) addressing a topic related to one of the seven conference streams, or you submit an individual paper. For each stream, the panels and papers that best suit the theme of the conference and the stream will be selected. Selected individual papers will be clustered into

additional panels by the conference organising committee.

These seven streams are:

1. Intersectionality as theory, practice and movement: re-centring black feminist legacies
2. Structural racism, racialization and exploitation
3. Policy, activism and political representation
4. AfroEuropean literature and arts: aesthetics & politics
5. Health, racial inequalities and intersectionality
6. Decolonizing knowledge, spaces and institutions: from activism to transformative change
7. Contemporary blackness and black histories in urban europe

Proposals are invited by 28 March 2022. The committee will communicate their decisions by 30 April. More information about the conference and the submission form of panels and papers can be found on the [AfroEuropeans website](#).

VISIT OF DEPARTMENT GENDER STUDIES AT MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, UGANDA



On 5 March 2022, Gily Coene (Director of RHEA), Dirk Lafaut (RHEA) and Katleen Wuytack (VLIR) paid a courtesy visit to the School of Women and Gender Studies at Makerere University (Kampala, Uganda). They were in Uganda that week in the framework of the IUC between Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) and VLIR. They were welcomed by the Dean, Sarah Ssali and by Anne Ninsiima, former RHEA-member and currently a lecturer at Makerere University. We are looking forward to strengthening our bonds with MUST and Makerere University in the coming years!

MASTER GENDER & DIVERSITEIT - NIEUW SCHAKELPROGRAMMA AAN DE VUB



Ongelijkheid staat volop in het centrum van het publieke debat. Politici, journalisten, celebrities, onderzoekers, organisaties en activisten laten zich horen over kwesties als seksisme, feminisme, racisme, migratie, dekolonisatie, armoede en verrijking, en radicalisering. In de interuniversitaire en interdisciplinaire masteropleiding Gender en Diversiteit leer je kritisch nadenken, onderzoeken en

"The personal is theoretical."
- Sara Ahmed

ONTDEK HET NIEUWE
SCHAKELPROGRAMMA AAN DE VUB



handelen, en creëer je een basis voor toekomstig werk in beleid, het bedrijfsleven, het middenveld, de culturele sector of onderzoek. Deze masteropleiding wordt aangeboden door de universiteiten van Brussel, Gent, Leuven, Antwerpen en Hasselt.

Vanaf volgend academiejaar 2022-2023 kan je ook het schakelprogramma volgen aan de Vrije Universiteit Brussel. Dit schakelprogramma is toegankelijk voor studenten die een professioneel bachelordiploma hebben behaald in Gezondheidszorg, Handelswetenschappen en Bedrijfskunde, Onderwijs en Maatschappelijk Werk.

Wil je meer te weten komen over de masteropleiding en het schakelprogramma, schrijf je dan in voor de infosessie op zondag 24 april via [deze link](#). Een overzicht van de masteropleiding kan je vinden op de [website](#) en meer info over het schakelprogramma aan de Vrije Universiteit Brussel kan je vinden op de [VUB website](#).

Infodag op zondag 24/04/2022.

Tijd: 16.00-17.30.

Locatie: VUB Campus Etterbeek, I.0003.

'FREEZING FERTILITY: OOCYTE CRYOPRESERVATION AND THE GENDER POLITICS OF AGEING' - BOOK SYMPOSIUM WITH LUCY VAN DE WIEL



To celebrate the publication of Lucy van de Wiels's new book 'Freezing Fertility: Oocyte Cryopreservation and the Gender Politics of Ageing', RHEA will be hosting a book symposium with the author and comments from RHEA team members: Michiel De Proost (VUB) and Susan Dierickx (VUB).

Welcomed as liberation and dismissed as exploitation, egg freezing (oocyte cryopreservation) has rapidly become one of the most widely-discussed and influential new reproductive technologies of this century. In 'Freezing Fertility', Lucy van de Wiel takes us inside the world of fertility preservation - with its egg freezing parties, contested age limits, proactive anticipations and equity investments - and shows how the popularization of egg freezing has profound consequences for the way in which female fertility and reproductive aging are understood, commercialized and politicized. Beyond an individual reproductive choice for people who may want to have children later in life, 'Freezing Fertility' explores how the rise of egg freezing also reveals broader cultural, political and economic negotiations about reproductive politics, gender inequities, age normativities and the financialization of healthcare. Van de Wiel investigates these issues by analyzing a wide range of sources-varying from sparkly online platforms to heart-breaking court cases and intimate autobiographical accounts-that are emblematic of each stage of the egg freezing procedure. By following the egg's journey, 'Freezing Fertility' examines how contemporary egg freezing practices both reflect broader social, regulatory and economic power asymmetries and repoliticize fertility and aging in ways that affect the public at large. In doing so, the book explores how the possibility of egg freezing shifts our relation to the beginning and end of life.

Location: VUB Campus Etterbeek, Promotion room D.2.01 & Online.

Time: 20/04/2022, 9.30-12.00.

This event is free, but registration is necessary via [our website](#).

PUBLIC PHD DEFENSE - MICHEL DE PROOST



On April 21, Michiel De Proost will publicly defend his PhD-thesis "Frictions with autonomy and future fertility: Towards a feminist empirical bioethics of social egg freezing". This article-based dissertation explored how, in terms of individual autonomy and related concerns of emancipation, women morally understand and experience social egg freezing. Michiel engaged in dialogue with 21 women who were interested in this procedure, based on an innovative Socratic method vis-à-vis critical, ethical reflections on this practice. His empirical findings better contextualise arguments made in the bioethical literature. To conclude, he argues that social egg freezing is not inherently emancipatory and it is dubious to co-opt this technology as an instrument for gender equality.

Location: VUB Campus Etterbeek, Building TBC.

Time: 21/04/2022, 14.00-15.30.

This event is free, but registration is necessary [via our website](#).

INTERUNIVERSITY LECTURE CARAVAN ON PALESTINE: AGAINST THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF COLONIAL CAPITALISM



Colonial occupation has been the driving engine behind a prolific and highly profitable defence industry for Israel and Israeli companies. For Israeli companies, the symbiotic and mutually beneficial relationship between private capital on the one hand, and the Israeli military apparatus on the other, serves as a lucrative opportunity to test their technologies and market them to customers worldwide. This partnership provides the basis for Israel's infrastructure of occupation.

In an era marked the so-called “war on home-grown terrorism” and racist refugee policies, Israeli companies have positioned themselves as leaders in developing solution for urban policing, surveillance and border control. This lived reality forces us to look at the structural roots of both our oppression as well as dispossession through anti-colonial and anti-capitalist analytical frameworks that are anchored in a feminist tradition and grounded in forms of transnational solidarity.

This lecture with Riya Al'Sanah is part of an inter-university lecture caravan: 'Palestine: Entangled histories and other ways of seeing ecologies, resistance and solidarity within a settler colonial situation'. This inter-university lecture caravan is a collaboration between UGENT, UA, VUB (RHEA, EDGE and BSoG), KUL and ULB. The lecture series is supported by the Global Minds Fund.

Location: ULB Campus Solbosch, R42.5.503

Time: 22/04/2022, 17.00-19.00.

Picture by Montecruz Foto.

RHEA RESEARCH SEMINARS

SOCIAL REINTEGRATION OF FEMALE RETURNEES AND THEIR CHILDREN - HANNAN JAMAÏ



Since June 2019, 12 Belgian women and 30 children have returned from the Kurdish detention camps in northeast Syria. Once they reach Belgium, the women/mothers are taken to prison and the children are either fostered by their families or in youth institutions. They each have to find their place in the society from which they were and, in some cases, still are estranged.

With the use of ethnographic and arts-based methods, an attempt is made to understand social (re)integration processes and practices from the perspective of the children and family members. Using narrative life storytelling and geographical life storytelling, lived emotions and experiences can find a place, enabling reflection and rich narratives about their relations to society (neighborhoods, media) and reintegration services (health and youth care, social and legal services, education). This seminar will outline some of this work.

Location: Online.

Time: 28/03/2022, 13.00-14.30.

This event is free, but registration is needed via [our website](#).

GENDER UNDER ATTACK: AN ANALYSIS OF MEDIA REPRESENTATIONS OF SYRIAN REFUGEE WOMEN - DUHA CEYLAN



As a result of the conflict in Syria, since 2011, millions of refugees were forced to migrate to various destinations



As a result of the conflict in Syria, since 2011, millions of refugees were forced to migrate to various destinations such as Turkey, Jordan, and Europe for safety. Current studies mainly focus on routes and drivers of refugee migration, focusing on 'male' refugees. However, female refugees receive little to no attention; meanwhile, Syrian refugee women are still represented through media. Two compelling images appear when Syrian refugee women are discussed in media; the Western media demonstrates Syrian refugee women as victims, while the Arabic media blames Syrian refugee women for destroying the traditional Syrian family. Therefore, Duha's research aims to integrate the voices of Syrian refugee women by understanding how their online representation contradicts/overlaps with their offline self. Moreover, the research aims to understand how digital connectivity and social media play a role in shaping offline/online everyday practices.

Location: VUB, TBC.

Time: 25/04/2022, 13.00-14.30.

This event is free, but registration is needed via [our website](#).

NEW PERSPECTIVES OF MIGRANT FERTILITY IN BELGIUM: THE CONGOLESE DIASPORA - MARIE MOSUSE



In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), fertility rates have been high for decades. Ongoing political instability, insecurity, and external exploitation have prevented the country from creating a stable environment that would allow a fertility decline. Although it is well established that fertility and migration are highly intertwined on multiple levels, it remains unknown how these high fertility rates translate to a Belgian context of low fertility.

In this talk, Marie will outline her research on Congolese migrant fertility in the framework of the fertility transition in DRC, and link Congolese historical events and associated migration waves with the trends and determinants of fertility of the diaspora Belgium. Their paradoxical socio-economic profile – highly educated yet low employment rates – in combination with the inextricable colonial ties between DRC and Belgium make for an interesting case

study of fertility.

Location: VUB, TBC.

Time: 30/05/2022, 13.00-14.30.

This event is free, but registration is needed via [our website](#).

INCLUSIVE DEMENTIA CARE FOR AN ETHNICALLY DIVERSE POPULATION: A NEW CONCEPTUAL LENS - DR. SALOUA BERDAI CHAOUNI



Together with Europe, Belgium knows an increasing share of older migrants with dementia. Various attempts are made to provide accessible and suitable care for them. Culturally sensitive and person-centered care are often put forward as approaches to achieve this goal. However, our studies involving older migrants with dementia, family and professional caregivers indicate that we need to rethink the dominant care approaches for this sub-population. These approaches do not meet the complex interaction of personal, cultural and religious aspects in defining care needs of older migrants and ethnic minorities with dementia, and fail to recognize the hidden structural and systemic exclusion mechanisms at the organizational and societal level shaping inequity in dementia care.

In this seminar we present a paper that suggests a new conceptual lens for an inclusive dementia care provision for a diverse population. The conceptual lens centralizes the needs of the older migrant with dementia without being oblivious to the needs of informal and professional caregivers that are present in the care relationship and which consequently influence the care provision. It points out that these individual needs are complex, dynamic, situational, and reflect challenges at the institutional and societal levels. Accurately detecting, understanding, and responding to the complexity of these needs is required in order to move toward inclusive dementia care. To conclude, this conceptual lens broadens the scope in the search for suitable and inclusive dementia care for an ethnically diverse population, suggesting that building blocks for this goal should be searched at the micro, meso and macro level.

Location: Online.

Time: 20/06/2022, 13.00-14.30.

This event is free, but registration is needed via [our website](#).

NEW RHEA PUBLICATIONS

Afferri, A., Allen, H., Booth, A., Dierickx, S., Pacey, A., & Balen, J. (2022). Barriers and facilitators for the inclusion of fertility care in reproductive health policies in Africa: a qualitative evidence synthesis. *Human Reproduction Update*, 28(2), 190-199. <https://doi.org/10.1093/humupd/dmab040>

Amara-Hammou, K. (2022). Introduction Politique et immensité. In *Politique et immensité* maelstrÖm .

D'Agostino, S. (Accepted/In press). Intersectional Feminist Activisms in Europe: Invisibility, Inclusivity and Affirmation. In M. Sawyer, L. A. Banaszak, J. True, & J. Kantola (Eds.), *Handbook of Feminist Governance* Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd.

Deproost, M. (2021). Wie moet betalen? Betrokken vrouwen aan het woord over de terugbetaling van eicelinvriezing zonder medische indicatie. *Podium voor Bio-ethiek* 28(4), 43-46.

Henriet, B. (2022). « Zaïrois, qui est ton père ? »: Syndicalisme et parentés multiples dans la Copperbelt zaïroise, 1970-1980. *Revue d'Histoire Contemporaine de l'Afrique*, Février. <https://doi.org/10.51185/journals/rhca.2022.varia01>

Jaspers, Y. J., & De Bus, S. (2022). De sociaaleconomische context van jeugdcriminaliteit. In I. Weijers (Ed.), *Jeugdcriminologie: Achtergronden van jeugdcriminaliteit* (4 ed., pp. 333-364). Den Haag: Boom Criminologie.

Kerrigan, P., & Vanlee, F. H. J. (2022). Public service broadcasting and the emergence of LGBT+ visibility: A comparative perspective on Ireland and Flanders. *European Journal of Cultural Studies*, 25(1), 183-200. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1367549420935893>

Lafaut, D. (2022). Gezondheidszorg op de grens. *Wijzgerig Perspectief* 1/2022. <https://www.filosofie.nl/gezondheidszorg-op-de-grens/>

Renglet, C., & Smis, S. (2022). Climate Change and Human Rights: A Comparative Analysis of the German and Belgian Climate Cases. *OpinioJuris*.

Rigotti, C., & Calvi, A. (2022). Privacy. In G. Comandé (Ed.), *Elgar Encyclopedia of Law and Data Science* (pp. 275-280). Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd..

Rigotti, C., Top, S., & Zomignani Barboza, J. (2022). Conference on Afghanistan: discussing human rights impacts of the Taliban takeover. *Human Rights Here*.

Rigotti, C., & Zomignani Barboza, J. (2022). Unfolding the Case of Returnees: How the European Union and its Member States Are Addressing the Return of Foreign Fighters and their Families. *International Review of the Red Cross*, 103(916-917), 681–703. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1816383121000217>

Put, J., & De Bus, S. (2022). Videoconferenties in jeugddelinquentiezaken. *Panopticon*, 43(1), 113-118.

Struyf, P., & Neelen, Y. (Accepted/In press). De (on)toegankelijkheid van de seksindustrie: Reflecties over hoe politie, beleid, hulpverlening en wetenschap sekswerkers best kunnen bereiken. *Cahiers Politiestudies*, 63.

van der Does, R., Amara-Hammou, K., Talukder, D., & Mercenier, H. (2022). What can explain political dissatisfaction among disadvantaged citizens? A mixed-method approach. In *EOS Book project on Resentment*

Zomignani Barboza, J., D'Agostino, S., Briere, C., Navasartian, A., Nissen, A., Fabcic Povse, D., De Hert, P. (Ed.) & Raedschelders, R. (2022). *FRANET National Contribution to Fundamental Rights Report 2022 (Belgium)*.

AGENDA

Keep it organized!

Social reintegration of female returnees and their children with Hannan Jamaï

Monday 28/03/2022

Time: 12.00-17.00

Location: Online

RHEA Research Seminar

Book symposium: 'Freezing Fertility: Oocyte Cryopreservation and the Gender Politics of Ageing'

Wednesday 20/04/2022

Time: 9.30-12.00

Location: VUB Campus Etterbeek, Promotion room D.2.01 & Online

Public PhD defense Michiel De Proost

Thursday 21/04/2022

Time: 14.00-15.30

Location: VUB Campus Etterbeek, Room TBC

Against the infrastructure of colonial capitalism

Friday 22/04/2022

Time: 17.00-19.00

Location: ULB Campus Solbosch, R42.5.503

Infodag Master 'Gender & Diversiteit'

Sunday 24/04/2022

Time: 16.00-17.30

Location: VUB Campus Etterbeek, I.003

Gender under attack: an analysis of media representations of Syrian refugee women with Duha Ceylan

Monday 25/04/2022

Time: 13.00-14.30

Location: VUB Campus Etterbeek, Room TBC

RHEA Research Seminar

New perspectives of migrant fertility in Belgium: the Congolese diaspora with Marie Mosuse

Monday 30/05/2022

Time: 13.00-14.30

Location: VUB Campus Etterbeek, Room TBC

RHEA Research Seminar

Inclusive dementia care for an ethnically diverse population: a new conceptual lens with Dr. Saloua Berdai Chaouni

Monday 20/06/2022

Time: 13.00-14.30

Location: Online

RHEA Research Seminar

YOUR NEWS IN THE NEWSLETTER?

If you have some interesting RHEA-related news that you would want to include in our newsletter or you would like to organize an event in collaboration with us, do not hesitate to contact us at rhea@vub.be



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