

Upcoming RHEA Research Seminars

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GENDER, DIVERSITY & INTERSECTIONALITY RESEARCH CENTRE

RHEA finishes the academic year with 3 upcoming research seminars, presenting RHEA members' research on gender & leisure time (Franne Mullens), comprehensive sexual education in Uganda (Anna Ninsiima) and marriage migration policies in Flanders (Amal Miri). Save the dates!

Gendered constraints to cultural participation and leisure time

Francisca Mullens

Monday 29 April - 12.30h-14h - Pleinlaan 2, building D, D.2.06.



Studies show that women not only have less leisure time than men, they also experience less qualitative leisure time. On the other hand, research shows women have a higher participation rate than men for most cultural activities. Using the Participationsurvey* and Flemish Time-use data, this research will try to unveil what constraints are experienced by women and men both in general leisure time, but also for specific activities such as cultural participation. For now, analyses are quantitative, but we are thinking about opening up and doing a qualitative part for better understanding the meaning and experiences of leisure time for women.

Franne Mullens obtained her master's degree in Communication Sciences at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel in 2014. She also holds a master's degree in

Gender and Diversity. Franne joined the TOR Research Group in January 2017 and is involved in the Kenniscentrum cultuur- en mediaparticipatie. Her main research interests include cultural sociology, media sociology, (gender) equality/inequality and intersectionality.

Enabling Environment for Sexuality Education to Deliver ‘Healthy’

Outcomes: Analysis of Policy and Gender norms in Uganda -

Anna Ninsiima

Monday 6 May - 12.30h-14h - Pleinlaan 5, PL5.5.51. (5th floor)



Today's adolescents will determine the social fabric, economic productivity, and reproductive well-being of nations throughout the world in the coming decades. However, adolescents are confronted with life-threatening health risks related to unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, and HIV. In Uganda, statistics show that 54% of Ugandan girls have begun child-bearing by age 19 (UBOS 2016). It has been argued that Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) provides adolescents with information necessary to make safe and informed choices about their sexual health. This study, however, argues that CSE may not make sense if the environment into which young people live is not enabling. The study contributes to the literature on the relevance of intersectionality to sexuality and health inequalities research. Intersectionality provides a strong analytical tool to understand health inequalities by moving the analysis away from the individual approaches to understanding the interaction of the macro and the micro aspects of the politics of adolescent sexual health. In Uganda, implementation of sexuality education policies was problematic, but poverty, gendered power relations and ineffective legal system reinforce the impediment for adolescents to live lives they find reason to value. The study argues that policy should support sexuality education, but this education can only be put to use in a better environment or enabling structures of cultural and political institutions. Adolescents should enjoy the freedom to do what they aspire to do and be free from coercion. Therefore, creating an enabling environment requires addressing an interplay of broad factors which quite often are beyond the individual in shaping adolescent sexual and reproductive health decisions and outcomes.

Anna B. Ninsiima has a MA in Gender and Governance, is a part-time lecturer at the School of Women and Gender Studies of Makerere University, Uganda and a PhD researcher at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). Anna's research interest is in the area of gender, sexuality and reproductive health. Her PhD study is entitled "An Enabling Environment for Sexuality Education to Deliver Healthy Outcomes: Analysis of Policy and Gender Norms in Uganda. Her interest is in getting sexuality education policies implemented and institutionalized in schools with commitment from governments.

“Bordering family life: tensions within marriage migration policy in Flanders” - Amal Miri

Monday 3 June - 12.30h-14h - Pleinlaan 2, building D, D1.07.



Marriage migration has been at the source of various societal controversies across European countries in general, and Belgium in particular. Over the recent years, several EU countries have adjusted their juridical restrictions concerning family related migration in general and marriage migration in particular often differentiating between national citizens, EU and non-EU members. The most important pre and post marriage restrictions in Belgium contain conditions in terms of income, housing, age and a prolonged – up until five years - probationary period, during which residence is conditional and marriage migration couples have to prove their commitment to a “genuine” marital life/cohabitation.

This paper builds on a “narrative analysis” of policy documents, transcripts of parliamentary debate and media pronouncements by government ministers/representatives as well as in-depth interviews with six experts in the field of family migration and integration. Drawing from these different narratives and ‘situated knowledges’ (Haraway, 1988) this paper wishes to contribute to the existing scholarship on politics and migration in general and “the gendered politics of migration” in particular. By applying a critical lens in analysing family/marriage migration policy and the rising discourse of gender-equality, women’s empowerment and social inclusion that informed this policy, this paper will argue that these policies embody a fundamental tension. This tension is located between holding on to these *restrictive measures and controls* using the rationale of gender-equality and the fight against forced/sham marriages on the one hand and *the vulnerable positions couples in general and women in particular* are put in while struggling to bring their relationship in line with the family norms and ideals of state policies on the other hand.

Amal Miri is PhD-researcher at the Centre for Research on Culture and Gender at Ghent University.



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