



# GENDER, DIVERSITY & INTERSECTIONALITY RESEARCH CENTRE

## NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2020

RHEA had to say goodbye in August to the previous coordinator prof. dr. Sophie Withaecx. We wish her the best in her new position! In this newsletter we would like to introduce you to our new coordinator and members! We start this academic year with an agenda full of seminars and research news. Our activities will follow corona guidelines, and consist of a mixture of interesting online and offline activities.

### NEW COORDINATOR



We would like to introduce to you long-term member **Susan Dierickx**, the new coordinator of RHEA. Susan graduated as master in Social and Cultural Anthropology in 2010 (University of Leuven) and as master after master in Conflict and Development two years later (Ghent University). In 2013 she joined the Institute of Tropical Medicine doing research on maternal health and malaria in West Africa. In 2015, she joined RHEA and started her PhD on infertility in The Gambia. In February 2020 she obtained a joint doctoral degree in Gender and Diversity (Studies) from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Ghent University.

### NEW MEMBER

We have a new member **Ellen Vermet**. As a criminologist and sociologist, Ellen is passionate about research on the experiences of various vulnerable and forgotten groups within the criminal justice system and welfare services. For her first master's thesis, she did a qualitative research on the perceptions of female partners and ex-partners of sex offenders. Her second



master's thesis was about the mental health of Maghreb prisoners. This is closely related to the topic of her doctoral research: Islam/Muslim prisoners in Flemish and Brussels prisons. This doctoral research is carried out under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Iman Lechkar and Dr. An-Sofie Vanhouche. She can't wait to start this new adventure!

## ACTIVITIES

### RHEA RESEARCH SEMINARS

RHEA Research seminars offers scholars the occasion to present and discuss work in progress. The seminars feature research that takes place within RHEA, the Strategic Research Program EDGE, as well as research by affiliated RHEA members or scholars just passing by. The seminars are conceived as brown bag seminars: the presenters provide food for thought and you bring your own lunch.

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#### **Susan Dierickx - The moral landscape of medically assisted reproduction in The Gambia**



Infertility, or the inability to conceive, is a global problem affecting an estimated 48.5 million couples worldwide, with significantly higher rates in the Global South, particularly sub-Saharan Africa. While there is now a rich body of anthropological literature on infertility in Sub-Saharan Africa, few studies have looked into the experiences and moral dilemmas health care providers face when providing care. In this seminar, Susan Dierickx, will present a mixed-method research proposal aiming to bridge this gap in the literature.

***Time: 12.30-14.00, Thursday 3 September***

***Venue: room 5C404, Pleinlaan 2 1050 Brussel***

***Registration required by sending an email to [susan.dierickx@vub.be](mailto:susan.dierickx@vub.be)***

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## Ilke Adam - Multiculturalism and the Second Wave of Anti-Racist Activism in Europe



There has been considerable academic debate on whether multiculturalist policies are in retreat in Europe. Whilst there might be doubt as to the extent of the retreat in discourse or policy, there is less doubt that multiculturalism has been under attack as a policy approach. At the same time there is also a growing racialized European citizenry which increasingly questions the transformative capacity of multiculturalism. Organized in what has been called the 'second wave of anti-racist activism' (Essed, 2014) in Europe, these activists call for a

different approach, one that moves beyond culture and addresses questions of power and privilege. Within this seminar the argument is made that a multiculturalist approach to social justice that responds to the claims of the second wave of anti-racist activism must minimally start from Nancy Fraser's approach to multiculturalism, or the politics of recognition, which cannot be disentangled from the politics of redistribution.

**This event is co-organized by RHEA and EDGE**

***Time: 12.30-14.00, Thursday 8 October***

***Venue: will be communicated depending on corona measures***

***Registration required by sending an email to [susan.dierickx@vub.be](mailto:susan.dierickx@vub.be)***

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## Mariska Jung - Postcolonial Europe and it's Animal Other: On Race, Religion and Species



Since the turn of the millennium, the practice of religious slaughter of animals for food consumption has become increasingly politicized in Europe, with over ten countries legally intervening in the practice or heavily debating to do so. This politicization occurs against the backdrop of 9/11, the alleged failure of multiculturalism and the problematization of Islam in Europe. The past decades have also witnessed the maturation of animal welfare as a political concern that is represented on local, national and European parliamentary level. In her PHD research, Mariska Jung focuses on the

conceptual questions and entanglements of race, religion and species that emerge from the political debate on religious slaughter. In this presentation, she will outline her general research framework and discuss parts of her work so far.

**This event is co-organized by RHEA and EDGE**

***Time: 12.30-14.00, Thursday 10 December***

*Venue: will be communicated depending on corona measures*

*Registration required by sending an email to [susan.dierickx@vub.be](mailto:susan.dierickx@vub.be)*

## ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH SEMINAR 2020: RESEARCH ETHICS IN ETHNOGRAPHY

Over the last decade there has been an increasing ethical regulation of social and humanities research. While this tendency has been applauded, the bureaucratisation of research ethics has been subject to criticism, including for its propensity to stifle participation-based methodologies and for its inability to take into account the complexities that arise in ethnographic research. This course aims to explore the specific ethical issues that arise in the conduct of ethnographic research, how to overcome them, and how to develop a more reflexive and relational ethics approach.

**This event is co-organized by RHEA, the Centre for Research on Culture and Gender, CESSMIR, IMMRC, MENARG**

***Time: Wednesday 16 September - Friday 18 September***

***Venue: Blandijnberg 2 9000 Gent, but parts of his event will also take place online***

***For more information: <http://www.culturegender.ugent.be/en/events/ERS2020>***

## (RE)CONNECTING GENDER STUDIES:

A DAY TO (RE)CONNECT EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS FROM DIFFERENT THEORETICAL BACKGROUNDS, DISCIPLINES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS



In the last decades, gender studies have both expanded and become institutionalized, diversifying but also losing - in some ways - its critical reach. The field now includes, but is not limited to, women's studies, men's studies and LGBTQI+ studies. Apart from this proliferation of theoretical positions, the field of gender studies in Belgium is divided by common boundaries: between universities and other research institutions, between activism and research, between disciplines, between languages. This colloquium aims to (re)connect PhD students and gender researchers across these boundaries. We

aim to bring together early career researchers working in academia, professionals from non-profit organisations or public institutions, and activists in a non-competitive and safe environment.

**This event is co-organized by RHEA, SOPHIA and the Institute for the Equality of Women and Men**

*Time: Friday 13 November*

*Venue: Depending on COVID-19 measures, this event will take place either online or offline at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel*

*For more information: <https://www.sophia.be/nl/2020/02/24/call-for-participation-reconnecting-gender-studies/>*

## AFROEUROPEAN CONFERENCE 2021

### INTERSECTIONAL CHALLENGES IN AFROEUROPEAN COMMUNITIES



We are happy to announce the 8<sup>th</sup> biennial conference of the AfroEuropeans Network titled "Intersectional Challenges in AfroEuropean Communities". The AfroEuropeans Network conference will be held **7-10 July 2021 in Brussels**, on the campus of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, with **keynote speakers Philomena Essed, Cécile Kyenge and Kehinde Andrews**.

The conference is supported by RHEA and is organised by an international team affiliated to different universities and in collaboration with academic and non-academic partners across Brussels and beyond. The conference focuses on Intersectional Challenges in AfroEuropean Communities and aims to be a conference for, by,

and with AfroEuropeans, with the contribution of their allies and in dialogue with other marginalised groups.

*For more information: <https://www.afroEuropeans2021.com/en/>*

## CALL FOR PAPERS



RHEA members Eva Vergaert, Sophie Withaecx & Gily Coene will be editing a special issue of the Tijdschrift voor Genderstudies on the topic of '**Researching Intimate Partner Violence: Gender, intersectionality and policy-making**'. Researchers are invited to **submit an abstract (450 words) by 30 September 2020**. This special issue aims to bring together current research on experiences with IPV by victims, perpetrators, involved actors (social workers, health care workers, general practitioners, lawyers...). We welcome contributions that explore if and how insights from feminist and



intersectional perspectives have impacted on policymaking and how they interact with other theoretical frameworks addressing IPV. We particularly focus on research and policymaking in and about Belgium and the Netherlands, but submissions may also discuss developments at international or European level that impact on the regional level. Articles may be written in Dutch or English.

## RHEA IN THE NEWS

### VUB ONDERZOEK: 'KLEUTERSCHOLEN DISCRIMINEREN BIJ INSCHRIJVING'



Het onderzoek van RHEA-lid en VUB-sociologen Bourabain Dounia, Verhaeghe Pieter-Paul en UGent socioloog Stevens Peter onderzocht de aanwezigheid van etnische en klasse-discriminatie bij de inschrijvingsprocedure van Nederlandstalige kleuterscholen. De resultaten tonen aan dat ouders van Maghrebijnse en Sub-Saharaanse origine minder vaak uitgenodigd worden om hun kind in te schrijven. Ook wijzen de resultaten uit dat klasse-achtergrond een belangrijke rol speelt, waar ouders van Belgische origine uit de lagere sociale klasse minder vaak uitgenodigd worden voor een rondleiding in

vergelijking tot ouders uit de middenklasse.

*For more information:* <https://today.vub.be/nl/artikel/vub-onderzoek-toont-aan-dat-etnische-minderheden-en-ouders-uit-lagere-sociale-klasse-minder-kans-0>

## NEW RHEA PUBLICATIONS

De Proost, M. (2020). 'Nothing will stop me from giving the gift of life': a qualitative analysis of egg donor forum posts. *Culture, Health & Sexuality*.

Dounia, B., Verhaeghe, P., Stevens P.A.J. (2020). School of choice or schools' choice? Intersectional correspondence testing on ethnic and class discrimination in the enrolment procedure to Flemish kindergarten. *Race, Ethnicity and Education*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13613324.2020.1798379>

Dierickx, S., Coene, G., Jarju, B., Longman, C. (2019). Women with infertility complying with and resisting polygyny: an explorative qualitative study in urban Gambia. *Reproductive Health*, 16, 103.

Dierickx, S., Balen, J., Longman, C., Rahbari, L. Clarke, E., Jarju, B., Coene, G. (2019). 'We are always desperate and will try anything to conceive': The convoluted and dynamic process of health seeking among women with infertility in the West Coast Region of The Gambia. *PLoS ONE*, 14 (1): e0211634.

Ninsiima, A., Michielsen, K., Kemigisha, E., Viola, N.N., Leye, E., Coene, G. (2020). Poverty, gender and reproductive justice. A qualitative study among adolescent girls in Western Uganda. *Culture, Health & Sexuality*, 22 (1), 1-15.



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