



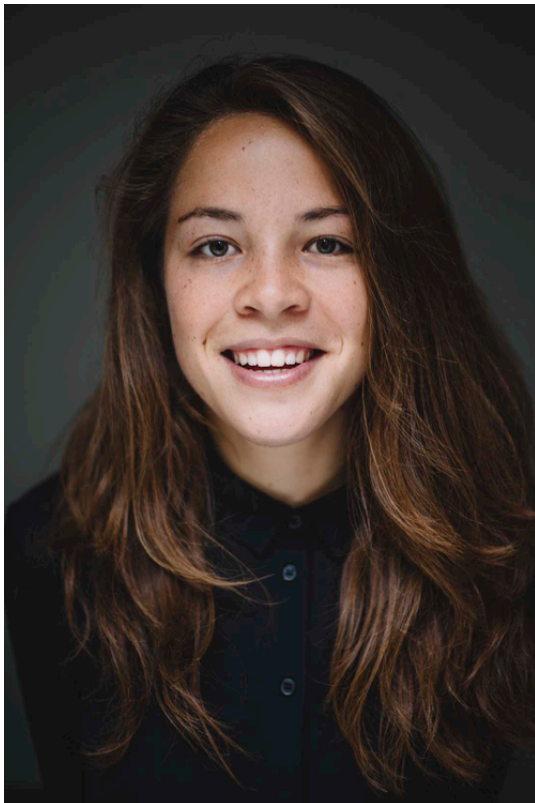
GENDER, DIVERSITY & INTERSECTIONALITY RESEARCH CENTRE

FIRST NEWSLETTER OF 2021

RHEA wishes you a year of unity and togetherness, like the laureate poet Amanda Gorman called for in her poem at the presidential inauguration:

*"There is always light, if we only are brave enough to see it -
if we only are brave enough to be it."*

NEW INTERN



We would like to introduce to you Sacha Verheij, the new intern at RHEA. Her main focus will be the RHEA Genderweek in March, but she will also work on the newsletter, the seminars and our social media. Sacha graduated as Bachelor in Humanistic Studies in 2018 (University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht) and is currently studying the interuniversity and interdisciplinary Master Gender & Diversity (Vrije Universiteit Brussel).

Besides her studies, Sacha touches on sensitive subjects through her journalism by writing about taboo topics and marginalized groups. Through her articles she explores gender, feminism, diversity, racism, depression, suicide, grief and sexuality for the platform [COMMEN.nl](#) and the magazine [ZIZO](#) from Çavaria.

ACTIVITIES

RHEA RESEARCH WEBINARS

RHEA Research webinars offer 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 webinars are conceived as brown bag seminars: the presenters provide food for thought and you can eat your lunch.

Mariska Jung - Species-inclusive intersectionality: a way forward for political cooperation between animal and migration politics in Europe?



During this seminar, PhD candidate Mariska Jung will introduce a part of her ongoing research on species-inclusive intersectionality and the possible relevance of such a concept for animal and migration politics in Europe.

At first sight, relative newcomers on the political stage such as the animal party DierAnimal in Belgium and the ‘migrant party’ DENK in the Netherlands seem to be worlds apart in their political views and the issues they represent. While some migration parties ground their political analysis in intersectionality, animal parties generally refrain from any deep

engagement with issues pertaining to gender and sexual diversity or racism. Nevertheless, both type of parties express fundamental critique on the current parameters of our social and economic fabric and call for radical change. They may even find topical congruence in their respective concern for environmentalism and migration in phenomena such as climate change refugees or the substandard working conditions of (often migrant) laborers in slaughterhouses. This begs the question, how can these parties be brought closer in ideological terms? Is there a way to envision a uniting political horizon that bridges their distances?

The aim of Jung’s research is to flesh out the theoretical (im)possibility of a species-inclusive intersectionality so as to identify the promises and limits of such a political analysis for possible cooperation between animal and migration politics.

This event is co-organized by RHEA and EDGE

Time: 12.30-14.00, Monday 1st of March

Registration: [RHEA website](#)

Bo Zhang - A Qualitative Study towards a more Comprehensive Understanding of Factors affecting the Domestic Labor Distribution in Chinese Families



Scholars have found that women continue to perform the vast majority of domestic labor. Analyzing the factors which partners consider in the division of domestic labor division is one of the first steps in attaining gender equity in both private and public spheres. One of the dominant theoretical explanations on the domestic labor allocation is a resource-based approach, which emphasizes rationality and efficiency in the division of time and relative resources between spouses and is, arguably, gender-neutral.

However, compared with these objective and gender-neutral predictors, participants of in-depth interviews took much more non-objective factors into account, including couple's affections, individual preferences, and personal abilities and characteristics. It is found that these considerations interact closely with gender notions. These research findings suggest, on the one hand, gender ideology is still a barrier to gender equality in domestic labor division, which needs further reflection; on the other hand, division of household tasks is a complex process that may be best understood by combining different perspectives.

Time: 12.30-14.00, Monday 29 March

Registration: [RHEA website](#)

AFROEUROPEAN CONFERENCE 2021 POSTPONED ALTERNATIVE EVENT FOR 2021 'BLACK EUROPE IN BRUSSELS'



Given the uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have decided to postpone the 2021 Brussels conference 'Intersectional Challenges in Afro-European Communities'. We are disappointed about the delay but we look forward to meeting in person in 2022, as the AfroEuropeans Network conference is in large part about engaging with colleagues and community building. In lieu of the conference, we intend to host a smaller-scale event in the summer of 2021, entitled "Black Europe in Brussels", which may be organised digitally should the circumstances still necessitate this. More information will follow on the website.

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

GENDERWEEK

BETWEEN 8TH AND 12TH OF MARCH

Save the date for Genderweek 2021, a yearly recurring series of events around gender that will take place in the week of 8th to 12th of March!

On the occasion of International Women's Day on 8th of March, the Genderweek will be organized. A week of reflection and debate about equality, privacy, feminism, sexual health and women in film and media. We invite you to engage and to save the dates!

The full program will follow, but you can already note down the following events. On **8th of March** the Machteld De Metsenaere Lecture will be given by prof. Anita Allen on 'Privacy Through the Lenses of Race and Gender' in collaboration with Crosstalks (VUB), Kaaithheater en deBuren. On **10th of March** prof. Hans Verstraelen and prof. Ellen Laan will talk about vulvodynia with personal testimonials from women with this condition.

Further information on these events will follow via the newsletter and the RHEA website

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

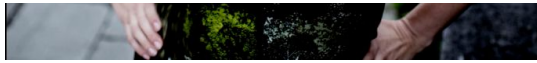
21ST of MARCH

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on the 21st of March is part of the global fight to end all forms of racism and racial discrimination. In order to reflect the importance of this fight, members of RHEA, BIRMM, EDGE and the Race and Research Network organize a number of activities around the theme of racism.

MASTERCLASS 'THINKING RACE AND RELIGION' WITH PROF. DR. ANYA TOPOLSKI



In this Masterclass prof. dr. Anya Topolski briefly introduces the central tenets of her current research project. Topolski theorizes the 'race-religion constellation' which refers to the historical "practice of classifying people into races according to categories we now associate with the term religion" (Topolski, 2018, p.58). Consequently, she argues for the necessity to study the intersections between the 'religion line' and 'colour line' so as to be able to grasp contemporary racism in Europe. Following this



brief introduction, a collective conversation with prof. dr. Topolski and the attendants of the masterclass takes place. Academics (PhD candidates, post-doctoral researchers, teaching staff), activists and artists working on topics related to race, racism, religion, secularism or intersectionality are warmly invited to join this Masterclass. Participants are asked to familiarize themselves with the work prof. dr. Anya Topolski by reading one of her text (to be send following registration). PhD candidates are entitled to 1 credit in their doctoral training program.

This event is co-organized by RHEA, the Race and Research Network, EDGE and BIRMM.

Time: 2-5pm, Tuesday 16 March

Venue: TBA

For more information and registration: click [here](#)

'ON RACE, SPECIES, AND BECOMING HUMAN': AN EVENING WITH ZAKIYYAH IMAN JACKSON



To highlight the International Day Against Racism we welcome Zakiyyah Iman Jackson (University of Southern California, USA) to talk about her recent book 'Becoming Human: Matter and Meaning in an Antiracist World'. The evening will be moderated by Tundé Adefioye. Please stay tuned for more information and registration.

This event is co-organized by RHEA, the Race and Research Network, Radboud Universiteit (NL), VUBCrosstalks and

Kaaitheater.

Time: 8-9.30pm, Thursday 25 March

Venue: Online, via Kaaitheater

Registration: information to register will follow soon

RHEA IN THE NEWS

RHEA-member Dirk Lafaut was interviewed by 'De Artsenkrant'.

He has successfully defended his PhD Dissertation titled "The ethics of bordering healthcare: A study on healthcare access of undocumented migrants in Brussels (Belgium)" on January 8th, 2021.

You can read his interview with De Artsenkrant [here](#) (in Dutch).



CONGRATULATIONS



We would like to congratulate RHEA members Jiahui Shan, Dirk Lafaut and Chloé Janssen with their successful PhD defense.

Jiahui Shan obtained her PhD in political science, her PhD thesis is called 'Representing women: A globally-informed and locally-situated interpretation of the All-China Women's Federation'. Promotor: prof. Karen Celis.

Dirk Lafaut defended his PhD in Ethics and Philosophy 'The ethics of bordering healthcare: A study on healthcare access of undocumented migrants in Brussels (Belgium)'. Promotor: prof. Gily Coene.

Chloé Janssen received a PhD in Political sciences on Thursday January 14. Her thesis was called 'Ethnicity, Gender and the Intersectional (Dis)Advantage in the Brussels Preferential Voting System. Dynamic Process and Context Dependency'. Promotors: prof. Karen Celis and prof. Silvia Erzeel.

NEW RESEARCH PROJECTS



We have good news as three RHEA research projects have received funding.

We received **BRAIN-be 2.0 BELSPO funding for a multidisciplinary research project on intimate partner violence during and after COVID** - a project which will be conducted in partnership with the University of Liège and

NICC partners (including the Université Libre de Bruxelles, UCLouvain and Université de Liège).

We have also obtained **BRAIN-be 2.0 BELSPO funding for 'REGUIDE - A Holistic, Restorative and Gendered approach to Guide Returnees to their Home country'** in partnership with NICC-INCC, KU Leuven and USL-B.

Dirk Lafaut has been awarded a **Global Minds Post-Doc scholarship** from 1 July 2021 until 31 December 2021. The Global Minds Programme, supported by VLIR-UOS, aims to increase VUB's capacity when it comes to university development cooperation. The main focus during this Post-Doc will be on designing new development-related teaching material. This new teaching material will pay specific attention to the importance of the decolonization of development.

NEW RHEA PUBLICATIONS

Adam, I., Adefioye, T., D'Agostino, S., Schuermans, N and Trauner, F. (2021). Migration, Equality and Racism: 44 Opinions. Brussels : VUBPress.

Bourabain, D. (2020). Everyday sexism and racism in the ivory tower. The experiences of female early career researchers on the intersection of gender and ethnicity in the academic workplace. *Gender, Work and Organization*, e-pub, 1-43. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gwao.12549>

Halimi, M., Davis, S. N., & Consuegra, E. (2020). The Power of Peers? Early Adolescent Gender Typicality, Peer Relations, and Gender Role Attitudes in Belgium. *Gender Issues*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12147-020-09262-3>

Kerrigan, P., & Vanlee, F. H. J. (2020). Public service broadcasting and the emergence of LGBT+ visibility: A comparative perspective on Ireland and Flanders. *European Journal of Cultural Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1367549420935893>

Rigotti, C. (2020). Prostitution laws across the European Union: to go beyond the existing dichotomy. In *Gender Based Approaches to the law and Juris Dictio in Europe* (pp. 427-452). Pisa: Pisa University Press.

Rigotti, C. (2020). Sex Robots through Feminist Lenses. *Filosofia*, 65, 17-34.

AGENDA

Keep it organized!

Mariska Jung - Species-inclusive intersectionality: a way forward for political cooperation between animal and migration politics in Europe?

RHEA Research Webinar

[1 March, 12:30-14:00](#)

Anita Allen - Privacy through the Lenses of Race and Gender

RHEA Genderweek
[8 March, 20:00-21:30](#)

Als seks pijn doet: een inkijk in het leven van vulvodynie patiënten

RHEA Genderweek
[10 March, 19:30-21:45](#)

Anya Topolski - Masterclass 'Thinking Race and Religion'

International Day Against Racism
[16 March, 14:00-17:00](#)

Iman Lechkar - Diversity in Higher Education

International Day Against Racism
[21 March, more information will follow](#)

Zakiyah Iman Jackson - On Race, Species and Becoming Human

International Day Against Racism
[25 March, 20:00-21:30](#)

Bo Zhang - A Qualitative Study towards a more Comprehensive Understanding of Factors affecting the Domestic Labor Distribution in Chinese Families

RHEA Research Webinar
[29 March, 12:30-14:00](#)

AfroEuropean Conference 2021 Postponed

RHEA & AfroEuropeans Brussels
[More information here](#)

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 organise an event in collaboration with us, don't hesitate to contact us at rhea@vub.be



Our mailing address is:

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