



GENDER, DIVERSITY & INTERSECTIONALITY RESEARCH CENTRE

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2020

November is a month full of RHEA activities and research news.
Let this newsletter be your guide to discover our wide range of activities!

NEW INTERN



We would like to introduce to you **Aylin Aydemir**, the new intern at RHEA. Aylin graduated as bachelor in Communication Sciences in 2017 (Ghent University) and is currently studying a Master in International and European Law (Vrije Universiteit Brussel).

Since February 2020, she is also a CHanGEmaker at UCOS (Universitair Centrum voor Ontwikkelings-samenwerking). CHanGE (Campaign for sexual Health & Gender Equality) is a project of UCOS regarding gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

ACTIVITIES

INTERUNIVERSITY GENDER RESEARCH SEMINAR:
FEMINIST METHODOLOGIES

09-10 NOVEMBER 2020
Gender Research Seminar

FEMINIST METHODOLOGIES

Lectures and masterclasses by

Nikita Dhawan (University of Gießen)
CRITICAL CONTEMPLATIONS ON FEMINIST
EPISTEMOLOGIES, METHODOLOGIES & ETHICS

Alexis Patton (Aston University)
EMPIRICAL BIOETHICS & FEMINISM:
TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN

Nicole Westmarland (Durham University)
RESEARCHING GENDER VIOLENCE

 **RHEA**
GENDER, DIVERSITY
& INTERSECTIONALITY
RESEARCH CENTRE

More info and registration
<https://rhea.research.vub.be>



The Interuniversity Gender Research Seminar is a yearly interdisciplinary course, jointly organized by VUB, UGent and UA with the support of the Flemish government. The Gender Research seminar offers PhD- students advanced training by renowned experts in research methods and topical issues in the field of gender and diversity studies. The Gender Research Seminars offer PhD- and advanced master studies in-depth and advanced training in topical issues in Gender Studies and related fields such as Sexuality Studies, Queer Studies, Cultural Studies and Post-Colonial Studies.

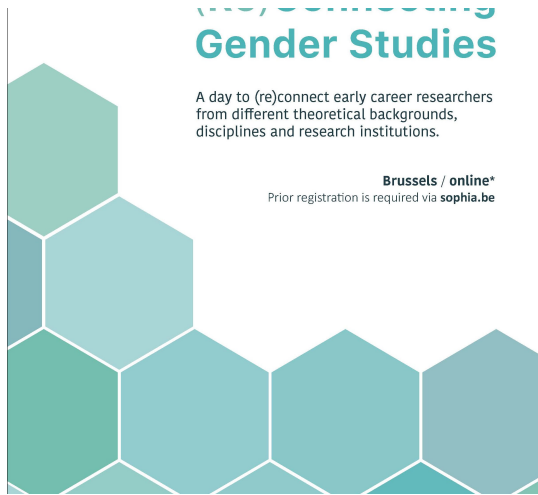
This year's focus is on **Feminist Methodologies**. Feminist research is characterized by its thematic focus on the study of inequalities based on gender in interaction with other categories of differentiation; its incisive critiques on the assumed objectivity and neutrality of dominant research paradigms; and the development of feminist epistemologies centralizing questions of relationality, embodiment and 'strong objectivity' in the research relation. The insights developed in feminist research have therefore benefited to researchers recognizing the impact of positionality and power inequalities in research and exploring how these can be concretely integrated and applied in research.

Time: Monday 9 - Tuesday 10 November, register via the RHEA website for the keynotes lectures

Venue: The event will take place online via Teams

(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 organized by RHEA, SOPHIA and the Institute for the Equality of Women and Men

Time: Friday 13 November

Venue: The event will take place online via Zoom

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

FEMINIST DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATION BOOK LAUNCH



Please join us next Friday evening at the online book launch of Feminist Democratic Representation, co-authored by RHEA's co-director Karen Celis!

Hardly anywhere are women equally presented in our elected political institutions; women's political issues and interests are all too often marginal to mainstream debate. Women's poverty of representation will not be solved by adding a few more women to our parliaments, legislatures and assemblies. We need the formal institutions of representative democracy – and all its politicians,

men and women - to work and do better for women. In their new book, 'Feminist Democratic Representation', Karen Celis and Sarah Childs discuss how to realize this!

Time: Friday 13 November

Venue: This event will take place online via Facebook live, register here <https://fb.me/e/7KmZhE1VF>

The book launch is hosted by Prof. Johanna Kantola (Tampere), featuring Prof. Joni Lovenduski (Birkbeck, Univ. of London), and the book's illustrator, Hazel McCoubrey as well as the authors, Karen Celis and Sarah Childs.

DIVERSIFYING THE CURRICULUM



During this digital event the results of the BVO project 'Diversity in the curriculum' by Christil Asamoah will be presented. Christil Asamoah and Latifah Abdou (student, project assistant UCOS and initiator of #WeDecolonizeVUB) will discuss the results and further implication of the BVO project with students and lecturers from the VUB. This event is open to all academic personnel and students that are interested in diversifying and decolonizing their curriculum and a call for everybody to further implement the methodology and recommendations of the 'Diversity in the curriculum' project.

This event is organized by RHEA, het Gender Actie Platform and the VUB Equality team

Time: Thursday 19 November, 17:00-18:30

Venue: This event will take place online, more information will follow on the RHEA and VUB website

LAUNCH VUB EQUALITY NETWORK



The VUB Equality Network (VEN) brings together organisations, groups and individuals from the VUB who have equality and inclusion in their mission & goals. The network aims to connect, exchange and support all members and to uplift their work and voices. To celebrate the launch of this event, a panel is organized, with Iman Lechkar (RHEA and Fatima Mernissi chair), Jean-Luc Rwogera (Race & Research Network), Lena Imerja (BIRMM, BCUS and Cosmopolis), Olivier Tshinkobo (alumnus VUB, participant of the conversations about racism, ambassador of job@ubuntu), Inas Djelloul (Mixomnia), Chantelle Motsi (Ascom) and Ange

Sansineza (#WeDecolonizeVUB). They will discuss what they do to increase equality and/or

inclusion and what the VUB should take up in their next equality action plan to move towards an anti-racist university.

This event is organized by het Gender Actie Platform and the VUB Equality team

Time: Thursday 26 November, 17:00-18:30

Venue: This event will take place online, more information will follow on the RHEA and VUB website

HOMMAGE FATIMA MERNISSI



Fatima Mernissi died in Rabat at the age of 75 on 30 November 2015. As a leading Moroccan sociologist and writer, she was of great importance in the development of feminism in the Muslim world. As a result of her 1975 book *Beyond the Veil: Male-Female Dynamics in Muslim Society*, she was given the nickname 'the Simone de Beauvoir of the Maghreb'. The Guardian proclaimed her one of the hundred most influential Arab women. Her oeuvre explores the combined topics of power, gender and Islam and builds bridges between the West and the Arab world. On this commemorative event, the Fatima Mernissi

chair holder at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, prof. dr. Iman Lechkar will go in discussion with the Fatima Mernissi chair holders in Mexico and Rabat.

Time: Monday 30 November

Venue: This event will take place online, more information will follow on the RHEA website

RHEA RESEARCH WEBINARS

RHEA Research webinars offer scholars the occasion to present and discuss work in progress. The webinars 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.

CANCELLED: 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.

Lisa Feirabend - Combatting street harassment through legislative means in Europe



Traditionally, the issue of street harassment has often been deemed as something trivial and unworthy of legal consideration. That tide has been turning with a steady increase in attention for the phenomenon from scholars, activists and legislators. As much of the discourse has been America-centric, there is much room for exploring it in the European context, especially in light of the handful of European countries which adopted legislation to combat some forms of street harassment in the past few years. In this seminar, Lisa Feirabend will present her

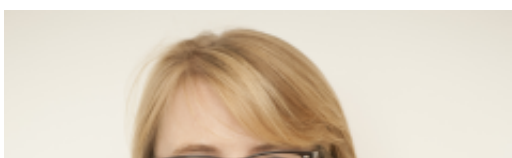
research proposal aimed at enriching the discourse on street harassment legislation in the European context.

Time: 12.30-14.00, Thursday 10 December

Venue: This event will take place online via Microsoft Teams (the link will be shared with all the registered people the day before).

The event is free but registration is required via [the RHEA website](#)

RHEA IN THE NEWS



RHEA-member Marie Tuley wrote a blogpost on "Taking decolonising seriously – the problem with migration studies".



With Black Lives Matter gaining new momentum in the past months, movements to decolonise education and the academy have also become more visible. Several academics have lamented that decolonising has become a buzzword which, if not given the correct attention it deserves, risks becoming watered down and co-opted (Moosavi, 2020). This threat also exists within (critical) migration studies. What would it mean to take decolonising in migration studies seriously? In this short piece, taking 'integration' as an example, I argue that many concepts in migration studies are colonial. More controversially, I argue that if we are serious about decolonising, we need to take aim at the onto-epistemological foundations of migration studies as well.

Want to read more? Check out the link to [the full blogpost](#)



RHEA-member and holder of the Fatima Mernissi chair prof. dr. Iman Lechkar wrote an opinion piece entitled 'Murder on French Teacher Samuel Paty: How to stop the endless series of attacks?'

In this opinion piece Iman Lechkar reflects about the murder on the French Teacher on the 16th of October, and discusses the following question: how to create a more just society with less violence?

Want to read more? Check out the opinion piece written in Dutch in [De Wereld Morgen](#)

CALL FOR PAPERS

FUNDAMENTAL CHALLENGES TO EUROPEAN POLITICS: GENDER, RACE, INTERSECTIONALITY AND THE MORE-THAN-HUMAN



We invite scholars to send an abstract for the panel on 'Fundamental Challenges to European Politics: Gender, Race, Intersectionality, and the More-Than-Human', submitted by RHEA researchers Mariska Jung and Mihnea



Tanasescu for the European Conference on Politics and Gender (7-9 July 2021, University of Ljubljana).

Call for Papers for the #ECPG21 (European Conference on Politics and Gender, 7-9 July 2021, University of Ljubljana)

Want to know more? Check out the call for papers [via the RHEA website](#)

READING SESSIONS

DECOLONIAL AND CRITICAL APPROACHES TO MUSLIM STUDIES AND ISLAMOPHOBIA

Departing from a discussion on the connection between Islamophobia and racism in the modern world and its reverberation in Western epistemology, we will unpack the different trends in Muslim and Islamophobia Studies and exchange on the connections between Islam, racism and decolonization. Ultimately our aim is to stimulate an intellectual practice that allows for critical delinking from our Western episteme so as to reorient our gaze and efforts towards the decolonial perspectives that can be found in Islamicate practices and traditions.

This event is organized by MMRC (KULeuven), RHEA and Race & Research Network (VUB)

Time: 18 December 2020, 12 February 2021, 23 April 2021 & 18 June 2021.

Venue: the event will take place online

Attendance is free but registration is required via iman.lechkar@vub.be

NEW RHEA PUBLICATIONS

Dierickx, S. (2020). "‘With the Kanyaleng and the Help of God, You Don’t Feel Ashamed’: Women Experiencing Infertility in Casamance, Senegal." *Culture, Health & Sexuality*, November, 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13691058.2020.1833366>.

Halimi, M., Consuegra, E., Struyven, K., & Engels, N. (2020). Predicting adolescent gender role attitudes: Socio-demographic characteristics, family context, and school peer gender culture. *Tijdschrift voor Genderstudies*, 23(1), 51-72.

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>



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