



GENDER, DIVERSITY & INTERSECTIONALITY RESEARCH CENTRE

Spring Newsletter 2023

Join us for a flashback of Rhea's semester so far and a flash-forward to what is yet to come!

Content of the Newsletter:

Editor's Choice: Flashback to the Masterclass on sexuality and education with Dorottya Rédei

Highlight: Pictures of Gender week (*incl. link to an interview with the key-note speaker*)

Activities: Upcoming: Rhea Seminar Series with Dr. Chloé Janssen

New Members: Catherine Atahigwa & Hannelore Van Bavel

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Sexuality, Education and Activism

Rémy Bonny (Executive Director Forbidden colors) on the Masterclass by Dorottya Rédei

On the 29th of March, RHEA co-organized a Masterclass on sexuality and gender education. The class focused on the evolution of this education during the Orbán-legislation in Hungary and was given by Dorottya Rédei. Dorottya Rédei is a well-known Hungarian activist and laureate of the P&V Foundation Citizenship Award 2022.

Exclusively for the readers of our newsletter, RHEA spoke with Rémy Bonny, Executive Director of Forbidden-colours and introductory speaker at the event.

'We have been monitoring the anti-LGBTIQ+ movement in Europe. Unfortunately the Hungarian government plays an important role in it.'
– Rémy Bonny



How is Forbidden colours connected to the fight in Hungary?

As Brussels-based LGBTIQ+ organization we work on delivering human rights and democracy for LGBTIQ+ persons in Europe. We discovered the first attempt to introduce the anti-LGBTIQ+ propaganda law in 2021 in Hungary and brought it to the attention of the world media. For years, we have been monitoring the anti-LGBTIQ+ movement in Europe, and unfortunately the Hungarian government plays an important role in it.

(Above: Rémy Bonny at the event of 29/03)

We have been running an EU-wide campaign in cooperation with our Hungarian partner organizations to join an EU lawsuit against Hungary's anti-LGBTIQ+ law. 15 member states and the European Parliament agreed to our request to join the European Commission in the lawsuit. This makes it the largest lawsuit in the history of the EU in number of member states joining. It really shows that LGBTIQ+ rights belong to the core norms and values of the EU, and that we finally found a way to stand up for every queer person in the EU.

(article continues underneath picture)



Dorottya Rédei at the event of 29/03

'Achievements in human rights should never be taken for granted.' – Rémy Bonny

It is clear that a lot has changed in Hungary in a short period of time. If we should believe the polls, Belgium is also getting more polarized. According to you, how does that affect the future of LGBTIQ+-rights and visibility?

Anti-LGBTIQ+ attacks are no longer limited to Hungary in the EU. We've seen politicians becoming increasingly hostile towards the LGBTIQ+ communities in Poland, Italy, The Netherlands, France but also in Belgium. The far-right is becoming stronger everywhere. As LGBTIQ+ movement we need to more actively work on depolarization in society. If we don't stop this anti-democracy movement it will stay getting stronger, and LGBTIQ+ people will be the first

victims.

What were the most important takeaways from the Masterclass for you?

Achievements in human rights should never be taken for granted. Up to 2010, the Hungarian government was actually making progress on democracy and human rights, including LGBTIQ+ rights. In 2008, they were one of the first countries in the world to introduce registered partnerships for same-sex couples. But everything changed when Viktor Orban took over in 2010. One of the first things he did was changing the constitution by writing in it that marriage is a union between opposite sex partners. Later he banned legal gender changes, adoption by same-sex parents, etc. It shows that democracy and human rights should not take for granted. Next to fighting for equality, we, as democrats, must also work on our resilience.

Highlight: Gender week

6/03 - 11/03

Gender week is all about highlighting different struggles against marginalization based on gender. This year's edition was no exception! From a sold-out lecture about the uprising in Iran to cinematic evenings by Crosstalks VUB: Gender week 2023 had it all.

RHEA organized three events: on the Iranian uprising, online misogyny and the possible demedicalisation of abortion. For the inaugural Machteld De Metsenaere lecture on Iran we even had a full house! You can read the interview with keynote speaker Ladan Rahbari by the World Needs You VUB below.

We hope these pictures remind you of/get you into the Gender week atmosphere!

Read the interview!





Activities

Re-introducing: RHEA Seminar series

At the end of the Winter semester, we restarted our RHEA Seminar series. This series is all about creating a stage for RHEA researchers to present their new work and get input from the audience.

Bring your lunch and join us on the 24th of April for the next session with Dr. Chloé Janssen, at 12:30!

You can find Chloé Janssen's abstract and all information on our Event page.

RHEA Events

RHEA SEMINAR SERIES

24/04 - 12:30 - PL.5.2.03



CHLOÉ JANSSEN

Eurostat survey on gender-based violence: capturing accurate data



New members

Catherinee Atahigwa (PhD)

Catherinee Atahigwa is a Ph.D. scholar on the UCOBS project 4. Her PhD research study will be focusing on **gender mainstreaming** in the implementation of Community-Based Sustainable Solutions to Demographic Challenges in Southwestern Uganda. The study will examine the context and pipeline for advancing **women's equitable representation**.



Find out more about Catherinee on our
website: <https://rhea.research.vub.be/catherinee-atahigwa>



Dr. Hannelore Van Bavel (Postdoc)

Dr. Hannelore Van Bavel is currently a postdoctoral researcher in the Anthropology Department at the University of Bristol. She is joining RHEA for a research project funded by a **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action Postdoctoral Fellowship**, that will focus on **female genital plastic surgeries** (FGPS) in Belgium and the Netherlands.

Find out more about Hannelore on our
website: <https://rhea.research.vub.be/hannelore-van-bavel>



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