

Call for papers – Colloquium

And yet it moves!

**Revolutions and Transformations in Gender Studies
20 years of the Atelier Genre(s) et Sexualité(s)**

December 15-16, 2025 - Université libre de Bruxelles

Between emergence, institutionalization and reassessment, gender and sexuality studies have continued to mutate, transform and question the humanities and social sciences in the last decades. These developments have provoked reactions, criticism and resistance both inside and outside the academic arena. Gender studies, as much as gender itself, is on the move. For its twentieth anniversary, the “[Atelier Genre\(s\) et Sexualité\(s\)](#)” (AGS) research center at the Université Libre de Bruxelles intends to promote Belgian research in gender and sexuality studies, and reflect on recent developments, at an **interdisciplinary colloquium to be held in Brussels from December 15 to 16, 2025**. By taking a retrospective look and presenting future prospects for research in this field, this colloquium will put into dialogue papers by young researchers from French- and Dutch-speaking Belgian universities with established researchers who have passed through the AGS. This bilingual French-English colloquium will examine current research on gender and sexuality through five main themes presented below and a round-table. Each panel will be chaired and discussed by an actual or former member of the AGS.

Panel 1 - Consent without constraints: « I'll tell you what I want, what I really, really want »

Discussant: Amandine Lauro (FNRS/ULB)

Since the #MeToo movement, the question of consent, in relation to sexual violences, has become a major object of feminist demands; it has also acquired growing legitimacy in the media, public and political spheres. To question these recent developments and their trajectory, this panel aims to historicize and problematize the notion of consent through its practices, modalities and discourses. We invite papers to examine various critical approaches to consent, including (but not limited to) its articulation with gender inequalities and power relations, with sexual norms, with the injunction to pleasure and performance, and with issues of freedom and constraint. We also encourage this panel to question the limits set by the notion of consent, in view of the implicit nature associated with it and the “grey areas” that the use of this notion tends to produce.

Panel 2 – Ministry of gender

Discussant: Piotr Godzisz (Leicester University)

Secretariats of State, ministries, official bodies or subsidized structures, at various levels (local, national, supranational): gender has definitely made its entry into policy and policy-making - albeit under sometimes indirect names ('equal opportunities', 'equality between women and men', 'women and family', 'anti-discrimination', etc.). The opportunities and constraints offered by this public policy approach are many and

changing. They also have repercussions for civil society and its organization, from the most informal levels of grassroots activism to more formal structures that have become institutionalized or NGO-ized. Dialogue between activists and institutions, forms of collective action, negotiation between co-optation and contestation, or lobbying and advocacy strategies: does gender remain a critical tool when it meets institutional policy?

Panel 3 - The body in substance

Discussant: Aurélie Aromatario (FNRS/ULB)

As gender studies developed in the 2000s, the social sciences began to renew their interest in corporeality. While some conceptual currents envision the body as too cumbersome an object for gender studies, which should be confined to subjectivity, imaginary or cultural aspects, a number of social science studies have shown that the body does indeed deserve to be analysed through the prism of gender. Biotechnologies, sexuality or reproduction: the gendered body is traversed, shaped and conditioned by a variety of endogenous and exogenous substances that call for the boundaries between sex and gender to be made more complex.

Panel 4 – Make gender great again!

Discussant: David Berliner (ULB)

The changes in intimacy since #metoo invite us to consider the evolution of gender relations within the couple and the family, also in its 'nostalgic' aspect. The metamorphosis of the norms of intimacy has given rise to protests and numerous debates based on the feeling that traditional moral values and benchmarks have been lost, advocating for a return to the 'natural' gender order: masculinists, tradwives and anti-gender movements are emblematic of these nostalgic expressions. This panel proposes to examine the temporal dialectics of the gender order, as well as the multiple incarnations of nostalgia in the rejection of the political trajectory of gender by certain groups or individuals.

Panel 5 – From the bedroom to the streets: sex/collective(s)

Discussant: Ahmed Hamila (Université de Montréal)

The adoption of a lens attuned to gender and sexuality inequalities has reshaped the analysis of social struggles in social movement studies. These approaches have highlighted the internal hierarchies, tensions, and intersections that structure grassroots activism, particularly within feminist and LGBTI+ movements. They have also deepened the exploration of subjectivisation processes and activist trajectories while shedding light on the transnationalisation of social movements and their shift toward new arenas of contention, such as digital spaces. In the context of rising conservatism and evolving mobilisation dynamics, this panel invites reflection on the theoretical, empirical and methodological contributions of the dialogue between gender studies and social movement studies, as well as the innovative perspectives it offers for analysing contemporary social struggles.

Round-table: Gender and Sexuality Studies at the Crossroads: Challenges, Resistance, and Possibilities

With Alexandra Ana (Université de Montréal), Gustavo Gomes da Costa Santos (Universidade Federal de Pernambuco), Cathy Herbrand (De Montfort University) and Ov Cristian Norocel (Lunds Universitet).

Chair : David Paternotte (ULB)

How to submit a proposal ?

Proposals for papers should be sent by April 9 at the latest to the following e-mail address: ags@ulb.be, mentioning "Proposition Colloque AGS" in the subject line.

Proposals, in French or English, should not exceed 300 words, and should be accompanied by a short biographical sketch (including e-mail address, institutional affiliation, discipline(s), status, main research themes) and a title. They will present a problematic, the field data mobilized and the methodology. A reply will be sent by April 15.

The study days will take place on December 15 and 16, 2025 at the Université libre de Bruxelles.

Organizing Committee:

Aurélie Aromatario (ULB), Aurélie Bouvart (ULB), Lyna Botte (ULB), Anne-Sophie Crosetti (ULB), Rodrigo Cruz (ULB), Alexandre Donnen (ULB), Leila Fery (ULB), Ugo Laquière (UNIL), Amandine Lauro (ULB), David Paternotte (ULB), Olivier Stift (ULB)

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