

Biennial Report of ESA Research Network 23 – Sexuality

This report covers the period October 2017 until August 2019.

Name/email of outgoing Board

Coordinator: Chiara Bertone, University of Eastern Piedmont, Alessandria, Italy,
chiara.bertone@unipmn.it

Co-coordinator: Agata Stasińska, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland,
astasinska@psych.pan.pl

Board members:

- Daniel Cardoso, Universidade Lusófona de Humanidades e Tecnologias, Portugal, danielcardoso@gmail.com
- Eleanor Formby, University of Sheffield, UK, E.Formby@shu.ac.uk
- Beatrice Gusmano, University of Coimbra, Portugal, beatricegusmano@ces.uc.pt
- Sebastian Mohr, Karlstad University, Sweden, Sebastian.Mohr@kau.se
- Liliia Pankratova, Saint Petersburg University, Russia, lilia.pank@gmail.com
- Mara Pieri, University of Coimbra, Portugal, marapieri@ces.uc.pt

Name/email of incoming Board

Coordinator: Isabel Crowhurst, University of Essex (UK), icrow@essex.ac.uk

Co-coordinator: Sebastian Mohr, Karlstad University, Sweden,
Sebastian.Mohr@kau.se

Board members:

- Daniel Cardoso, Universidade Lusófona de Humanidades e Tecnologias, Portugal, danielcardoso@gmail.com
- Eleanor Formby, University of Sheffield, UK, E.Formby@shu.ac.uk
- Christian Klesse, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK, c.klesse@mmu.ac.uk
- Stefan Ossmann, University of Vienna, Austria, stefan.ossmann@univie.ac.at
- Mara Pieri, University of Coimbra, Portugal, marapieri@ces.uc.pt

RN members

According to the data available at the ESA website, RN23 has presently 71 members.

Network activity

For the elections of the new Coordinators and Board of the RN, a call for candidates was issued before the Manchester conference. All candidates were elected at the Manchester Conference RN23 business meetings.

The Board worked through Skype meetings and had its Jisc mailing list as main channel of communication with members, to share information on call for papers, publications, public initiatives and other activities relevant to the Network. It also updated its Facebook page, and created a Twitter account.

The main activity carried out by the Network was the organization of its Midterm Conference.

2019 RN23 Midterm Conference, Krakow

The conference was organized by the RN 23 Sexuality Network in cooperation with the Institute of Sociology, Jagiellonian University in Krakow.

The Call for papers was distributed among members of RN 23 Sexuality and beyond. We also sent the cfp to other research networks and several sexuality related international mailing lists, besides social media (Facebook and Twitter).

We received 110 abstracts, some of them were co-authored by two people or more. Each abstract underwent two reviews from members of the Board and the local organizing committee. We accepted 63 presentations, giving priority to securing time for presentation and discussion. Overall, the conference participants were 91.

For the roundtables and keynotes, we hosted 3 guests and covered selected costs. We also invited guests for special events.

The registration fee was: ESA Members € 45, Non-Esa members € 50, Solidarity fee € 70.

We are very happy with how the conference went. We were able to host it in a country which is currently in a difficult situation considering the rights and social situation of sexual minorities and is one of the places where gender battles are the most heated. Nevertheless, the local community of both academics and activist involved in gender and sexuality social research is very strong and vivid, therefore, we are very pleased to be able to integrate them in European sociological discussions upon these topics. We were able to cooperate with very professional scholars from the Institute of Sociology, Jagiellonian University who are not only recognized researchers in the field but also experienced conference organizers. The local organizing committee, which was coordinated by the Network co-coordinator, secured local funding, set up a webpage and commissioned a graphic project which was highly appreciated and contributed to gathering attention to the Conference.

The conference received high interest, therefore, we were able to select high-quality presentations. The presenters came from over 15 different countries from Europe and beyond, with a strong presence of scholars from Central and Eastern Europe and Southern Europe. We have organized 17 thematic parallel sessions and two plenary discussions. We also introduced different forms of discussion, in particular a workshop which was strongly appreciated. The budget allowed us to provide lunches to the presenters, therefore there was more time for the presenters to talk and socialize, and we could organize the time of the conference more effectively. We organized two social events. The first one included a meeting with activists from Belarus and with representatives of a local NGO that works for non-heterosexual people with disabilities. The second one was a community breakfast for participants of the conference who stayed in Cracow after the conference. These events were key to the success of the conference, allowing for scholars from more marginalised countries in scholarship on sexuality to get a platform to share their work and build networks. We provided online evaluation for the participants and received positive and constructive feedback.

2019 ESA Conference: RN23 Sessions

In preparing the 2019 ESA Conference, the Board and the coordinators contributed to the organization of the semi-plenary proposed by ESA president Sue Scott, on *Sexual Citizenship in Europe and Beyond*.

For the RN23 sessions, the number of submitted abstracts (87) was slightly lower than the previous 2017 Conference (109), but, given their good quality, only two of them

were rejected. The reviewing process involved Board members and other long-time involved members of the Network. We decided to reject 13 papers, and accept 3 as distributed papers. The good quality of all presentations during the Conference reassured us about this choice. We had, however, 26 withdrawals. The actual presenters were 59, a similar number to the 58 of the previous conference - they were distributed in 15 sessions. At the Business Meeting, attendants expressed strong appreciation about the composition of the sessions, presenting a coherence that led to good discussions where key theoretical and methodological issues could also be addressed. In fact, a general rule for the sessions was to hold discussions of all papers in the end: thanks to the internal coherence of the sessions, and to the attention of the chairs, there did not seem to be issues of marginalised papers in the discussions. The Business Meeting was well attended. The new coordinators and board were elected, and the next Midterm Conference was announced: it will be held in Coimbra on September 24th and 25th.

Financial statement

The Midterm Conference was the only expense the Network engaged in, using € 1116 from membership fees, and € 2000 from ESA support (see Table 1).

Table 1. Budget for the Midterm Conference

Revenues	Amount
ESA support	2000
Money from membership fees used	1116
participation fees	3266
financial support from the host institution	2248
other source 1 (specify)	0
other source 2 (specify)	0
other source 3 (specify)	0
Total	8631
Expenses	Amount
keynote speakers: travel, accommodation	582
room rent	849
equipment rent	0
catering	3195
overhead fees	0
conference visual documentation	233
conference materials for participants	253
conference program design & printing	452
travel costs reimbursement	529
organization	2538
Total	8631

Publications

The Network did not produce own publications, but contributed to inform about members' publications through its mailing list.