

Academy in Exile
Gender Studies in Exile Workshop
November 9, 2020
10:00–15:30

10:00–10:15 Opening Remarks (Judit Takacs and Volker Heins)

10:15–10:45 Prof. Dr. Andrea Pető – **How to survive illiberal polypore science policy and laugh**

The talk discusses the lessons learned from deleting an accredited MA program in gender studies from the study list and CEU becoming an university in exile in Vienna. It offers an overview of the events and suggests new forms of resistance.

10:45–11:15 Assist. Prof. Aniko Gregor – **From Rising Star to Fallen Angel: A Complex Reconstruction of the Role of “Gender” in Becoming a Political Target in Hungary**

The presentation will provide a complex and provocative analysis of how and why became "gender" a political target in Hungary. My aim is to go beyond the existing explanations (let them be either the culturalist and Western-centric "backlash" explanation or others that emphasize the symbolic meanings of "gender" in a neoliberal context), and shift the focus more to those historical processes in which the term has arrived and started its carrier in the academia, (feminist, and then later LGBT) activism and policy-making. The novelty of this presentation stands, first, in questioning the innocence of “gender” in becoming a political target and, second, in arguing for a more self-reflexive understanding of the events among gender scholars by taking a closer look at the local history of gender studies as part of a modernizing discourse.

11:15–11:45 Discussion

11:45–12:00 Break

12:00–12:30 Assist. Prof. Alexander Kondakov – **Gender Studies and Queer Theory in Russia**

It has been almost a decade by now as Russian government has been after gender and queer studies in universities. Although this field of research had never been very well established in post-Soviet Russia, it amassed many research centres and individual scholars by the beginning of 2010s. Yet, with a direct attack on the field, especially after the introduction of ‘gay propaganda’ law in 2013, its fate remains shaky. In this presentation, I will sketch my own experience of gender and queer studies research and teaching in Russia. My aim will be to contextualise the field in a broader political context.

12:30–13:00 Assoc. Prof. Phillip Ayoub – **Movement/countermovement interaction and instrumental framing in a multi-level world: rooting Polish lesbian and gay activism** (co-author: Agnès Chetaille)

Drawing on fieldwork with Polish civil society actors, Phillip Ayoub and Agnès Chetaille use content analysis to trace the trajectory of the lesbian and gay (LG) movement's frames, showing that they are shaped by ongoing movement/countermovement interactions, as well as the multi-level discursive context in which they operate. They show how external discursive opportunities surrounding European Union accession shaped the frames of both the movement and its opposition around similar resonant themes, though with distinct interpretations. The countermovement converged around a frame of external forces imposing values on the nation – largely in a differentiated response to the international human rights frames touted by the LG movement initially. The LG movement responded strategically by emphasizing its Polishness in frames that signal a far more rooted politics of sexuality than before.

13:00–13:30 Discussion

13:30–13:45 Break

13:45–14:15 Dr. rer. soc. Halyna Leontiy – **Polarization of Society: The Example of the Expansion of EU Directives on Ensuring Human Rights of Sexual Minorities**

This project studies the effects of EU Directives on ensuring human rights of sexual minorities (LGBTIQ) and their expansion in the context of the liberalization of sexual cultures and identities – due to the ongoing weakening of gender binaries – in five European countries, Germany, Austria, Croatia, Serbia, and Ukraine. Social and political events prove that the establishment of human rights of sexual minorities is not without conflict, especially when considered together with contemporary transformations in Europe such as migration, social change, and the 2004 enlargement of the EU. The expansion of human rights rather creates new lines of conflicts, which lead to protest movements and massive polarization of European societies on various levels. This is especially true for the homophobia that proves to be divisive as it strengthens old lines of conflict and creates new ones. Through this transnational research, we pursue the following questions, to what extent these effects of polarization pose a threat to living together in Europe, and how we can counteract them. Focusing on homophobia, we investigate socio-political, historical, and cultural contexts, in which homophobia is politically used by various parties for different ends. We also study how issues related to sexual cultures, rights, and identities are discussed on different levels.

14:15–14:45 Dr. Olga Hünler – **Where do we go from here? Brief History of Gender Studies in Turkey and in Exile: (Im)Possibilities, difficulties, and opportunities**

The first women's studies center opened at İstanbul University in 1989, and strategic objectives to support women's research centers of the Beijing Declaration encouraged Turkish universities to open similar facilities. The numbers of centers started to increase during the 2000s, in which several private/foundation universities began to function as well. After the coup attempt, gender studies were also affected by the draconian infringements on higher education.

In this paper, I will summarize the history of gender studies in Turkey with a specific focus on interferences and oppressions from the AKP government and the university administrations and GONGOs. Finally, possibilities and the challenges of "exilic gender studies" will be discussed via the researchers' exilic experiences.

14:45–15:15 Discussion

15:15–15:30 Closing Remarks – What is next?

Presenter Bios

Phillip M. Ayoub is Associate Professor of Diplomacy and World Affairs at Occidental College. He is the author of *When States Come Out: Europe's Sexual Minorities and the Politics of Visibility* (Cambridge University Press, 2016) and his articles have appeared in *Comparative Political Studies*, *Political Research Quarterly*, the *European Journal of Political Research*, the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, the *European Journal of International Relations*, *Mobilization*, the *European Political Science Review*, the *Journal of Human Rights*, *Social Politics* and *Social Movement Studies*, among others. Further information can be found under: www.phillipmayoub.com

Anikó Gregor PhD is a sociologist. Currently, she works as a part-time assistant professor at ELTE University, Budapest. Between 2014 and 2020, first, as a program developer and later as a vice program director, she was in charge of the Hungarian-speaking Gender Studies MA program at ELTE, Faculty of Social Sciences. Between 2019 and 2020, she participated as a research fellow at FU, Berlin, in the Academy in Exile program.

Olga Hünler received her Ph.D. from Middle East Technical University. During her Ph.D., she was a visiting researcher at the European Research Centre on Migration and Ethnic Relations, Utrecht, the Netherlands for a year. After completing her Ph.D. Thesis (in December 2007) on the psychological integration of newcomer Turkish immigrants in the Netherlands, she has worked as an Assistant Professor at a private university in Turkey until 2016. Between 2016 and 2019, she was granted the Philipp Schwartz Fellowship founded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, and she was hosted at the Bremen University, Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, Germany. Since August 2019, she is a fellow of Academy in Exile's Critical Thinking Residency Program at Freie Universität Berlin, Germany.

Alexander Sasha Kondakov, PhD, is an assistant professor at the School of Sociology, University College Dublin (Ireland). His truly international experience includes editing the *Journal of Social Policy Studies* published by the Higher School of Economics in Moscow (Russia), studying at the International Institute for the Sociology of Law in Spain, and holding research positions at the University of Helsinki's major research center in Russian and Eurasian studies, Aleksanteri Institute (Finland), Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars in Washington, DC, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the United States. Kondakov's work focuses on law and sexuality studies and has been published in such journals as *Sexualities*, *Social & Legal Studies*, *Feminist Legal Studies*, and *European Journal of Criminology*.

Halyna Leontiy is a cultural and interactional sociologist. Her main research topics are intercultural, migration, multilingualism and diversity. Since 01.11.2019 she has been a guest researcher at the Interdisciplinary Centre for Integration and Migration Research (InZentIM) at the University of Duisburg-Essen, from where she develops new international research projects. The cooperation project about the impact of EU policy on the human rights of sexual minorities on European societies starts on December 1st 2020 and should lead to an EU joint project.

Andrea Pető is Professor in the Department of Gender Studies at Central European University, Budapest, Hungary and a Doctor of Science of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. She has written six monographs, edited thirty-one volumes and her works on gender, politics, Holocaust and war have been translated into 23 languages. In 2018 she was awarded the 2018 All European Academies (ALLEA) Madame de Staël Prize for Cultural Values. She is Doctor Honoris Causa of Södertörn University, Stockholm, Sweden.