



Transgender
Luxembourg



LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère de la Santé

ANNOUNCEMENT

International Scientific Congress

Gender Normativity and its Effects on Childhood and Adolescence

Under the Patronage of M. Mars di Bartolomeo, Minister of Health

September 24th – 29th, 2012

Luxembourg

Context

Beginning before birth, gender norms influence us throughout our lives. These norms are reflected in our behaviours and social interactions. Starting in childhood, gender norms are communicated via a wide range of individuals and structures including parents and other family members, schools and peer groups. Young people are encouraged to engage in behaviour corresponding to typical gender roles. Those who do not present the desired behaviours are often corrected, if not sanctioned, “for their own sake”. It must be considered, however, that others decide what is ‘best’ for them – not youth themselves. To justify their transmission of gender norms, parents and others most often indicate fear of exclusion or discrimination directed towards a gender non-conforming child. In this way, parents and other guardians are involved in stabilizing a system of exclusion and discrimination in that they do not challenge gender norms, but also because they react by correcting and sanctioning gender non-conforming behaviours. Within this context, certain questions arise: To what extent do these norms constitute a necessary or appropriate frame for raising young people? What are the effects of gender norms on “girls”, “boys” and “other” youth? These “other” children, largely invisible, are often ignored within their own families, among peers and in school systems.

These issues introduce additional questions: To what extent should youth be free to express their own identities? How might we help parents to support their “gender-variant” children and what roles might systems of education and child rearing play? What ethical issues do professionals ask themselves when they work with gender-variant young people? Which norm-diverging behaviours are pertinent to psychiatry?

It is clear that these questions about the necessity and relevance of the content and implementation of gender norms extend beyond the individual level, and should take into account societal dimensions. The vulnerability of youth is especially important here.

Until now, discursive efforts to justify the enforcement of traditional gender norms have been typically based on an alleged binary with two clearly differentiated “complementary” biological sexes. It is assumed that people take on both a social gender role and a distinct, culturally influenced gender identity based on biological sex characteristics. As a consequence, gender norms are explained via biology, and gender specific child rearing is understood to be necessary for healthy psychosocial development. Thus, an additional issue to consider is what it means when biological features that have been considered by the collective conscience to be nearly unchangeable continue to be among the fundamental principles of social and societal systems.

These assumed sex and gender binaries - and all that come with them - have been raised to norms that are considered universal and are involved in shaping the entire socio-cultural system. Particular attention must be paid to the fields of law and medicine – two professional domains that are granted social power and authority and are themselves involved in “correcting” deviations and stabilizing norms.

A glance at the everyday situation in Luxemburg and in other western European countries paints a picture of plurality. Single parent families, children of divorced parents, patchwork families, same sex parents, transgender parents and transgender children are not exceptions; they should instead be understood as parts of a changing, varied and multi-faceted normative spectrum.

The increasingly apparent gap between accepted norms around sex, gender and sexuality on the one side, and the plurality of different ways of living on the other, could be resolved by softening the rigidity of gender norms. Correction and sanctioning could be replaced with respect for and recognition of others and other ways of being. Social exclusion and discrimination would be abolished by integration. Deviating from norms would no longer be devalued or considered taboo, and would instead be valued and incorporated as variations in a diverse society. This would all help guide us to better understand the continuum of behaviours across gender roles and gender identities – beyond “feminine” and “masculine” – and to open new spaces for both young people and adults. These developments should not be limited to the areas of gender and sexuality; they should also be applied to aspects of class, race/ethnicity, disability and age – dimensions that also lead to social exclusion and discrimination.

Conference Aims

This conference will examine, above all, gender norms and their manifestations during development and education. Gender non-conforming youth and children of gender non-conforming parents remain at the core of this debate. Issues surrounding sexual orientation will be an additional focus. The conference will also critically explore ideas about what is “best” for a child, who defines this “best” and who knows what is “best”.

In addition, the conference will provide space for a result-oriented debate about how to improve familial and social incorporation of gender non-conforming youth into prevailing gender norms. It will consider ways to expand the spectrum of recognition regarding variability across biological sex, gender identities, social roles and sexual orientations, as well the ways in which they all interact.

Discourse about gender equality has focused primarily on people who exist within the binary and polarized “feminine – masculine” gender norms. Thus, the diversity of gender identities is not discussed. Given this backdrop, another goal of the conference is to expand the discussion about gender equality to include youth who evade prevailing gender norms. Results and conclusions from the conference will help to provide possible solutions for improving equality, especially in the realms of formal and informal education.

The conference will provide both a space for professionals working on issues of sex and/or gender to exchange information and experience, and a forum for family members of gender variant children, but it will also be accessible and open for a wider audience. The conference offers profession-specific workshops and workshops for parents and youth. Discussions and developments with regards to “good practices” will be a focus of the conference. Intersex issues will also be addressed via lectures and training programs for midwives, a range of doctors and psychologists as well as via a film on intersexuality with a post-film discussion where representatives of the political parties in Luxemburg will be present.

The conference is complete with a short film program developed especially for this event. The end of the conference will be reserved for youth; it will provide them with an opportunity to engage with the topic of “gender norms” creatively and in interaction with one another.

Mittwoch, 26. September 2012: Opening event at the Abbaye de Neumünster, Luxembourg

- 14.30 - 15.00 Welcoming
Rolf TARRACH, President of the University of Luxembourg
Christel BALTES-LÖHR, Gender representative of the University of Luxembourg
Erik SCHNEIDER, spokesperson of Transgender Luxembourg
- 15.00 - 15.30 Jean-Paul LEHNERS, historian, Research Unit: IPSE (*Identités. Politiques. Sociétés. Espaces*), holder of the UNESCO Chair on Peace and Human Rights, University of Luxembourg
Gender Identities and Human Rights
- 15.30 - 16.00 Charles GOERENS, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (tbc)
- 16.00– 17.00 Eric FASSIN, sociologist, professor at the University of Paris 8, researcher at the Institute of Interdisciplinary Research on Social Issues (Social Sciences, Politics and Health) (IRIS), France, fr*
The Sexual Continuum and its Categorisations: From Social Norms to Scientific Representations and Back
- 17.00 – 18.00 **Debate**

PLENARY SESSIONS at the Abbaye de Neumünster, Luxembourg

Thursday, September 27th, 2012

PLENARY SESSION 1: Gender Normativity and Biology

Chair

Evelyne PEYRE, biologist, paleo-anthropologist, Laboratory: Ecological Anthropology and Ethnobiology, *Muséum national d'histoire naturelle*, National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), France, fr*

- 9h30 - 10h15 **Genes, Sexual Dimorphism and Behaviour**
François TRONCHE, biologist, Research Unit: Molecular Genetics, Neurophysiology and Behavior, National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), France, fr*
- 10h15 - 11h00 **Sexualizing Anatomy**
Sylvie DEPLUS, hospital practitioner in ophthalmology and associate professor in anatomy, University of Paris Diderot-Paris 7, France, fr*
- 11h00 - 11h15 Coffee Break
- 11h15 - 12h00 **The Biological Conceptualisation of the Body in Encyclopaedias for Children**
Christine DETREZ, assistant professor in sociology, *École normale supérieure de Lyon*, France, fr*
- 12h00 - 12h30 **Discussion**
Lead by Joëlle WIELS, biologist, geneticist, Laboratory: Signaling, nuclei and innovations in oncology, National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), France, fr*
- 12h30 - 14h30 Lunch Break

PLENARY SESSION 2: Gender Normativity and Becoming an Adult

Chair

Claus VÖGELE, psychologist, Faculty of Language and Literature, Humanities, Arts and Education, University of Luxembourg

- 14h30 - 15h15 **The Importance of the Quality of Bonding between Parents and Children for Development**
Karin WEYER, psychologist, *KaSu-Institut*, Luxemburg, de*
- 15h15 - 16h00 **Sex Inequalities: How to sensitize?**
Cendrine MARRO, psychologist, lecturer, University of Paris Ouest, Nanterre-La Défense, France, fr*
- 16h00 - 16h15 Coffee Break
- 16h15 - 17h00 **Transgender Children: The Epistemology of their Closets**
Natacha KENNEDY, former primary school teacher, lecturer at Goldsmiths College, University of London, United Kingdom, en*
- 17h00 - 18h00 **Discussion**
Lead by Isabelle COLLET, associated professor in Education, *Institut universitaire de formation des enseignants*, University of Geneva, Switzerland
- 18h30 Tour through the city of Luxemburg

Friday, September 28th, 2012

PLENARY SESSION 3: Gender Normativity and Medical, Legal and Ethical Questions

Chair

Paul KREMER, philosopher, National Commission on Ethics, Luxemburg

- 9h00 - 9h30 **An Unusual Way to Talk about Gender**
T. TRILLET, France, fr*
- 9h30 - 10h15 **Hormonal Treatment of Transsexual Adolescents**
Achim WÜSTHOF, paediatrist and endocrinologist, *Endokrinologikum Hamburg*, Germany, de*
- 10h15 – 10h30 Coffee Break
- 10h30 - 11h15 **Minority and Trans-Identity under French Law**
Philippe REIGNÉ, professor of Law, *Conservatoire national des arts et métiers*, France, fr*
- 11h15- 12h00 **The Protection of Intersex and Trans-Identified Children in Light of International and European Fundamental Rights Law. A Look at Luxembourgian Law**
Antonella SALERNO, doctor in law, partner in the law firm C&S, Cortese Salerno, International and European Law, Luxemburg, fr*
- 12h00 - 13h30 Lunch Break
- 13h30 - 14h15 **Legal and Ethical Issues regarding Medical Acts of Sexual “Conformation” among Minors**
Benjamin MORON-PUECH, doctoral student of law, University of Panthéon Assas, France, fr*
- 14h15 - 15h00 **Cuba: A revolution in sexualities, genders and bodies**
Mariela CASTRO ESPÍN, President of the National Center of Sexual Education (CENESEX), Cuba, en*
- 15h00 - 15h15 Coffee Break
- 15h15 - 16h00 **Debate and Conclusions**
Lead by Philippe REIGNÉ, professor of Law, *Conservatoire national des arts et métiers*, France, fr*
Christel BALTES-LÖHR, Gender Representative from the University of Luxemburg, Research Group: Gender-Studies, Research Unit: IPSE (Identités, Politiques, Sociétés, Espaces), Faculty of Language and Literature, Humanities, Arts and Education, University of Luxemburg
Erik SCHNEIDER, psychiatrist and psychotherapist, Luxemburg

- 17h00 – 20h30 **Evening debate on intersex issues**
 Languages: French/German (simultaneous translation)
In cooperation with the Centre for Equal Treatment
- Moderator:** Sonja KMEC, historian, University of Luxembourg
- 17h – 17h30 **Opening:** Nathalie MORGENTHALER, Centre for Equal Treatment, Luxembourg
- 17h30 – 18h **Introduction** by Vincent GUILLOT, trainer, social worker, spokesperson of the Organisation Intersex International (OII) for French-Speaking countries, France
- 18h – 19h30 Debate with Claude ADAM (Déi Gréng), Marc Angel (Lëtzebuenger Sozialistesche Aarbechterpartei, LSAP), Jean COLOMBERA (Alternativ Demokratesch Reformpartei, ADR), Christine DÖRNER (Chrëschtlech Sozial Vollekspartei, CSV), Colette Mart (Demokratesch Partei, DP), David WAGNER (Déi Lénk)
- 19h30 – 20h30 **Final Discussion**

WORKSHOPS for specific persons and professional groups

Monday, September 24th, 2012

- 14h00 - 17h30 **Workshop 1 for Students and Professionals of Social Work, Law, Education or Teaching: "Trans Youth and Discrimination: Are new approaches necessary?";** Language: German
Organised as part of the Bachelor of Social Sciences and Education at the University of Luxembourg
 Charel SCHMIT, Faculty of Language and Literature, Humanities, Arts and Education, University of Luxembourg
 Mari GÜNTHER, social worker, systems therapist and counselor (SG), family therapist (BIF Berlin), *Queer leben - Schwulenberatung* Berlin, Germany
 Erik SCHNEIDER, psychiatrist and psychotherapist, Luxembourg
- Location: University of Luxembourg, Walferdange Campus, Route de Diekirch, Walferdange**

Tuesday, September 25th, 2012

- 9h00 - 12h00 **Workshop 2 for Child Care Professionals with a Degree in Education or Pedagogy (youth 0-12 years old); "Educational opportunities for all: Girls, boys and everyone else. Educators in the field exchanging praxis-oriented experiences regarding gender and knowledge aboutgender";** Languages: German/French
 Christel BALTES-LÖHR, Gender Representative from the University of Luxembourg, Research Group: Gender-Studies, Research Unit: IPSE (*Identités, Politiques, Sociétés, Espaces*), Faculty of Language and Literature, Humanities, Arts and Education, University of Luxembourg
 Helene DÜRLINGER, doctoral student, Faculty of Language and Literature, Humanities, Arts and Education, University of Luxembourg
- Location: Abbaye de Neumünster**
- 9h00 - 12h00 **Workshop 3 for Child Care Professionals with a Degree in Education or Pedagogy (teenagers up to 18 years old) "Young Transgender: Does gender identity belong to/is part of homosexuality?";** Language: French
 Stéphanie NICOT, certified teacher, *Association Nationale Transgenre* (ANT - National Transgender Association), LGBT Federation, France
- Location: Abbaye de Neumünster**

- 12h00 - 14h30 Lunch Break
- 14h30 – 16h30 **Workshop 4 for Midwives and Curative Pedagogues : “Intersex, a medical emergency? The challenges of a positive announcement to parents”**; Languages: French/German (simultaneous translation)
In cooperation with the Association Luxembourgeoise des Sages-Femmes (ALSF) and the Association Luxembourgeoise des Pédagogues Curatifs
 Opening : Marie Anne RODESCH-HENGESCH, ombudswomen for Children’s Rights
 Vincent GUILLOT, trainer, social worker, spokesperson of the Organisation Intersex International (OII) for French-Speaking countries, France
- Location: Abbaye de Neumünster**
- 14h30 - 17h00 **Workshop 5 for Teachers from Preschool, and Primary and Secondary Schools: “The sciences are for boys, the arts are for girls: Are other orientations possible?”**; language: French
In cooperation with Cid-femmes, women’s library and center of resources
 Isabelle COLLET, associated professor in Education, *Institut universitaire de formation des enseignants*, University of Geneva, Switzerland
- Location: Abbaye de Neumünster**
- 14h30 - 17h00 **Workshop 6 for Teachers from Preschool, and Primary and Secondary Schools: “Bullying, Homo- and Transphobia at school”**; language: French
 This workshop will be organised in cooperation with the Institute for Continuing Education - *Service de la Recherche et de l’innovation pédagogique et technologique (SCRIPT)*
 Stéphanie NICOT, certified teacher, *Association Nationale Transgenre (ANT - National Transgender Association)*, LGBT Federation, France
- Location: Abbaye de Neumünster**
- 17h30 – 19h00 **Workshop 7 for Parents: “My Child is Different: From Initial Reactions to Supporting the Child”**; Languages: French/German
In cooperation with the école des parents J. Korczak
 Opening: Jeannine SCHUMANN, coordinator of the *école des parents J. Korczak*
 Karin WEYER, psychologist, *KaSu-Institut*, Luxembourg
 Vincent GUILLOT, trainer, social worker, former spokesperson of the Organisation Intersex International (OII), France
- Location: Abbaye de Neumünster**
- 17h30 – 19h00 **Workshop 8 for Parents: "Alternative parenthoods in a transsexual context: How do children grow up in the light of shifting gender identities? What stabilizes whom, and how much stabilization is needed?"** Language: German/French
 Mari GÜNTHER, social worker, systems therapist and counselor (SG), family therapist (BIF Berlin), *Queer leben - Schwulenberatung* Berlin, Germany
 Sara PLEGER, Transgender Luxembourg
- Location: Abbaye de Neumünster**

Wednesday, September 26th, 2012

9h00 - 13h00 **Workshop 9 for Psychologists;** Language: French
With the support of the *Société luxembourgeoise de psychologie (SLP)*
“How to De-Dramatise the Experiences of Intersex Persons?”
Vincent GUILLOT, trainer, social worker, spokesperson of the Organisation Intersex International (OII) for French-Speaking countries, France
“Trans Identities among Youth between 10 and 20 Years Old”
Tom REUCHER, clinical psychologist, specialized in working with trans-identified and intersex persons, France

Location: Abbaye de Neumünster

19h00 - 21h00 **Workshop 10 for Youth 12-28 years old: “Self-Defence: a Gender Issue?”;**
Languages: French/German
Pol GODINHO, assistant instructor for children and adolescents at the *KARATE CLUB DE HESPERANGE*

Location: Jugendtreff Hesper, 365, rte de Thionville, L-5885 Hesperange

Friday, September 28th, 2012

19h00 - 21h00 **Workshop 11 for Youth 12-28 years old: “Gender and Thai boxing”**
Languages: French/German
Miki VUJOVIC, street worker and project coordinator for ‘Streetsport’

Location: Jugendtreff Hesper, 365, rte de Thionville, L-5885 Hesperange

Saturday, September 29th, 2012

9h00 - 17h00 **Workshop 12 for Medical Doctors: “Gender Normativity and Gender Identity”;**
Languages: French/German (simultaneous translation)
Moderation: Joëlle WIELS, biologist, geneticist, Laboratory: Signaling, nuclei and innovations in oncology, National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), France, fr*

9h00-09h15 **Opening**
09h15-10h00 **Trans-Identified Minors and Medical Treatment – Problematic Issues**
Erik SCHNEIDER, psychiatrist and psychotherapist, Luxembourg, de*

10h00-10h45 **Anatomically correct?**
Evelyne PEYRE, biologist, paleo-anthropologist, Laboratory: Ecological Anthropology and Ethnobiology, *Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle*, National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), France, fr*

10h45-11h30 **Discussion**
11h30-13h00 Lunch Break

13h00-13h45 **Civil Responsibility of Doctors and Treatment of Trans-Identified Persons: The example of the French legal system**

Philippe REIGNÉ, professor of Law, Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers, France, fr*
13h45-14h30 **“Diagnosis and Treatment” of the phenomena of trans-identities – are changes practically necessary?**

Cecilla DHEJNE, psychiatrists, medical sexologist, Center for Andrology and Sexual Medicine, Gender team Stockholm, Sweden, de*

14h30-15h00 Coffee Break

15h00-16h45 **Genetic or biological transgender parenting: a dream or a reality?**
Petra de SUTTER, gynaecologist, Centre for Reproductive Medicine, Ghent Hospital, Belgium, fr*

15h45-17h00 **Discussion and elaboration of best practices**

Location: Abbaye de Neumünster

Friday, October 26th, 2012

9h00-18h00	Workshop 13 for Medical Doctors: “Gender Normativity and Intersex Bodies”; With the support of the <i>Representation of the European Commission in Luxembourg</i> , <i>Initiativ Liewensufank, Luxembourg</i> and the <i>Verband Intersexuelle Menschen e.V., Germany</i> Languages: French/German (simultaneous translation) Moderation: Claudia LOHRENSCHEIT, professor in International Social Work and Human Rights, Hochschule für angewandte Wissenschaften, Coburg, Deutschland
9h00–9h30	Opening Georges BINGEN, chief of the representation of the European Commission in Luxembourg Maryse ARENDT, Project Head, <i>Initiativ Liewensufank</i> Lucie VEITH, President of the <i>Verband Intersexuelle Menschen e.V., Germany</i>
9h30–10h00	Introduction Erik SCHNEIDER, psychiatrist and psychotherapist, Luxembourg, de*
10h00–10h30	Biological Bases and Problematic Issues regarding Intersexuality Heinz-Jürgen VOSS, biologist, <i>Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg</i> , Institute for History and Medical Ethics, Germany, de*
10h30–11h00	Intersex - one's own realities according to one's own norms and nature Simôn ZOBEL, <i>Verband Intersexuelle Menschen e.V., Germany</i> , de*
11h00–11h30	Coffee Break
11h30–12h15	Who is inter- ? Who is sick ? Who decides ? Jörg WOWERIES, retired pediatrician, invited as an expert for the discussion on intersexuality conducted by the German ethics council, Germany, de*
12h15–13h00	Discussion
13h00–14h30	Lunch Break
14h30-15h15	Presentation of certain complex situations. Medical and legal questions Claire BOUVATTIER, youth endocrinologist, Centre for Research on Anomalies during Sexual Development, Hôpital Bicêtre, France, fr* Laurence BRUNET, Lawyer, Centre for law, science and technology, University of Paris-I, France, fr*
15h15–16h00	Discussion
16h00–16h30	Coffee Break
16h30– 7h15	Limits and potential of endocrinological treatment Annette RICHTER-UNRUH, youth endocrinologist, <i>Medizinisches Versorgungszentrum ENDOKRINOLOGIKUM Ruhr</i> , de*
17h15–18h00	Best Practices – what are the options?

Location: Maison de l’Europe, 7, rue du Marché-aux-Herbes, L-1728 Luxembourg

*Original language. Simultaneous interpretation into French (fr), German (de) and English will be guaranteed for plenary sessions but not for all workshops.

SHORT FILM PROGRAMM

During the entire congress and between the workshops, the attendees may watch a 45 minutes-shortfilm-programme created by Transgender Luxembourg and Reversed Pictures a.s.b.l., and realised by Reversed Pictures a.s.b.l.

LOCATIONS

- Abbaye de Neumünster, 28, rue Münster, L-2160 Luxembourg-Grund,
- Jugendtreff Hesper, 365, route de Thionville, L-5885 Hesperange,
- Université du Luxembourg, Campus Walferdange, route de Diekirch, L-7220 Walferdange
- Maison de l’Europe, 7, rue du Marché-aux-Herbes, L-1728 Luxembourg

CONTACT and ORGANISATION

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Gender representative

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INFORMATION and REGISTRATION:

For organizational reasons, registration is required. Due to space limitations, registration is highly recommended before September 20th, 2012

Registration is currently possible via email (tgluxembourg@gmail.com or christel.baltes-loehr@uni.lu) or via post:

Ass. Prof. Dr. Christel Baltes-Löhr

Université du Luxembourg

Campus Walferdange

B.P.: 2

L-7201 Walferdange

A confirmation will be sent to you upon receipt of your registration.

With support from:



MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉDUCATION NATIONALE
ET DE LA FORMATION PROFESSIONNELLE
Service de coordination de la recherche
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Initiativ
Liewensufank



Ombuds-
Comité
fir d' Rechter
vum Kand

