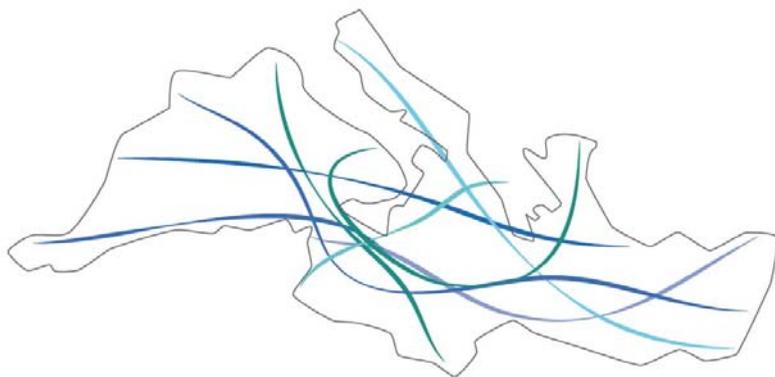


INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

*MEDITERRANEAN KNOWLEDGE*

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR STUDIES AND RESEARCH

GENDER, SEXUALITY,  
MIGRATION



UNIVERSITY OF SALERNO

14-15 NOVEMBER 2016



MEDITERRANEAN KNOWLEDGE

International Centre for Studies & Research

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## Presentation

The concept of “gender” has recently become one of the symbols best expressing what many now consider a clash of civilizations, *i.e.*, between the West and Muslim countries. Recent events – such as the case of the women assaulted by migrants in Cologne or the prohibition of burkinis on French beaches – highlight how gender issues are emblematic of the basic traits of a country’s culture, and thus constitute some of the elements allowing for the construction of dividing lines between cultures, arbitrarily distinguishing between the “evolved” and “backward” ones, therefore with the aim to establish demarcation lines between “Us” and the “Others”.

Gender studies usually employing a constructionist perspective have seldom dealt with the issue of migration by analysing the experiences of the migrants themselves. The few studies have highlighted how migrant’ gender and sexuality underline the persistence of a model of domination and alteration typical of the colonial era, emphasizing the social identity allocation mechanisms used by Western societies that follow essentialist visions of migrants’ ethnic and sexual identity, that is, of a social status considered as inferior and undesirable.

If studies concerning the condition of migrant women – where gender was observed through the lens of family experiences, particularly transnational motherhood – have increased in number in the last decade, reflections on “masculinity” and on the redefinition processes of male identity during the migration process, as well as investigations on the complexity faced by foreigners when meeting the different ways of understanding the “masculine” and conceiving “the experience of fatherhood” in the host society, are still few and far between.

Even more, the issue of migrants’ sexuality is given little attention, even though it is far from marginal, and it has never been a dimension about which the host society has wondered. The analyses are mostly focused on the victimization processes (such as for the issue of trafficking in women, prostitution, or genital mutilation), or control, as with the issue related to the reproductive health of migrant

women, but never on habits, practices, or the personal wishes of migrants.

These issues are critical, since studying sexuality means to study the social interactions between individuals, as well as the cultural categories shaping such interactions and at the same time deriving from them (think for example of marriage, or family). Also, research has only recently focused on subjects with non-normative sexuality, having assumed heterosexuality as a fact, thus not allowing to grasp the peculiar situations that arise from the interlacing of various vulnerability factors. An example can be the situation of the LGBT migrants, which can be considered as doubly stigmatized on the level of identity, by adding discreditable social visions on their ethnicity and culture to those on their non-normative sexual orientation.

There are several theoretical and methodological challenges calling for a perspective that takes into account the interconnection between gender, sexuality and migration. Studies on sexuality have now taken two roads, often strongly polarized and non-communicating between them: on the one hand, also because of the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, appeared a new generation of surveys on sexual behaviour of Western (and others) populations and on the changes in sexual behaviour along the main socio-economic and cultural fractures. On the other, a research trend on sexuality (New Sexuality Studies) has developed with mixed purposes, both analytical and critical-emancipatory ones. This branch, which focuses almost exclusively on the study of minority sexual subcultures, portrayed sexuality mostly through the lens of power and regarded with suspicion any attempt to develop a systematic and methodologically documented analysis of sexuality.

From these problems, the seminar aims to initiate a transdisciplinary reflection on such issues and sexuality, in part by reducing the clear vacuum in scientific research, and at the same time making an issue of sex, sexuality and the multiple identifications of gender *of* and *in* migration, involving migratory experiences both on the side of leaving a country and on that of arriving to another.

*Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>*

**Aula dei Consigli**

**14:30 – Welcome Speeches**

AURELIO TOMMASETTI  
Rector, University of Salerno, Italy

MAURIZIO SIBILIO  
Director, Department of Human, Philosophical and Education Sciences,  
University of Salerno

MARIA ROSARIA PELIZZARI  
Deputy Rector for Equal Opportunities, University of Salerno

EMILIANA MANGONE  
Director, International Centre for Studies and Research “Mediterranean  
Knowledge”

**15:00 – Keynote Speaker**

Chairperson: GIUSEPPE MASULLO – University of Salerno

SOUMAYA NAAMANE – University Hassan II Casablanca, Morocco  
*Les mutations sociales au Maroc et leur impact sur la sexualité*

**15:45 – Debate**

**16:00 – Session I, *Sexuality and Migration Studies***

CHAKIB GUESSOUS – Chair UNESCO “Migration et droits humains”,  
University Hassan II Casablanca, Morocco  
*Mutations sociales et sexualité des Marocains en migration*

VULCA FIDOLINI – UMR DynamE, University of Strasbourg, France  
*Masculinités, conduites sexuelles et transition vers l’âge adulte. Expé-  
riences de migration chez de jeunes Marocains en Italie et en France*

**17:15 – Debate and closing of Session**

*Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>*

**Aula dei Consigli**

**9:30 – Session II, *Migration, Diaspora and Women***

**Chairperson:** EMILIANA MANGONE – University of Salerno

MARINA CALDERÓN, ANDRÉS SANTAMARÍA & MANUEL L. DE LA MATA  
BENÍTEZ – University of Seville, Spain

*I-Positions and Voices in Self (re)construction of Migrant Women in Andalusia*

MAR GALLEGO – University of Huelva, Spain

*Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary Female Authors from the African Diaspora*

MAURA MISITI & PIETRO DEMURTAS – IRPPS-CNR of Rome, Italy

*FGM and other Harmful Practices : The Italian Approach*

**11:00 – Debate and closing of Session**

**11:15 – Coffee break**

**11:30 – Session III, *Gender and Social Recognition***

**Chairperson:** ANDREA S.A. BARBIERI – IRPPS-CNR of Rome

GIUSEPPE MASULLO – University of Salerno

*Les migrants LGBT dans le contexte italien: besoins non exprimés et manque de reconnaissance*

ASSIA GUEDJALI – CREAD, Algeria

*Les effets du genre dans les trajectoires migratoires estudiantines*

**12:30 – Debate and closing of Session**

**13:00 – Closing of Conference**





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