

EDITORIAL

This edition of LES Online is part of the proceedings of the [II European Geographies of Sexualities Conference](#) (Lisbon, September, 2013). The proceedings of the Conference are a joint collaboration of 3 online journals – [Les Online](#), [Revista Latino-Americana de Geografia e Gênero](#) and [Genre, Sexualité & Société](#). This joint publication aims to promote a network of publications on gender and sexualities.

This conference aimed to present research on geographies of sexualities. In the call for papers, we can read: “Sexualities have become a legitimate and significant area for geographical research, across different areas ranging from cultural, social and feminist geographies, to political and economic geographies. One of the main characteristics of studies on sexualities has been its critical and reflexive perspective, namely questioning hegemonies and modes of sexualised power relations. At the present time knowledge production still reflects some hegemonies that need to be challenged. The **II European Geographies of Sexualities Conference** wants to create a space of debate, discussion and questioning to explore **beyond hegemonies**.” The topics proposed to sessions and papers, were:

- The **hegemony of heterosexuality** in social relationships and everyday environments across all kind of different spaces;
- The **hegemony of western views** and the lack of research on sexualities in other social and cultural contexts are constraints in exploring cross-cultural variations on sexualities diversity and complexity;
- The **hegemony of English** in academic publishing; work on sexualities in diverse languages and from diverse cultural backgrounds, is not valued and therefore is not cited or rated, being pushed into a cycle of invisibility;
- The **dominance of large publishing companies** intertwined with economic aspects that control and decide which is or is not academic relevant, influencing jobs, careers and funding for research;
- The **hegemony of globalization** discourses; sexual citizenship relation to key sites of contemporary sexual politics and theoretical debates on sexuality in relation to consumption, space and globalization;
- The **male hegemony** both in academia power positions and valued knowledge production; intersections of gender and sexualities research;
- The **gender binary**; interpretations of space and sexuality;
- **Homonormativity** and other modes of sexualised power relations; consideration how sexual identities are constructed within class, race and ethnicity.

Contributions in a diverse range of formats were encouraged. Alongside traditional academic conference papers, panel discussions, open space discussions, film showings, installations and other contributions were welcomed. The conference aimed to foster networking, debate and discussions across national borders, across language communities, and across academic disciplines, and papers were accepted in Portuguese, Spanish, English and French.

The program of the II European Geographies of Sexualities Conference included: 3 plenary sessions; 32 sessions; 146 papers; a book launch session and a debate on “Modes of Mobilization: Academia, Activism and Tensional Existences”. There were 230 participants from 29 countries.

In line with the objectives of the conference the organizing committee decided to publish the proceedings in non-commercial open access journals. The papers published in the proceedings are in diverse languages considering that the conference was multilingual and participants were encouraged to present in the language they felt most comfortable with. In the case of LES Online all papers are in English; however the review process was not too rigorous on English proficiency taking into account that most authors are non-native speakers of English.

LES Online main objective is to promote studies and scientific research as well as intervention projects and opinion pieces related to different aspects of lesbian issues, however the papers included in this edition are not all papers on lesbian issues considering that they are part of the proceedings of the II European Geographies of Sexualities Conference. The papers included in this edition of LES Online were part of the following sessions: **Plenary Session** (*The LGBTI community in the 2011 Queensland floods: marginality, vulnerability and resilience*); **Sexual hegemonies and resistances** (*What can asexuality do for queer theories?*; *Social Constructionism, Hegemonic Heteronormativity and Bisexuality* and *The ideology of compulsory heterosexuality and the abiding pathologization of homosexuality– is it possible to have authentic recognition without the concepts of freedom and choice?*); **From Mono-Normative to Poly-Normative?** (*My Spivak is bigger than yours: (Mis-)representations of polyamory in the Portuguese LGBT movement and mononormative rhetorics*); **Trans* experiences, lives and geographies** (*The medicalization of intersexuality and the sex/gender binary system: the Italian case*); **Arts and Media** (*“Free Pussy Riot!” & Riot Grrrlsm: International Solidarity, or the Incorporation of the ‘Eastern Other’ into North/Western Discourses?* and *Transamerica and Queernormativity*); **Spaces, bodies and power** (*Same-Sex Relationships in Cameroonian Prisons: Perspectives of Female Inmates and Prison Staff Members*);

The Sexual Politics of Austerity: Queer everyday life in neoliberal times (*Homo Skin, Hetero Masks. A Representation of Italian Homonationalism*).

The third edition of the European Geographies of Sexualities Conference is scheduled to 2015 and it will take place in Rome. We hope to meet you there ☺

Euarda Ferreira