



Workshop, Munich, 2026, April 16-17

Inventing, Expressing, Experiencing Sexuality: Critical Approaches Beyond the Dichotomy of Norm and Transgression

The purpose of the workshop is to bring together early career scholars researching the subject of sexualities in a broad sense and across historical disciplines. The aim is to challenge the history of sexuality from different research fields and to go beyond the dichotomy of norm and transgression.

The critical examination of the types and domains of expertise, the institutional dimensions and, and the representations of sexuality intends to shed light on the complex system of values, ideas and practices in which specific case-histories and discourses are situated. Although our focus is mostly on the Early Modern period, we welcome relevant contributions dealing with other time frames.

We interpret “sexuality” as encompassing bodily, behavioural, and relational traits. We assume that sexual norms, established at a time and place, involve the definition of sexes, the regulation of behaviours for each sex, and the regulation of interactions between different sexes. In line with early modern uses of the term, we use the word “sex” to refer both to anatomical categories and socio-cultural gender roles. Throughout the workshop, we will discuss authorities that regulate the definition of sex; sexual expressions within and outside the norms; queer and gendered identities. Examples include cases of ambiguous sex, intersexuality and “hermaphroditism,” cross-dressing, homosexuality, pre-marital and extramarital relationships.

Furthermore, we welcome reflections upon methodological issues and source bases that can prove relevant in the field. Specifically, we would like to reflect upon the challenges of reconstructing silenced voices through different methodological approaches and in different disciplines.

Venue: Seidlvilla (Max Gorbach Room)
Nikolaiplatz 1b, Munich

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Schedule

Thursday, April 16

- 9:30–10:00 Martina Ravaioli (Bonn/CRC), Laura Schiavone (Munich/CRC):
Welcome and Introduction
- 10:00–10:15 Coffee Break
- 10:15–12:00 Professor Raffaella Sarti (Urbino):
Keynote Lecture
- 12:00–13:00 Lunch
- 13:00–15:00 First Panel: “Definitions and norms”
Martina Ravaioli (Bonn/CRC), Francesca Fabris (EUI), Monika Stachová (Munich/CRC)
- 15:00–15:30 Coffee Break
- 15:30–17:30 Second panel “Practices and settings”
Maria Hauber (Munich/CRC), Laura Schiavone (Munich/CRC), Lisa Hellriegel (Munich)
- 19:00 Dinner

Friday, April 17

- 09:30–11:30 Third panel “Sources, discourses, and approaches”
Carlotta Moro (Exeter), Clare Burgess (Oxford), Maayan Aner (Oxford)
- 11:30–12:00 Coffee break
- 12:00 Laura Schiavone (Munich/CRC), Martina Ravaioli (Bonn/CRC)
Commentary
- 12:30 Conclusion and farewell