

# Personalia

## Irene Arends

On 11 October 2022 Irene Arends successfully defended her PhD thesis *Digital Youth Spaces in Chile: Young People's Everyday Negotiations of Gender and Sexuality* at the University of Amsterdam (Centre for Latin American Studies). Irene conducted sixteen months of ethnographic fieldwork in Chile, exploring how young people play with gender notions and practices in their digital peer interactions. Her feminist-informed research provides an insight in how Chilean young women (and men) perceive their place in a rapidly changing society. Long-term research of gender segregated women-only groups on Facebook and WhatsApp brought forward interesting patterns of both gender conformity and subversion in the re-workings of young femininities in Chile today. The thesis was supervised by prof. Michiel Baud and dr. Annelou Ypeij. Irene continues working at CEDLA and recently organised another International Winter school for LOVA on the topic of motherhoods and feminisms.

## Brenda Bartelink

Brenda Bartelink has developed a free course on Religion and Sexual Wellbeing for Sexuality, Religion and Secularism with the team of the project Cultural Encounters in the African Diaspora in the Netherlands. This project studies the various ways health and sexual wellbeing are understood within the African Diaspora in the Netherlands and the sexual health organisations that count (African) migrants among the groups they target. The course – a massive online open course (MOOC) – focuses on the dynamics of current polarisation in cases on sexual health and reproductive rights you observe in the media in relation to their local, national and global histories. It will analyse the role of religion and sexuality in specific cultural and gendered contexts. It will encourage reflection on all the different contexts through which people become sexually knowledgeable as participants are urged to think about the ways in which to position themselves in a way that supports people's sexual wellbeing and health.

## Kathrine van den Bogert

Kathrine van den Bogert started in September 2022 as Assistant Professor at the Utrecht University School of Governance. She teaches qualitative research and philosophy of science and works on a research project on community building in Utrecht. Her first book *Street Football, Gender and Muslim Youth in the Netherlands: Girls Who Kick Back* was published open access in September 2022 with Bloomsbury Academic and is based on ethnographic research in the Schilderswijk in The Hague (the Netherlands). The book gives detailed insights into the challenges, negotiations and resistances girls with Moroccan-Dutch and Muslim backgrounds face in the world of street football. Kathrine van den Bogert traces the experiences of teenage girls who play football in public playgrounds, as well as in a girls' football competition the girls have set up themselves: Football Girls United. She addresses how race, ethnicity, religion, gender and citizenship are entangled in the access to and construction of the public street football spaces, such as football courts, urban playgrounds and public squares. While Muslim girls in football are often stigmatised and excluded based on their religious and ethnic backgrounds, this book emphasises their street football practices as critical and creative ways of belonging, both in football and in wider Dutch society. By focussing on a domain largely absent in religion and gender research, namely sport, this book brings forth new perspectives on religious and ethnic diversity in Europe. The football players show that 'Muslim' is not always a relevant identity in their lives, and hence urge us to rethink the categories of analysis that we use, and often take for granted, as feminist and intersectional scholars of gender, religion and Islam.

## Dewi Meyrasyawati

Dewi Meyrasyawati successfully defended her PhD thesis *Hijab practices: Everyday lives of Muslim women in Surabaya*, on 21 October 2022. *Berhijab* (to wear a veil) is the custom of the majority of Muslim women in Indonesia. There are many variations in the way that women wear a hijab in Indonesia and elsewhere in the world for that matter. In her PhD research, carried out in the city of Surabaya, Dewi found various Muslim women's groups uniting themselves into groups whose members have adopted the same hijab style. To understand hijab practices properly, it is important to make the distinction between different styles, because they communicate different things. Different styles communicate the ways in which women think about their religion and how they want to shape their religious practices and activities in everyday life in a variety of contexts. In this regard, Dewi also included the issues of class, global fashion, consumerism and the use of social media as part and parcel of everyday activities, because they are all essential to a good understanding of the hijab practices she addresses. In short, the aim of the study was to describe and analyse the diversity of hijab practices in Indonesia, and in the city of Surabaya in particular, and to explain this diversity in terms of the various choices which women make. Muslim women's opinions and activities and the position of women in society constitute an integral part of the general dynamics of Islam in contemporary Indonesia and are an important angle from which to study these dynamics. By choosing this perspective, Dewi explored various modes of agency of women and the situations in which this agency is revealed.

## Sinine Nakhle

Sinine Nakhle received an NWO fund for a PhD in the Humanities to continue their research at the UvA on the aesthetic activist practices used in Lebanon during the 2019 protest movement.

## Fenneke Reysoo

Fenneke van Reysoo published a co-authored article in the *Journal of Peasant Studies*, exploring gendered reorganisation of livelihoods and food security in Cambodia. While primarily men engaged in wage work, with the growing need for cash, women are increasingly performing wage work too. New gendered dynamics in productive labour contribute to a reshaping of normative gender roles and spaces, providing women some autonomy. At the same time, since women remain responsible for family food procurement they are dependent on men's income. Above all, the majority of women experience stress from lack of time and lack of money for food. Additionally, Fenneke published on emerging rural food markets in Kampong Thom in the edited volume *Agricultural Commercialization, Gender Equality and the Right to Food: Insights from Ghana and Cambodia* (2022). The book explores agricultural commercialisation from a gender equality and right to food perspective.

## Rahil Roodsaz

Rahil Roodsaz published the book *Sexual Self-fashioning: Irania Dutch Narratives of Sexuality and Belonging*. Sexuality and gender have come to serve as measures for cultural belonging in discussions of the position of Muslim immigrants in multicultural Western societies. While the acceptance of assumed local norms such as sexual liberty and gender equality are seen as successful integration, rejecting them is regarded as a sign of failed citizenship. Focusing on premarital sex, homosexuality, and cohabitation outside marriage, this book provides an ethnographic account of sexuality among the Iranian Dutch. It argues that by embracing, rejecting, and questioning modernity in stories about sexuality, the Iranian Dutch actively engage in processes of self-fashioning.



## Marlene Schäfers

Marlene Schäfers joined the Department of Cultural Anthropology as an Assistant Professor in September 2021. At Utrecht University, she teaches courses on the anthropology of gender and sexuality at both the Bachelor and Masters level and is further involved in the development of a new course on the anthropology of death. Marlene's research focuses on the impact of state violence on intimate and gendered lives, the politics of death and the afterlife, and the intersections of affect and politics. She specialises in the anthropology of the Kurdish regions and modern Turkey. Her first monograph, *Voices that Matter: Kurdish Women at the Limits of Representation in Contemporary Turkey* (University of Chicago Press, 2022), investigates Kurdish women's struggle for voice in contemporary Turkey. By reading actual voices alongside voice as a potent metaphor for agency and empowerment, it advances a fine-grained analysis of how liberal politics incite minoritarian subjects to raise their voices and how the promises of liberation and recognition this move entails are routinely disappointed.

## Carin Vijfhuizen

1 December 2022, Carin Vijfhuizen published *Hoe hardnekkig, die tropische blauwe lucht: Fascinerend inzicht in het leven in een Afrikaans dorp*, in “poëtische verzen by ELIKSER.” The publication consists of an anthropological study in poetic verses, both in Dutch and English. The book offers a fascinating insight into the daily life of living in a village in Africa. It investigates the heritage of colonialism, the role of magic, ghosts and religion, as well as the impact of the monarchy on livelihood.