

# **Biennial Report of ESA Research Network 23 – Sexuality**

This report covers the period October 2015 until September 2017.

## **Name/email of outgoing Board**

Coordinator: Chiara Bertone, University of Eastern Piedmont, Alessandria, Italy,  
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Co-coordinator: Zowie Davy, University of Lincoln, UK, [zdavy@lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:zdavy@lincoln.ac.uk)

Board members:

Daniel Cardoso, Universidade Lusófona de Humanidades e Tecnologias, Portugal,  
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Eleanor Formby, University of Sheffield, UK, [E.Formby@shu.ac.uk](mailto:E.Formby@shu.ac.uk)

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Agata Stasinska, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland, [astasinska@psych.pan.pl](mailto:astasinska@psych.pan.pl)

## **Name/email of incoming Board**

Coordinator: Chiara Bertone, University of Eastern Piedmont, Alessandria, Italy,  
[chiara.bertone@unipmn.it](mailto:chiara.bertone@unipmn.it)

Co-coordinator: Agata Stasinska, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland,  
[astasinska@psych.pan.pl](mailto:astasinska@psych.pan.pl)

Board members: Daniel Cardoso (P), Eleanor Formby (UK), Beatrice Gusmano (P),  
Sebastian Mohr (S), Liliia Pankratova (RUS), Mara Pieri (P).

## **RN members**

According to the data available at the ESA website, RN23 has presently 112 members  
(10 of them are from outside Europe).

## **Network activity**

Following an electronic vote, the now outgoing Coordinators and Board of the RN were elected in February 2016.

The Board had several Skype meetings regarding the Network's activities. We continued to update our Facebook page, and we decided to develop a Jisc mailing list, to be extended to actual and potential members, in order to share information on call for papers, publications, public initiatives and other activities relevant to the Network. This ongoing update substituted the Newsletter. The Board and coordinators decided to postpone the organization of a Midterm Conference to the next term. In preparing the 2017 ESA Conference, the Board and the coordinators together discussed and wrote a proposal for semi-plenary sessions, which was rejected. They also involved in pre-arranging thematic sessions for the RN and a joint session with RN02, encouraging submissions with attention to covering underrepresented countries.

## **2017 ESA Conference: RN23 Sessions**

The number of submitted abstracts (109) was highly satisfying. The reviewing process involved Board members and other long-time involved members of the Network, and was very helpful for making a final decision, which was discussed by the coordinator and co-coordinator. We decided to reject 13 papers, and accept 3 as distributed

papers. The good quality of all presentations during the Conference reassured us about this choice. The withdrawals were in the end 3). The actual presented papers were thus 58, distributed in 16 sessions, plus a Joint Session with RN2. A few last-minute withdrawals have reduced some of the sessions to 3 papers, and a couple to 2 papers, but no session had to be cancelled.

We chose not to have open sessions and very broad streams, but to cluster the papers in thematic sessions. During the Conference we received strong appreciation for the thematic coherence of the sessions, and this also meant that the choice we made to postpone the discussion of all the papers to the end of the sessions was very positively met, providing the ground for a collective reasoning on key theoretical and methodological issues for the sociological study of sexuality.

The Business Meeting was very well attended, and after a broad discussion it decided to give the possibility to all members, after the success of the RN sessions, to think about their involvement in the Board, and therefore to postpone the Board election to online procedures after the Conference. It was also decided to hold a RN Midterm conference in January 2019.

### **Financial statement**

The Research Network did not hold a Midterm Conference or other activities implying financial expenses in the last two years, planning to use the saved resources for the next Midterm Conference.

### **Publications**

The RN produced an edited book, published in the book series Routledge Advances in Critical Diversities, with previous coordinators as editors, and contributions from members based on papers presented at the RN Conferences:

"Sexualities Research. Critical Interjections, Diverse Methodologies, and Practical Applications", edited by Andrew King, Ana Cristina Santos, Isabel Crowhurst, Routledge 2017.

The book was presented at the 2017 Business Meeting.