



SUMMER SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT

Sexuality in Perspective

Institute for Family and Sexuality Studies
University of Leuven, Belgium
13 to 18 August 2017

This Summer School will provide you with an introduction to the topic of human sexuality. It will offer you the opportunity to learn about and reflect on contemporary scientific approaches to and current insights in human sexuality. The programme is based on the premise that the expression and experience of sexuality are influenced and regulated by biological factors as well as cultural, social, and psychological processes, including inter- and intra-personal norms and values.

Background

The study of human sexuality has long suffered from the fact that sex is a sensitive (if not taboo) subject in most Western and non-Western societies. Several important (r)evolutions and events have contributed to an increased interest and social investment in research on men and women's sexual behaviour and experiences. These include the introduction of safe and effective methods of contraception such as condoms and the contraceptive pill, the discovery and spread of HIV, growing concerns about the prevalence and consequences of sexual abuse and violence, the rise of the Internet and the associated abundance of easily accessible sexually explicit materials and new ways to learn about and engage in (online) sexual activities, the introduction of new and widely marketed medical treatments for sexual problems (e.g. Viagra®), and the growing numbers of young people exploring and examining the many ways to experience sexual orientation and gender.

Format

One intensive week with several teaching formats - lectures, workshops, readings, discussions in pairs and presentations in smaller and larger groups - all with an emphasis on interactive learning.

Participants

The Summer School is open to master's students (MA/MS) and PhD students from all disciplines (e.g. psychology, educational sciences, social work, nursing, sociology) who have an interest in learning more about contemporary insights in and approaches to the study of human sexuality. Considering the focus on interactive learning, the number of participants will be limited.

Faculty

The Summer School will be given and coordinated by faculty of the Institute for Family and Sexuality Studies (IFSS), including Dr. Paul Enzlin, Dr. Luk Gijs, and Dr. Erick Janssen.



Topics

- Human sexuality throughout history and in different cultures.
- Evolutionary, psychological, sociological approaches to human sexuality.
- How and why do people, societies, and cultures define normality?
- Anatomy, (psycho)physiology, and neurobiology of human sexuality and sexual response.
- Sexual development from cradle to grave.
- Sexual identity, orientation, and preferences.
- Sexuality and mental and physical health/illness.

Learning outcomes

After completing this Summer School participants will be able to:

- Recognise, understand, and describe the historical and cultural basis of human sexuality;
- Distinguish between major theoretical approaches to sexuality, to name and critically discuss their contribution to our understanding of and scientific knowledge about sexuality;
- Explain how 'normal' and 'abnormal' sexuality are social, legal, and culturally sensitive constructs;
- Understand and explain the basics of evolutionary, biological, and social and psychological perspectives on human sexuality;
- Situate sexuality within a lifetime developmental perspective;
- Reflect upon and articulate their personal sexual norms, values, and attitudes.

IFSS

Founded in 1961, the IFSS is part of the Department of Neuroscience at KU Leuven and one of the oldest centres in Europe to focus on questions related to sexuality and related topics. It offers a Master's programme in human sexuality (in Dutch) and its internationally-oriented faculty is engaged in a diverse research programme, focusing on a variety of topics (see: www.ifss.be)

Location

The Summer School will take place in and around the centre of the medieval city of Leuven (about 20 km from Brussels Airport). Opportunities for affordable accommodation will be arranged and a social programme will be included.

Certificate

Participants who attended all classes from the Summer School will receive an official certificate of KU Leuven to prove their attendance.

More information

More details on the Summer School, including registration fee and process, will soon be available on the website below. Have a look to express your interest to participate:

<https://med.kuleuven.be/sssexualityinperspective>