

# InterGender – International Consortium for Interdisciplinary Feminist Research Training

Call for participation in the InterGender course

## Learning to Read Differently

- **Participants:** PhD students and advanced Master's students.
- **Dates:** 4–6 October 2023
- **Location:** University of Vienna, Austria
- **Deadline for applications:** 18 June 2023
- **Applications should be sent to:** InterGender Consortium Coordinator Edyta Just ([edyta.just@liu.se](mailto:edyta.just@liu.se))
- **Maximum number of participants:** 30
- **Website:** <https://gender.univie.ac.at/intergender-course-2023/>

### 1. Organizers

**Local InterGender course organizer:** University of Vienna

**Giulia Andrighetto** (GAIN), **Boka En** (Gender Research Office), **Sabine Grenz** (Department of Education / Gender Research Office), **Elif Gül** (Department of Education), **Flora Löffelmann** (Department of Philosophy), **Marlene Tai-Sen Märker** (Department of Education), **Manu Sharma** (Department of Philosophy)

**Administrative support:** **Sara Vorwalder** (GAIN), **Dorith Weber** (Gender Research Office)

**InterGender, International Consortium for Interdisciplinary Feminist Research Training**

**Course coordinator:** InterGender Consortium Coordinator **Edyta Just**

**In cooperation with:** GAIN – Gender: Ambivalent In\_Visibilities (University of Vienna), Gender and Transformation (University of Vienna), Department of Philosophy (University of Vienna), Department of Education (University of Vienna), Vienna Doctoral School of Philosophy (University of Vienna)

### 2. Instructors

- Dr. Birgit Mara Kaiser, Utrecht University, Netherlands
- Prof. Madhavi Menon, Ashoka University, India
- Dr.x Sushila Mesquita, University of Vienna, Austria
- Dr. Cornelia Schadler, University of Vienna, Austria
- Oishi Sengupta, MA MA, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, Austria

### 3. Course description

Much academic work relies on existing texts and their interpretation. As scholars, we necessarily build on these knowledges transmitted to us by others in order to try to better understand power relations and their modes of action, to form our own arguments based on the texts, to make sense of certain social phenomena and to contribute to thinking\_feeling about the world. All too often, this process of reading becomes so normalized that we hardly think about the consequences and premises of these practices of reading themselves. Therefore, we want to dedicate this PhD and MA course to the goal of “Learning to Read Differently”. Throughout the course, we will engage not only with how we read “texts” as they are commonly understood, but also with how we interpret the fabric of reality and the situations and phenomena we encounter in our research and beyond. Together, we want to explore what we choose to read or not to read, as well as the political implications that arise from these practices. Thus, the course aims to support participants in exercising reading practices and research methods that enable them to critically reflect upon the “standard” practices usually governed by white euro-anglo-centric academia, to challenge them, and to try out different approaches.

On the first day of the three-day course, there will be a round-table conversation between three scholars currently teaching, working and researching in critical Gender & Queer Studies in Vienna, followed by a discussion of participants’ research with these scholars. Sushila Mesquita, Cornelia Schadler and Oishi Sengupta will have a conversation about reading and writing differently in the context of hegemonic institutional orders. They will also discuss challenges they face(d) and strategies they develop(ed) while doing their own PhDs. The afternoon of the first day will be dedicated to discussing participants’ research in the context of the overarching course theme.

The second day will center around decolonizing reading practices, and will be chaired by Madhavi Menon, Director of the Centre for Studies in Gender & Sexuality at Ashoka University, India. The day will comprise a lecture, engagement with a film that participants will be asked to watch in preparation for the course, as well as discussion of participants’ research in the context of the day’s theme. The day will end in a communal dinner.

On the third day, we will enter into discussions around diffractive reading practices (that is, “reading insights through one another in attending to and responding to the details and specificities of relations of difference and how they matter”; Karen Barad: *Meeting the Universe Halfway*, p. 71), considering how these affect theory and data. The day will be facilitated by Birgit Mara Kaiser, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature at Utrecht University, Netherlands. It will once again comprise a lecture and seminar as well as reflections on the process and experience of the course. We will also consider how we can implement what we learned in our own research and work/life in academia.

## 4. Provisional schedule

### Wednesday, 4 October 2023

09:30–10:00	Arrival & registration
10:00–11:00	Welcome & getting to know each other
11:00–11:15	Coffee break
11:15–13:00	Roundtable discussion: “Reading and writing differently” (Sushila Mesquita, Cornelia Schadler, Oishi Sengupta)
13:00–14:00	Lunch break
14:00–16:30	Discussion of participants’ work (Sushila Mesquita, Cornelia Schadler, Oishi Sengupta)

### Thursday, 5 October 2023

10:00–10:15	Arrival
10:15–11:15	Lecture: “A History of Desire in India” (Madhavi Menon)
11:15–11:30	Coffee break
11:30–13:00	Seminar (Madhavi Menon)
13:00–14:00	Lunch break
14:00–15:30	Discussion of participants’ work (Madhavi Menon)
19:00	Dinner

### Friday, 6 October 2023

10:00–10:15	Arrival
10:15–11:15	Lecture: “On the Politics of Diffractive Reading” (Birgit Mara Kaiser)
11:15–11:30	Coffee break
11:30–13:00	Seminar (Birgit Mara Kaiser)
13:00–14:00	Lunch break
14:00–15:30	Discussion of participants’ work (Birgit Mara Kaiser)
15:30–15:45	Coffee break
15:45–16:30	Reflection on how the course themes can be implemented in participant’s work
18:00	Public lecture: “The Trouble with Pronouns” (Madhavi Menon)

## 5. How to apply

Applications should be written in English and include:

- your name, affiliation, full address, e-mail address, phone number
- the name and affiliation of your PhD or Master’s supervisor
- a description of your work PhD or Master’s project (1–2 pages)

- a letter of motivation: why do you want to participate? (1–2 pages)
- a brief CV
- an indication whether you are in the early/middle/late phase of your PhD research or whether you are an advanced Master's student
- information on whether you would like to apply for travel support (see below)

Please send your application to Edyta Just ([edyta.just@liu.se](mailto:edyta.just@liu.se)) by 18 June.

## Costs, travel support and accessibility

Participation in the event is free. We plan to provide free coffee breaks and lunch as well as dinner on the second day for all participants.

We have funding available to (partially) cover travel and accommodation for some participants. If possible, please ask your university/work place for funding first. If you wish to apply for travel support, please let us know roughly how much you would need in your application. (Reimbursement of costs will be based on invoices that you provide after the course has taken place.) If you have any questions about travel support, please email the local organizing team at [reading-differently.rgf@univie.ac.at](mailto:reading-differently.rgf@univie.ac.at).

All rooms are wheelchair-accessible. If you have any questions or specific accessibility requirements, please email us at [reading-differently.rgf@univie.ac.at](mailto:reading-differently.rgf@univie.ac.at).

## 6. After you have been accepted

### Preparation for the course

We ask that participants who are accepted to the course do the following in preparation for the in-person meetings:

- Engage with the **course readings and other preparatory materials** provided by the instructors (about 500–600 pages in mandatory readings as well as a film that we ask you to watch). These will be made available online.
- Write a **paper of 2–5 pages** describing a research problem related to the course and your PhD or MA thesis project, to be sent to the InterGender Consortium Coordinator Edyta Just ([edyta.just@liu.se](mailto:edyta.just@liu.se)) by **3 September**. Please don't forget to mark it with your name and the course name.
- Read the **short papers (see above) of your fellow group members** before the course and be prepared to offer constructive comments. The papers will be made available online roughly two weeks before the course.

## Optional essay after the end of the course

If you wish to earn additional credits for the course, you can hand in an essay of 6000–7000 words no later than 3 months after the course. Your essay can be graded by either Birgit Mara Kaiser or Cornelia Schadler. One copy should be sent to the instructor of your choice (see above), who is going to evaluate it (graded pass/fail). A second copy should be sent to the InterGender Consortium Coordinator Edyta Just ([edyta.just@liu.se](mailto:edyta.just@liu.se)). The instructor has 3 months to evaluate the essay.

The essay should strike a balance between addressing a theme that has been part of the course (lectures, discussions, reading material) and being relevant for your own research. Additionally, it should be considered an exercise in doing a written presentation aimed at an academic readership not necessarily familiar with your research. The essay should constitute a whole and explain relevant contexts where appropriate.

## Accreditation and examination

You can receive ECTS credits for participating in the course. There are two options:

1. 7.5 ECTS credits are given for active participation in the 3-day course as well as your short paper, 2–5 pages (see above, graded pass/fail).
2. 10 ECTS credits are given for active participation in the 3-day course with the optional essay (see above, graded pass/fail).

## Course certificate

The Consortium Coordinator issues, upon request, a certificate indicating the number of ECTS credits that participation in the course is considered equal to. It is your own responsibility to ask your home institution about rules for accreditation and to obtain appropriate credit for participation in the InterGender course within your curriculum.

Please email Edyta Just ([edyta.just@liu.se](mailto:edyta.just@liu.se)) to request your course certificate.

## 7. Contact

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us!

- Questions regarding the Intergender consortium as well as applications: [edyta.just@liu.se](mailto:edyta.just@liu.se)
- Questions regarding the event in Vienna as well as travel support: [reading-differently.rgf@univie.ac.at](mailto:reading-differently.rgf@univie.ac.at)

## 8. Information on admission

1. Participants have to be registered as PhD candidates or advanced Master's students.

2. The InterGender courses are open for PhD and advanced Master's students from all disciplines and countries.
3. Participants will be selected on the basis of an evaluation of their CV, project description and a letter of motivation.
4. If there are more applicants who qualify for participation than there are places, the places will be distributed along the following criteria:
  - a) Applicants registered as PhD candidates or advanced Master's students at a Partner Unit will be prioritized for a maximum of 90% of places with approximately 25 % of the 90% open to Master's students. When the places are distributed among the Partner Units, a good spread between these units will also be ensured.
  - b) Applicants registered as PhD candidates in another unit at the Partner Higher Education Establishments will be prioritized for 10 % of the places. When the places are distributed among the Partner Higher Education Establishments, a good spread between these establishments will also be ensured. If places remain of the 90 % prioritized for PhD candidates and advanced Master's students registered at a Partner Unit, these places will instead be prioritized for PhD candidates registered at a Partner Higher Education Establishment.
  - c) If the applicants according to a) and b) do not fill all the places, remaining places will be open for competition between all eligible and qualifying applicants from any higher education establishment.
5. If there are more eligible and qualified applicants than places available, a selection process will take place, which, in addition to academic quality and motivation/relevance, will use non-discriminatory selection criteria, which will ensure a spread of nationalities, regions, institutions and disciplines.
6. An additional lot drawing procedure will be used if several eligible applicants who are equally qualified in all respects are competing for the limited number of places in the different categories.
7. In case of too many eligible and qualifying applicants, a waiting list will also be organized, and places will be offered to applicants on this list, should some of the selected participants cancel their participation.
8. The Consortium Coordinator selects participants under the auspice of the Board, and is required to report to the Board how selection is distributed between the Consortium Partners. If the Board finds that the distribution is uneven, the Consortium Coordinator shall compensate for this in future selections.
9. Upon request by a Partner/Partner Unit/Partner Higher Education Establishment, the Consortium Coordinator issues a certificate indicating how many ECTS credits should be awarded for the participation in a particular course. It is the candidate's/student's own responsibility to ask their home institution about its rules for accreditation and to obtain appropriate credit for participation in InterGender course within the enrolled curriculum.

## 9. InterGender Partner Units and Higher Education Establishments

1. Higher Education Establishment: **Linköping University**, Partner Units: **Unit of Gender Studies, Department of Thematic Studies**, Coordinating Partner
2. Higher Education Establishment: **Göteborg University**, Partner Unit: **Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Research**, Full Partner
3. Higher Education Establishment: **Karlstad University**, Partner Unit: **Centre for Gender Studies**, Full Partner
4. Higher Education Establishment: **Luleå University of Technology**, Partner Unit: **Department of Business Administration, Technology and Social Science**, Full Partner
5. Higher Education Establishment: **Lund University**, Partner Unit: **Department of Gender Studies**, Full Partner
6. Higher Education Establishment: **Mid Sweden University**, Partner Unit: **Research Subject Sociology and Forum for Gender Studies**, Full Partner
7. Higher Education Establishment: **The Norwegian National Research School in Gender Studies**, Full Partner
8. Higher Education Establishment: **Södertörn University**, Partner Unit: **Gender Studies**, Full Partner
9. Higher Education Establishment: **Umeå University**, Partner Unit: **Umeå Centre for Gender Studies**, Full Partner
10. Higher Education Establishment: **Goethe University Frankfurt**, Partner Unit: **Cornelia Goethe Center/GRADE Center Gender**, Full Partner
11. Higher Education Establishment: **University of Granada**, Partner Unit: **Grupo Investigación PAI Hum592 Recepcion, Modos y Géneros de la Literatura en Lengua Inglesa**, Full Partner
12. Higher Education Establishment: **Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin**, Partner Unit: **Center for transdisciplinary Gender Studies**, Full Partner
13. Higher Education Establishment: **University of Innsbruck**, Partner Unit: **Center for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies Innsbruck (CGI)**, Full Partner
14. Higher Education Establishment: **University of Lodz**, Partner Unit: **Women's Studies Centre**, Full Partner
15. Higher Education Establishment: **University of Oviedo**, Partner Unit: **Gender and Diversity PhD and MA Programmes**, Full Partner
16. Higher Education Establishment: **Utrecht University**, Partner Unit: **Graduate Gender Programme/Netherlands Research School of Gender Studies**, Full Partner
17. Higher Education Establishment: **University of Vienna**, Partner Unit: **Gender Research Office**, Full Partner