

Exploring Mixedness in Postcolonial Europe.

Interdisciplinary Approaches

KU Leuven, 20-22 March 2024

Programme (preliminary January 2024)

Exploring Mixedness in Postcolonial Europe: Interdisciplinary Approaches

This expert meeting focuses on mixed couplehood in postcolonial Europe, where partners do not share the same background in terms of religion, race and/or ethnicity. Mixed couples are regarded as microcosms for analysing societal norms, prejudices and social change. Previously, scholars used the term 'inter' to label mixed couples, for example interracial or interfaith couples. However, the prefix 'inter' reflects an understanding of identities as fixed, with couples supposedly 'doomed' to live in two worlds simultaneously, while feeling at home in neither. Today scholars instead use 'mixed', which does not only refer to the different backgrounds of the partners but also centres on how partners occupy different social positions because of their divergence from socio-political norms. The concept of 'mixedness' furthermore, implies an awareness of the temporal, legal, geographical, and intersectional dimensions in conceptions and experiences of mixed couples. Society's perceptions of what is 'mixed' changes, and this also affects couples in their day-to-day life. The expert meeting is international and interdisciplinary, bringing together speakers from religious studies, theology, law, history and anthropology, as well as from different geographical contexts. It explores how the meaning of 'mixedness', as well as reception, representations and lived experiences, change depending on the (historical, legal, contemporary) context, thus reflecting on mixed families in relation to broader European and postcolonial frameworks of difference. The conference is a result of a collaboration of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, KU Leuven, and the Centre for Research on Culture and Gender, Ghent University, hence attention will be given to (intersections of) religion and gender in mixed couples and their families.

Organizing team:

Prof. dr. Marianne Moyaert, Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, KU Leuven

Prof. dr. Katrien De Graeve, Centre for Research on Culture and Gender, Ghent University

Dr. An van Raemdonck, Centre for Research on Culture and Gender, Ghent University

Dr. Lieke Schrijvers, Faculty of Religion and Theology, VU Amsterdam

Deniz Aktaş, Faculty of Religion and Theology, VU Amsterdam and Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, KU Leuven

Registration: <https://theo.kuleuven.be/en/conference-exploring-mixedness/home>

Location: KU Leuven, room tba.

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Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, KU Leuven

Centre for Research on Culture and Gender, Ghent University



Wednesday 20 March

09:30 – 10:00 Registration

10:00 – 10:15 Opening of the conference, prof. dr. Marianne Moyaert and prof. dr. Katrien De Graeve

10:15 – 11:15 **prof. dr. Francesco Cerchiaro**, Radboud University Nijmegen.

“Mixed”, “Mixedness”, “Intermarriage” as Keywords to Question Cultural Diversity.’

11:15 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 12:30 **prof. dr. Miri Song**, University of Kent.

‘What Do We Mean By Intermarriage? The Importance of ‘Racial Overlap’ in the Spousal Choices of Asian-White, Black-White, and American Indian-White Mixed People in the US.’

12:30– 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 – 15:00 **prof. dr. Marianne Moyaert**, KU Leuven. Title tba.

15:00 – 16:00 **prof. dr. Annelies Moors**, University of Amsterdam.

‘Revisiting the Mixedness in Mixed Marriages.’

16:00 – 16:15 Coffee break

16:15 – 17:15 **dr. Nina ter Laan**, University of Cologne.

‘From the Margins to the Center? Shifting Dynamics of Mixedness among Interethnic Dutch and Flemish Muslim Couples Making *Hijra* to Morocco.’

17:15 – 17:30: **Closing Remarks Day 1** by prof. dr. Dienke Hondius

Thursday 21 March

09:00 – 10:00 **prof. dr. Laura Odasso**, Cergy Paris Université/Collège de France.

‘Navigating the Islamic Family Law: Gender, Recognition of Mixed-Status Unions and Their Cascading Effects in Arab Countries.’

10:00 – 11:00 **dr. Mercédesz Czibalmos**, Åbo Akademi University.

“‘I Told My Wife that I Decided to Convert to Judaism, She Was Flabbergasted, Like ‘Are You Nuts?’”
Jewish Identities and Practices in Light of Different Conversion Experiences Among Finnish Jewry.’

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:15 **dr. Nawal Mustafa**, VU Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

‘Policing Interracialised Intimacies in 1950s and 1960s London.’

12:15 – 13:15 Lunch break

13:15 – 14:45 **Panel 2**

Samira Shadid, University of Amsterdam. ‘Doing Dutch Intimate Racework: A Qualitative Research on How Partners Who Are Part of Monogamous Heterosexual Mixed Relationships Engage in Dutch Intimate Racework.’

Sherilyn Deen, University Of Amsterdam. ‘Culture, Reproduction, and Whiteness: The Use of “Mixed” Marriage as a Proxy for Integration in the Netherlands.’

Deniz Aktaş, VU Amsterdam/KU Leuven. Title tba.

14:45 – 15:45 **dr. Eline Huygens**, Utrecht University/KU Leuven.

‘Catholic Women and Intimate Relationships: Navigating Challenges, Choices, and Cultural Contexts.’

15:45 – 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:30 **Panel 3**

dr. Nella van den Brandt, Coventry University. ‘Women Leaving Religion in “Mixed” Intimate Relationships.’

Claire Lajus, University of Bologna. ‘The Experience of Diversity and Discrimination among Mixed Couples in Italy Today.’

dr. Lieke Schrijvers, VU Amsterdam. ‘Ritual (Non-)Participation amongst Nonreligious-Christian and Jewish-Christian Couples.’

17:30 – 17:45 **Closing Remarks Day 2** by prof. dr. Betty de Hart

Friday 22 March

09:00 – 10:00 **dr. Ibtisam Sadegh**, L-Università ta' Malta.

“‘We Moved to Ceuta as a Compromise”’: Negotiating Transnational Interreligious Marriages in Border Spaces.’

10:00 – 11:30 **Panel 4**

prof. dr. Catherine Therrien, Al Akhawayn University, and dr. Catherine Phipps, Oxford University. ‘Social Perception and Experiences of Mixed Individuals in Morocco from the early-20th Century to the Present: Historical and Anthropological Approaches to Mixed Identities.’

dr. Daan Oostveen, Utrecht University. ‘Religious Mixedness: Belonging, Normativity, and Homemaking in Context.’

Alice Gaya, Ben-Gurion University. ‘Intersecting Identities: Exploring Mixed Families in Postcolonial Europe’s Complex Terrain’, tbc.

11:30 – 11:45 Coffee Break

11:45 – 12:45 **dr. Cristina Rodríguez-Reche**, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

‘The Impact of Everyday Racism on the Formation of Religious Identity in Daughters of Maghrebi Spanish Interfaith Couples in Spain.’

12:45 – 13:15 **Final remarks, future plans and closing of the conference.**