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The research network ReNGOO (http://rengoo.net/index.html) works towards the development of a transregional comparative scholarship concerning various ideologies of inequality in the context of identity politics in modern societies. It addresses these issues from a gendered perspective and thus equally contributes to the field of comparative transregional gender studies. This agenda is played out in its current research focus on an entangled history of Europe and the Middle East/North Africa (MENA region).

In the years following the events of 9/11 and subsequent developments in the context of the ‘war against terrorism’, many voices have noted the increasing significance of anti-Muslim discourses in Western societies. This prompted the rise of new research questions concerning patterns of exclusion and identity politics within Europe as well as concerning the resurgence of dichotomous spatial representations of the ‘West’ and its Orientalized ‘Other’, in this case Muslim majority countries in the MENA region and elsewhere. Many critics have highlighted the notably gendered dimension of such discourses.

This workshop therefore specifically focuses on perceptions of Self and Other in Western and Eastern Europe, North America and the MENA-region (Middle East and North Africa) from a gendered perspective, including the historical and contemporary intersections between anti-Semitic / philo-semitic, Orientalist / Occidentalist, and homophobic / LGBTIQ-friendly discourses and practices in countries of the regions mentioned. We focus on the functions such discursive markers play in nationalist and racist imageries, in discourses legitimizing class differences all along the 19th century until today, including globalized discourses in the context of 9/11 and its aftermath as well as the Arab Spring and similar developments in other MENA countries.

**Program**

**18 June 2014**

16:00h
Welcome
(Christina v. Braun, Center for Jewish Studies Berlin-Brandenburg)

16:30h
Keynote lectures
(Chair: Claudia Bruns, Humboldt University, Berlin)

Keynote 1:
Ulrike Brunotte (University of Maastricht): National masculinities between homophobia and homophilia. European identity politics and the role of religion

Keynote 2:
Bettina Dennerlein (University of Zürich): Researching sexuality in Islamic and Middle East Studies

**19 June 2014**

09:00h – 11:00h
Panel 1: Western Europe
(Chair: Felix Axster, Center for Research on Antisemitism, Berlin)

Paul Mepschen (University of Amsterdam): The left hand of homonationalism? The moralization of Dutch ‘progressive’ politics

Deniz Akin (Trondheim University) & Stine Helena Bang Svendsen (University of Oslo): Becoming legible: orientalism, homonormativity and queer asylum in Norway

Claudia Bruns (Humboldt University, Berlin): „How gay is Germany?” Homosexuality, politics and racism in historical perspective

Comment: Andreas Hieronymus (IMIR, Hamburg)

11:15h – 13:15h
Panel 2: Western Europe/North America
(Chair: Ofer Nur, Tel Aviv University)

Susann Heenen-Wolff (University of Louvain-La-Neuve and Université Libre de Bruxelles): “In the name of the father.....”: Normativity based on some psychoanalytical concepts - the example of France

Roel van den Oever (University of Amsterdam): We are all Others? Untangling the mesh of identity discourses in Philip Roth’s Portnoy’s Complaint (1969)

Ofri Ilani (Humboldt University, Berlin): An oriental vice: representations of sodomy in early Zionist discourse

Comment: Axel Stähler (University of Kent)

14:45h – 17:30h
Panel 3: Eastern Europe
(Chair: Christina v. Braun, Center for Jewish Studies Berlin-Brandenburg)

Hanna Copic (Center for Research on Antisemitism, Berlin): Homophobia as social impotence and tool of political manipulation in former Yugoslavia

Pawel Leszkowicz (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan): The visual art of representing and transforming homophobia. Selected central-eastern European cases

Tomasz Kitlinski (Maria Curie-Sklodowska University, Lublin / Curie fellow, University of Brighton): Poland vs LGBTQ, Jews, women, and other „strangers”: homophobia at the heart of prejudices against the Other

Alexei Levinson (Levada-Center, Moscow): The perverted attitude to „perversions” in Russia

Comment: Christina Spaeti (University of Freiburg)