

New frontiers in research with Queer refugees

Seminar

Date: 14th of April 2025
Time: 10.00- 16.00
Place: room: 2.1.042, A.C. Meyers Vænge 15, 2450 Copenhagen SV, Denmark
Online: [Join the meeting now](#) Meeting ID: 326 459 609 701, Passcode: rt9cA9bf



This seminar is hosted by GINAAU, the Department of Politics and Society, AAU, and organised by the Nordic research network *Queen* (QUeer rEfugees rEsearch Network) led by Marlene Spanger, May-Len Skilbrei and Thomas Wimark.

The current research landscape exploring the experiences and specific conditions of LGBTIQ+ refugees in the Nordics is by now extensive and becoming well-established (see e.g. Akin 2017; Gottvall et al 2024; Grønningsæter 2024; Lunau & Andreassen 2023; Lunau & Schröder 2025; Schröder 2023, 2025; Selim et al 2024; Sólveigar-Guðmundsdóttir 2018, 2024; Wimark 2021, 2024, 2025). Nordic research within queer and refugee studies has demonstrated how LGBTIQ+ refugees experience different forms of discriminations, violations of human rights, and obstacles during the asylum process and in the everyday life in the receiving societies, often established through a heteronormative discourse or through what Jasbir Puar (2007) describes as homonationalism. Nonetheless, LGBTIQ+ refugees

and migrants should not be understood as a homogenous social group, as the different ways of sexuality, gender, and racialization intersect position the refugees in different ways in the receiving societies as well as reflect what Saleh and Tschalaer (2023) calls ‘differential mobilities’ of the refugees. Same-gender loving cis-women from RSA, genderfluid persons from Syria and men who have sex with men in Uganda, in their encounter with various NGOs and support groups both outside and inside queer communities.

The aim of this seminar is to explore new directions and broaden the perspectives impacting the studies of/with Queer refugees in the Nordics asking what kind of new concepts and methodologies are relevant to push knowledge further in the Nordic region? For instance, how are queer refugees and migrants affected by and used in the Nordic and the global “migration paradigm shifts”? What new methodologies are needed to explore the legal, cultural and social differences in the receiving societies? How can solidarities with other groups and research fields be formed to meet the challenges in global and local politics? Thus, the seminar will both pay attention to the ongoing changes in the asylum regime, but also LGBTIQ+ support communities and networks, and other civil spaces.

Registration: Please register via this link no later than **9 April 2025 at 2 pm** (free of charge):
<https://forms.office.com/e/NCsxQndhhA>

For further information about the seminar contact Marlene Spanger: spanger@dps.aau.dk

Programme

09.30-10.00: Coffee and welcome

10.00-11.00: *Navigating Asylum as Mothers: The Experiences of Lesbian-Identifying Womxn in Germany*, Mengia Hong Tschalaer, CUNY

11.00-11.15: *Navigating homonationalism and state-homophobia: Report from an ongoing research project on queer migration to Sweden*, Kirill Polkov, Södertörn University

11.15-11.30: *Let It Burn: Queer Humanitarianism and the Aftermath of Utopia*, Valentina Massone, Copenhagen Business School/DIIS

11.30-11.45: *Coloniality In queer asylum: towards theorising 'colonial surveillance' and its resistances*, Marie Lunau, Roskilde University and Rieke Schröder, University of Münster

11.45-12.05: Discussion

12.00-13.00: Lunch break

13.00-13.30: *Establishing Cognitive Standards for Ideal Asylum Claimants on Sexual Orientation Grounds*, Thomas Wimark, Uppsala University

13.30-13.45: *Trans Enough for Protection: Experimenting with Credibility in Refugee Status Determination*, Maya Ellen Hertz, University of Copenhagen

13.45-14.00: *Legibly queer? Queerness as identity and way of life in Norwegian asylum adjudication*, May-Len Skilbrei, University of Oslo

14.00-14.20: Discussion

14.20-14.35: Coffee break

14.35-15.05: Workshop: This workshop will discuss future collaborations in the Nordics and beyond. How do we develop and strengthened queer research that focuses on refugee and migrants? How should queer studies relate to or engage with the refugee studies and/or migration studies?