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| FWOS Call: call for the submission of research proposals 2019 |
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1. FWOS Call: Gender and sexual development in a changing society. Understanding the sexuality of young refugees.

Key words: sexual development; refugees; youth; sexual development; sexual attitudes

Deadline for letters of intent: at the latest before 1 September 2019.

Letters of intent (and research proposals) can be submitted by scholars who are institutionally embedded at a university or research institute.

2. Background and objective

The Fund for Scientific Research of Sexuality (FWOS) promotes research into and debate about all facets of the social- and psychosexual development of children and youth in the Netherlands, from infancy to adolescence, in particular regarding topics that are hardly covered by other funding agencies. The FWOS places this sexual development in the broad context of the entire social, socio-emotional and cognitive development of children and young people. The views and actions of young people themselves – the actor perspective – are important to the FWOS, as is the role played by parents, educators and the underlying social, cultural, historical and legal context. The FWOS highly appreciates innovative approaches to content, theory and methods.

In our *Programme* of the past five years [*Programma Wetenschapsbeleid 2014-2018*] (<http://www.fwos.nl>), the FWOS has focused on the theme of diversity. The current call for applications can be understood as a next step in this broad area. However, as opposed to diversity in general terms, the current call focuses on the social- and psychosexual development of refugee youth. FWOS aims to gain more insight in the ways in which refugee histories affect the psycho-sexual development of young people, while taking into account public discourse on refugee citizenship. FWOS also expects that such insight will contribute to knowledge about children's social- and psychosexual development in general.

We take as a starting point that the refugee experience – marked by experiences of violence, loss, trauma, displacement, changes in the social-economic position, discrimination, adjustment, and cultural change – has its effects on young people's sexual development. We also take into account refugees' experiences and attitudes concerning their own and other's sexuality. How does the refugee experience affect family relations and relations within communities, both in first and next generations? Moreover, some children arrive in host-countries without their parents: what effect does this have on their psychosexual development? We are also especially interested in research proposals concerning young LGBTIQ-identified refugees.

Relevance

Research into the (psycho) sexual development, sexual behavior and sexual politics in relation to the refugee-issue is of great relevance not only for a better understanding of refugee groups, but also, more generally, for our knowledge about the (psycho)sexual development of all individuals, the relationship between individuals and society, and changes within societies. Existing studies hardly discuss the role of refugee experience in shaping sexual development, attitudes, and behavior of young people. Yet, many topics in this area may contribute to our understanding of young people's development in our changing society. Examples are studies concerning attitudes on gender and gender relations, including ideas about masculinity and femininity; sexual practices, partner choice, pregnancy and sexual health; the role of trauma in the psychosexual development of refugee youth; the role and type of sexual education, parental attitudes, and of new social networks among 'newcomers' in the development of young people; and intergenerational aspects.

Another knowledge gap concerns the (psycho) sexual development and the formation of sexual identity among refugees over time. A comparative approach could be useful here: how does the sexual development of young refugees today relate to the experiences of earlier groups of refugees? Did earlier refugee experience affect people's development and is this different from what we can observe in other migrant groups that recently moved to the Netherlands? Are there differences between children who arrived here at very young ages versus those who came as teenagers? These questions also relate to issues surrounding the role of socio-political discourse and integration processes in shaping the lives of individuals with a refugee background. But they also relate to the accessibility of (preventive) health care provisions.

In this call, we take a broad approach. Not very much research has been done on psycho-sexual development and sexual identity formation among refugee youth. Neither do we know much about the ways in which family structures; (new) social networks; the role of schools and other educational practices; 'the medical system' and Dutch legal and political practices affect young refugees in the way they think about sexuality, shape their romantic and erotic lives and in turn influence public opinion. Clearly, studies need to come from different angles. Scholars from various disciplines – ranging from pedagogy, psychology and health sciences to history, anthropology and sociology – are welcome to submit proposals to come to a better understanding of contemporary dynamics. We especially welcome interdisciplinary approaches.

Objective

With this call, the FWOS aims to draw scientific attention to the role of the refugee experience in shaping the sexual development and identities of young people. Researchers are free to develop their own proposals. The setting or object of research may vary: researchers may focus on a particular group of young people with a refugee background (for instance gay, bisexual, or straight youth) or on a particular national, regional, cultural, or religious background. The age of the research group can differ from young children to adolescents up to their mid-twenties. In the case of retrospective research the focus can also be on adults looking back at their youth. The research setting may be determined geographically (in a particular city or region or nationally), but can also be virtual, educational or recreational (events, social movements, and the like). The research group can be first, second or third generation, children, parents, professionals as well as health care workers, teachers and policymakers. Methodologically, we invite quantitative, qualitative and mixed-method oriented scholars.

3. Preconditions

Who can apply for a grant?

Researchers working at universities and/or other research institutions can submit a proposal. The proposal should be submitted by the project leader. Applicants should be embedded in a research group at a research institute.

Available budget

FWOS can finance research projects with 1 to 3 PhD or post-doc positions. Besides personnel costs, the budget may include material costs that are directly related to the research up to a maximum of € 5.000 (specifications required) for the entire funding period. In addition, a bench fee of € 5.000 for the entire funding period is available (no specifications needed).

4. Assessment procedure

Research proposals will be assessed by the board of the FWOS and external referents. Their assessment will focus on quality; relevance for the FWOS; and innovativeness. Specific for this call is that proposals need to put some effort to show the feasibility of the study. In particular an indication of type of contacts with actors in the field and accessibility of subjects deserves attention.

5. Additional criteria regarding content

- The proposal's scientific and social interest need to be indicated in the application. The study's results should benefit both the development of theory and practice.
- The proposal should provide insight into the ways in which access to the field is made possible.
- The proposal should address the benefits of the research results for the field and should also identify the possibilities for implementation.
- The proposal should preferably be based on research from an interdisciplinary perspective.
- The proposal should take diversity into account (regarding gender, socio-economic background, sexual orientation, level of education and/or health).

6. Procedural criteria for research proposals

- The duration of the project to be honoured will be 48 months at the most. The project has to start in the second half of 2020. The pledge that a proposal will be honoured will be retracted if the project has not started within the six months' time limit after subsidy has been granted.
- Proposals should be in English.
- The research proposal should contain 4000 words at most (the abstract, references, the main applicant's CV and the budget excluded).
- The budget should specify all costs in detail.
- FWOS can only process a proposal if sent, printed and signed, by post to the FWOS' secretariat directly after sending it by email. The address is: FWOS, P.O. Box 75842, 1070 AV Amsterdam, subject *Understanding the sexuality of young refugees*. The proposal should be received not later than one week after the submission by email to secretariaat@fwos.nl).

7. Procedure and time schedule¹

The first step of this procedure is to send a Letter of Intent (Pre-Application) with a maximum of two pages, supplemented by a summary CV. It should be sent by mail at the latest before **1 September 2019**. Based on this, the FWOS board will select applicants to write a definitive research proposal. A reaction will be sent on **4 October 2019**.

Definitive proposals should be sent by mail and by **at the latest before 16 December 2019**.

The reviews will be sent on 20 January 2020. Your rebuttal should be submitted **at the latest before 10 February 2020**.

FWOS will decide on acceptance of the proposals on **10 March 2020**.

For information regarding content and/or information about the procedure, you please contact the FWOS at secretariaat@fwos.nl.

¹ This text is modified on 16 July.