

13th Conference
of the European
Sociological Association

(Un)Making Europe:
Capitalism, Solidarities,
Subjectivities

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ABSTRACT BOOK

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Go South! Epistemologies of queerness and disability from Southern Europe

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Recent developments in Social Sciences created a favourable terrain for dialogue between crip and queer approaches to the study of both disability and sexualities. When confronted with the peculiarities of Southern Europe, this dialogue triggers numerous challenges regarding theoretical and empirical research. Based on my PhD research in Portugal and Italy, the paper aims at exploring these challenges, focusing on cultural, political and academic aspects. Despite socio-legal changes occurred recently in Southern European countries, a dominant culture based on family-oriented and catholic values is still prevalent and has direct connections to the ways disability and queerness are constructed. Moreover, queer and disabled social movements largely follow unconnected political agendas. Finally, crip studies occupy an almost invisible space in academia, in line with the already existing difficulties queer studies face in this geographical context.

The paper aims at analysing the complexity of these challenges, in order to understand to what extent it is possible to use crip and queer as epistemologies intertwined with the peculiarities of Southern Europe. Also, it seeks to explore their validity as theoretical and political tools to address normativities, systems of oppression and, ultimately, the construction of citizenship.

RN23 | Session 03b Sexualities and Masculinities

'A cathartic moment in a man's life': masculinity

and homosociality on the puttan tour

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Rarely addressed in academic scholarship, the puttan tour is a well-known form of entertainment in Italy where young men, in small groups, drive around with the aim of spotting street sex workers. On some occasions the participants will approach the sex workers to strike a conversation. On others they will shout out insults from their car then drive away. This paper aims to advance a detailed analysis of this under-explored cultural practice drawing on a diverse body of scholarship exploring the intersection of masculinity, leisure, fun, and homosociality. By analysing stories of puttan tours gathered online from written accounts and videos, we explore the multiple and often equivocal meanings that are attributed to this collective homosocial male-bonding ritual, the emotional workings within it, and the ways in which it reproduces structures of inequality while normalising violence against sex workers

Militarized sexualities: military socialization, biomedicine, and male veteran sexuality in Denmark

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Whereas male veterans occasionally are represented as erotic icons as for example in Michael Stokes' photography, veteran sexuality is more often than not a rather different affair. While high-gloss photography portrays the glorification of militarized masculinity, the bio-medicalization of post-deployment veteran bodies and the aftermaths of military socialization often leave male veterans in vulnerable situations in which ideals about male sexual performance are exposed as unattainable through the experience of PTSD and sexual dysfunction. Socialized in an institutional regime that very much builds on and perpetuates the glorification of male prowess, male veterans might find it difficult to negotiate the discrepancy between experiences of male sexual vulnerability and militarized self-images as men and soldiers. This contribution explores this dynamic by attending to Danish male veterans' narratives of military careers and intimate relationships. The objective of this contribution is to conceptualize the interplay between military socialization, bio-medicalization, and the formation of sexual selves and builds on biographical interviews with Danish male veterans and ethnographic fieldwork at a veteran home in Denmark.

The making of masculinities, normativity and morality in non-monogamous internet-mediated dating

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The paper reports on one part of a more extensive study that is concerned with ideologies of exclusivity in relationships and families and focuses on various sexual and relationship practices. It specifically reports on the narratives of men who engage in non-monogamous internet-mediated dating in Belgium. Data have been collected through traditional ethnographic methods and interviews, and through participatory internet ethnographic research in dating sites for non-consensually non-monogamous dating (cheating) and/or consensually non-monogamous dating (e.g. people in open relationships and polyamory). Building on feminist engagements with embodiment as a material-discursive phenomenon, the paper explores how the men's narratives negotiate aspects of hegemonic masculine sexuality, morality and relationship normativity. It argues that the men tap into dominant ideas of emotional detachment and separation of love from sex, masculine consumerism, hedonism, and individualism, yet also deconstruct (or complicate) hegemonic views of gendered morality and emotionality (through e.g. narratives of love,