



**CONFERENCE CALL FOR PAPERS**

# INTIMATELY VIOLENCE, SOCIAL MATERIAL REPRODUCTION, AND QUEERNESS IN TRANSITION

**MAY 20TH & 21ST, 2024**

**EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE - FLORENCE, ITALY**

While the end of the 20th century saw a resurgence of socialist politics in developing countries, especially in Latin America, other global events told a different story. The collapse of the socialist bloc in Central and Eastern Europe, the war in Yugoslavia, and the transition of China's socialist-oriented economy to one with strong capitalist characteristics challenged the continued relevance and viability of Marxist thought. Simultaneously, the rise of neoliberal identity politics in Europe and the US has turned the economic and symbolic oppression of LGBTQ+ people, women, migrants, and people of colour into free-standing and self-contained cultural matters. In the 21st century, this transformation has extended beyond the US and Western Europe. It has obscured that various forms of oppression are intimately tied to political and economic processes that shape people's lives. Furthermore, it turned said forms of oppression into tools for political gain, exacerbating global inequalities and reinforcing a neoliberalist hegemony.

With the continued need for innovative perspectives, this conference seeks to bring into dialogue gender, sexuality, and queer studies with broader theoretical frameworks of Marxism, neo-Marxism, new materialism, and critiques of capitalism. We aim to revisit their common assumptions about the intimate relationship between material conditions of existence and consciousness, affects, emotions, and intimacy. Such an approach has the ability to empower emancipatory projects by providing a platform for dialogue between academic research and activism.

**To that end, we invite activists, artists and scholars from different academic disciplines, such as anthropology, sociology, history, literature studies, political science, queer and gender studies to interrogate the intersection between identity, intimacy, class, labour, and capital. We are interested in the mechanisms through which inequality is perpetuated and contested both historically and in the present, in different geographical areas but particularly in those previously marginalised in academic and political discussions, such as Eastern or Southern Europe, the Global East, and the Global South. We encourage paper submissions that are related, but not limited, to the following interdisciplinary subjects:**

## 1. TRANSITIONS

States, people and relationships all go through transitions. We are interested in the ways economic transitions, both large and small-scale, structure and transform identities, sexualities and intimacies. With the rise of the gig economy, the atomization of societies, and the rapidly advancing climate catastrophe, many perceive a state of perpetual transition as the only tangible reality remaining. In places like Eastern Europe, for instance, transition has long been the primary mode through which the establishment and policymakers have framed political and economic reality. They have often used this rhetoric to implicitly demand from individuals and groups ever-greater flexibility, readiness to uproot and embrace the unpredictable. This conference's focus on transitions encompasses, on the one hand, such larger macro-scale historical economic transitions and political shifts within states and societies. Alternatively, it also includes smaller scale economic changes in jobs, housing, countries of residence, or citizenship. It can entail economic transformations within sex and affective relations such as marriage or divorce, that affect value and assets. In addition, "transitions" may refer to transformations in identities, queer transitions, shifts in political consciousness and changing human relationships. We welcome submissions that focus on how different forms of change are deeply interwoven with each other.

## 2. VIOLENCE

(Everyday) violence is a central subject for queer, feminist and gender studies. We want to rethink violence from a political-economic perspective. In particular, we invite papers that focus on consensual or exploitative lived experiences of intersectional violences, as well as economic dependence and hierarchies of power. A better understanding of how violence entwines with intimacies, emotions and affects, and how they coalesce from material (economic and historical) contexts holds the potential to reinvigorate emancipatory politics.

### 3. (SOCIAL RE)PRODUCTION

We aim to revisit the nexus of work, class and social reproduction. We welcome research that focuses on labour residing in the blurred zone between production and social reproduction, such as sex work, surrogacy or care work. We also invite papers inspired by Marxist and queer thought that discuss alternatives to hegemonic forms of work and familial relations. Particularly, we are interested in the work of those who reimagine kinship, challenge normative social models, and do not shy away from advocating for queer utopias. Re-evaluating how labour relations shape identities, sexualities, kinships and both romantic and antagonistic relationships—and how these relations structure affects—has significant implications for discussions about the gender pay gap, stigmatisation of the poor, and global inequalities more generally.

Possible topics could include:

- New methodological approaches to the study of forms of social relations and geographical areas
- Everyday intimacies, affects and social relations (historically and in the present)
- Literary and artistic productions that unravel mechanisms of inequality (textual or visual)
- Forms of (queer) activism that combine the topics of social life, work, social reproduction, and violence to enable social change

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

**Submit abstracts of 250–300 words along with a biography of no more than 100 words to [queerWG@eui.eu](mailto:queerWG@eui.eu) by January 7th, 2024.**

The conference will take place in person in Florence, Italy on May 21st and 22nd, 2024. There will be no conference fees. Participants are asked to apply for funds from their home institutions to pay for travel and accommodation, but we hope to be able to support some participants who cannot draw on other funds with small bursaries. Please inform us of any accessibility requirements that you might have. We aim to integrate these in the organisation of the event to the best of our capacities and resources. For any further questions, do not hesitate to contact the organisers in [queerwg@eui.eu](mailto:queerwg@eui.eu)

**#IntimatelyMaterial**

