

Paper presentation at the International conference on sexual and gendered moralities

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Ghent, Belgium

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On November 27, I presented a paper from my PhD at the International conference on sexual and gendered moralities in Ghent. The conference was organized by the International Association for the study of Religion and Gender (IARG); a collaborative network established by several European universities that aims to connect, bring together, and support scholars working in this field and to foster the development of this interdisciplinary field of study¹. I had come across the conference on Facebook, and became enthusiastic because of Professor Chia Longman's connection to the network. I am enthusiastic about her critical analysis of the term 'harmful cultural practices', which I refer to in the article I presented. I participated in the panel 'Sexual moralities, harmful cultural practices and gender-based violence'.

The conference itself was quite specific, and not everything was relevant to my research topic. However, some sessions were very interesting. There was a session on 'Religious, secular and humanitarian perspectives on sexual and reproductive rights', where researchers discussed the moral dimensions of sexuality education, a topic I also deal with in my research. Katarzyna Wazynska-Finck had a background in law and dissected international laws and treaties on sexuality education in historical perspective. Jelle Wiering discussed practices of sex educators in school-based sex education in the Netherlands. Jelle proved to be a valuable contact, who can introduce me to other relevant researchers in the Netherlands. The panel was facilitated by An Van Raemdonck, who is a postdoc researcher in Amsterdam. After my presentation on INGO staff's practices of blaming culture for teenage pregnancies in Malawi, we discussed the many similarities with An's research on NGO's in refugee camps in Jordan. She expressed her interest to invite me for a workshop she will organize in Amsterdam in 2019. Thus, although the conference was small-scale and not everything was directly relevant, it proved to be highly valuable for networking.

¹ <https://associationreligionandgender.org/>



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