

Women's and Gender Studies Department

presents

VIRTUAL WORKSHOP:

EXPLORING SEX/GENDER/SEXUALITY AS SPECTRA AND INTRODUCING THE INTERSEX:

NEW INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES

Date and Time:

June 24, 2021 04:00 PM- 06:00 PM Johannesburg

Meeting ID:

979 5358 6058

Link (Zoom):

<https://uwc.zoom.us/j/97953580658>

Led By:

Surya Monro

Facilitated By:

Desiree Lewis
Mary Hames



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Surya Monro's early theoretical contributions to knowledge included framing gender as a spectrum and exploring non-binary gender theorising, set within an intersectional paradigm. Whilst constructionist approaches to gender were seen as important, Surya identified a need for some level of biological foundationalism. Surya has more recently collaborated with intersex scholars, leading her to excavate a little-known fact about the origins of second-wave feminists: the supposedly feminist notions of sex as biological and fixed into male/female binaries, and gender as constructed, came from pathologising Western white male perspectives.

This interactive workshop will centre around 2 short lectures on different but interrelated topics:

- Theorising gender, sex and sexuality
- Introducing a new large research programme about the wellbeing and human rights of intersex people.

The feminist appropriation and development of sex as biological and gender as constructed fuelled crucial interventions, but in doing so erased intersex and gender-variant people. This and other forms of epistemic injustice have led to the so-called TERF wars that currently rage in countries such as the UK, where Surya is currently based. The first lecture will explore ways of centring on the rights of people of different sexes and genders, whilst tackling structural inequalities and harms relating to patriarchy.

The second lecture in the workshop provides colleagues and students with a chance to hear about an innovative new research programme titled Intersex: New Interdisciplinary Approaches (INIA) <https://www.intersexnew.co.uk/>. Two of the ten research projects address intersex human rights and research ethics at an international level, and all of them foreground key issues relating to wellbeing, rights, activism, bodily autonomy, and diversity in different ways.

The two short lectures can be attended together or separately as wished. They aim to open up debates and stimulate interest in key issues, and are held in the spirit of mutual learning and respect. Each short lecture will be followed by space for discussion.

