

FACULTEIT DER MAATSCHAPPIJ- EN GEDRAGSWETENSCHAPPEN
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Amsterdam, 1 February 2010

Dear colleagues,

As most of you probably know by now, we have taken the initiative to constitute a new Interdisciplinary Research Centre for Gender and Sexuality Studies. This endeavour is motivated in a number of ways, which are discussed at greater length in the attached foundational text. Here we wish to emphasize that the recent formation of the mono-disciplinary program groups was an important incentive to create an *interdisciplinary* centre. The new centre will bring together scholars from different disciplines, and be the intellectual 'home' for researchers working on gender, sexuality and related issues, especially race and ethnicity.

The research centre will be affiliated with approximately 15 courses at the BA level, the minor GS&S, the MA Gender, Sexuality, and Society, Ph.D-level teaching (such as Short Intensive Courses, summer & winter schools), in addition to the time-honoured Summer Institute in Sexuality, Society and Culture. At this moment, approximately 25 colleagues (see attachment II) have indicated that they wish to participate in the centre's activities.

With this letter we would also like to invite any of you as members of the AiSSR to join the new centre in case your research and/or teaching concerns these topics. Given the new structure of the AiSSR, individuals are free to affiliate with the centre without affecting their membership of a departmental program group. We therefore invite you to consider joining in the intellectual initiatives of the new centre and hope that you will also encourage colleagues with comparable research interests to take an active part in the centre's initiatives. We anticipate that the centre will enjoy the broad support of a wide range of departmental program groups.

Soon you will hear more about our progress. For the moment we would appreciate it if you could inform us whether you wish to join the initiative, and hope that your program group will support this interdisciplinary centre.

Sincerely,

Niko Besnier
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Marieke van Eijk
Frances Gouda
Gert Hekma
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