

**Invitation for Participation in the International Conference
"Representation of Gender Minority Groups in Media"
30th and 31st May 2015
Faculty of Media and Communications, Singidunum University, Belgrade**

The Faculty of Media and Communications at Singidunum University in Belgrade is pleased to invite scholars and practitioners from various disciplines to submit paper proposals for the international conference that will take place in Belgrade on May 30-31, 2015. The conference will be organized on behalf of the project "Representation of Gender Minority Groups in Media", supported by the Regional Research Promotion Programme (RRPP), and realized with partner institutions in the region – the Faculty of Dramatic Arts, Cetinje (Montenegro) and the Coalition "Sexual and Health Rights of Marginalized Communities", Skopje (Macedonia). More information about the research and the team can be found at the web site of the project <http://www.genderminoritygroups.org/about-us/research/>

Recent research on media representation in the post-Yugoslav region has indicated that social, cultural and political stigmatisation of non-heteronormative sexualities still shapes the media discourses on various gender minorities. The issues of media representation of the LGBT population have especially become central to debates on the Pride parade and the social influence and political status of its representations in the local media. Considering inclusive/exclusive strategies, research conducted in the region has found that although the media broadcast a considerable amount of content directly connecting human rights and the needs of members of marginalized groups, representatives of GMG are rarely and misleadingly presented in the media. This means that GMG are hindered from gaining full freedom of speech to present their "voice" in the media and to shape the public discourse according to their real needs.

Paper proposals from all researchers interested in the intersections of gender, sexuality, politics, media and representation, especially with a focus on regional media developments in the recent period, are most welcome. We particularly encourage papers with a focus on an interdisciplinary research agenda (gender theory, media theory, sociology, anthropology, psychology, economy, cultural studies, political science, demography, medicine, bioethics, etc.), strongly grounded in empirical research, informed by a gender and media theoretical background, and a good knowledge of the post-Yugoslav media and geopolitical space. In addition to the representations of Pride events, we welcome papers on the media treatment of all other cultural and social aspects of gender minorities' lives.

Topic categories include:

- Political, Societal and Cultural Aspects of Media Representation of Gender Minority Groups
- Hate Speech, Homophobia and Discrimination in the Media
- Tabloidisation and Media Representation of Gender Minority Groups
- Infotainment and Gender Minority Groups
- Gender Minority Groups in Media and a Security Discourse
- Media Reporting on Pride Parade and other related GMG events in the region
- Strategies of Media Representation on Gender Minority Groups in the region

- Politics of Affect and Emotions in Media Representation
- The Performative of Media Silence
- Media Depoliticisation of LGBT Activism
- Ambiguities of Inclusion/Normalisation
- (Il)legitimization of "speaking in the name of"
- Good Practices and Policies of Media Representation of Gender Minorities
- Media Representation and Queer Subcultures
- Religious Media and Gender Minority Groups
- The Role of New Media in Representation of Gender Minority Groups
- The Role of Journalists in the Process of Media Reporting on Gender Minority Groups
- Legalisation Framework and Media Reporting on GMG population
- Representation of Gender Minority Groups in Art and Popular Culture of the region

The idea of the conference is to bring together the research team which will present the results of the project with the experts from the region who will present their academic work, and with stakeholders' representatives who will be invited either as keynote speakers or as participants. Research papers presented at the conference will be published in the collection of papers which is to be published in English and will be promoted at round tables in the region with academic experts, LGBT activists and journalists.

We hope that the organisation of the scientific conference will substantially contribute to the development of fruitful communication between different disciplinary analytical approaches to this research topic. Therefore we would like to invite you to contribute to the work of the Conference with your presentation and discussion.

Deadline for registration and submission of abstracts (up to **250 words**) and short CVs (maximum one page) in English is **10th April 2015**.

The official language of the conference is **English**. You can send your contribution (abstract and CV) in English to the following emails:
gmgconference2015@fmk.edu.rs and danica.cigoja@fmk.edu.rs

The Organisation Committee of the Conference will send notifications of acceptance no later than **15th April 2015**.

A Collections of Papers presented at conference will be published in English. The final papers should be submitted no later than **20th May 2015**. All papers will be peer reviewed.

The Organisation Committee of the Conference

Partners:



Coalition 'Sexual and Health Rights
of Marginalized Communities'



UNIVERSITÉ DE FRIBOURG
UNIVERSITÄT FREIBURG