

Polyamory in Media, Social and Identity Perspective



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The research project studies similarities and differences between self-perception and media representation of polyamory (a consensual relationship between more than two people based on emotional love and intimate acts over longer period of time) in regard to love and life history, classification and affiliation with the LGBT community, social acceptance, the possible demand for legal and religious recognition and the generation of knowledge.

After the start in February 2016 and funding by the FWF Austrian Science Fund, 33 narrative biographical interviews among 14 polycules have been conducted. In addition, 370 newspaper and magazine articles published in Austria, Germany and Switzerland over a decade have been analysed.

Now close to the end of the project, Stefan Ossmann will combine and compare these two aspects. He presents the preliminary findings stimulating a discussion with an international panel of experts who are well known for their publications on polyamory. The symposium's participants will also debate on the project's implications for the poly community as well as for the general discourse about this phenomenon.

We would like to thank the following partners
for making this symposium possible:

FWF Austrian Science Fund
Department of Social and Economic History, University of Vienna
Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies, University of Vienna
Forschungsschwerpunkt Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft

Department of Social and Economic History
Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies
Universitätsring 1, 1010 Vienna
polyamory.univie.ac.at

Polyamory in Media, Social and Identity Perspective

International symposium on preliminary results and implications

7 June 2019, 13:00 – 19:00

Senatssaal, University of Vienna, Universitätsring 1, 1010 Vienna, Austria



Illustration
by Stefan Ossmann, showing the
most frequently used words in
German-speaking newspapers
relating to the topic of polyamory

Panel and speakers

Franz X. Eder

Professor at the Department of Social and Economic History and Vice-Dean for Teaching at the Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies, University of Vienna. Research focus (amongst others) on the history of sexuality. Founder of the Bibliography of the History of Western Sexuality database. Head of the polyamory research project.

Fritz Hausjell

Assistant professor and deputy head of the Department of Communication, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Vienna. Research focus (amongst others) journalism research and media competence.

Christian Klesse

Reader at the Department of Sociology, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK. One of the most quoted academic authors on the topic of polyamory.

Stefan F. Ossmann

Project leader of the polyamory project at the Department of Social and Economic History; PhD candidate at the Department of Communication, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Vienna.

Elisabeth Sheff

Previously assistant professor at Georgia State University, Atlanta, US; now educational consultant and expert witness serving sexual and gender minorities. Author of the bestseller *The Polyamorists Next Door and Stories from the Polycule*.

Ann Tweedy

Previously associate professor at Hamline University, School of Law. Now legal scholar, essayist and poet with a focus on federal Indian law and sexuality in the law, particularly in the area of employment discrimination.

Programme, 7 June 2019

13:00 Get-together

13:30-13:40 Welcome Address and Introduction

13:40-14:30

Presentation

Stefan F. Ossmann (University of Vienna, Austria)
Polyamory in Media, Social and Identity Perspective.
Preliminary Results and Implications

14:30-15:30

Feedback and Comments by

Christian Klesse (Manchester Metropolitan University, UK)

Elisabeth Sheff (prev. Georgia State University, US)

Ann Tweedy (prev. Hamline University, US)

15:30-16:00 Coffee break

16:00-16:30

Feedback and Comments by

Stefan F. Ossmann

Franz X. Eder (Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies,
University of Vienna)

Fritz Hausjell (Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Vienna)

16:30-18:00

Discussion with the audience

Implications for polyamory research,
the poly community and society

18:00-19:00 Informal closing

Bread and wine

The event is open to the public and free of charge.

We kindly ask you to register in advance: stefan.ossmann@univie.ac.at
