

OWL colloquium: Athena's platform for deliberating science-society interactions

09-06-16

We are happy to announce that our next OWL colloquium speaker is **Dr. Anke van der Kwaak**.

Date & time: **17/6, 16:00-17:00**

Venue: Room **WN-S655** in VU University Amsterdam, De Boelelaan 1085,

Abstract: Dialogues and Discourse

In her talk Anke will present some of her recent research regarding young people and sexuality. She will first discuss a mixed method study among young males in Kibera and Western Kenya and show that a divergence exists between the social and sexual lives of young people and dominant development discourses, and that there is an urgent need for innovative ways of reaching out to them.

Secondly, she will discuss her research on female genital cutting and how in 25 years the different discourses and debates have both changed and not changed under the influence of globalization and modernity and stress the importance of continuation of contextualization of phenomena like this and studying them from multiple perspectives, among which those of the girls undergoing the cutting.

About our speaker: Dr. Anke van der Kwaak is a senior advisor and researcher at the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT). She has successfully led numerous research and advisory projects, and has a specific focus on adolescents and youth, female genital cutting and sexuality. Before joining KIT, she worked for ten years at the VU's Medical Faculty, where she was also active as a researcher and trainer in CARAM Asia, a research programme on migration and AIDS in ten Asian Countries. She operates in both NGO and academic circles, her work focusses on capacity-strengthening in mixed-

methods research and evaluation and translating findings into knowledge products that will be used for informing, policy, programs, new initiatives and action research. She is a member of the Ethical Review Board of the Royal Tropical Institute and the Board of Studies of the Master in Internal Public Health. From December 2009 until May 2013 she was a member of the Scientific Advisory Board for Research on Islam to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Next OWL Colloquium:

Prof. Ellen Moors, UU

24/6, 16:00hrs

About the Athena Institute

The Athena Institute at VU University Amsterdam is part of the science faculty. From its early days in the 1990s onwards, it has developed tools and methodologies to successfully deal with science-society interactions at all stages of research and innovation.

About the OWL colloquium

With its monthly OWL colloquium the Athena Institute aspires to stimulate an inter-, multi-, cross and trans-disciplinary process of deliberation about topics relating to the interface between science and society. Speakers from all corners both within and without academia (CSOs, policy, business and industry...) are invited to present on empirical, theoretical and methodological developments topical to bridging the variety of gaps that complicate science and society interactions.

For more information, please contact us at p.klaassen@vu.nl.