X Biennial Conference of the International Association for the Study of Sexuality, Culture and Society (IASSCS)

"Literacies and Sexualities in Cultural, Fictional, Real and Virtual Worlds: Past, Present, Future Perfect?"

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Dublin, Ireland

Prepared by:
IASSCS Secretariat Staff and Jean-Philippe Imbert
We are very pleased to report the success of the tenth biennial meeting of the International Association for the Study of Sexuality, Culture and Society (IASSCS) entitled \textit{Literacies and Sexualities in Cultural, Fictional, Real and Virtual Worlds: Past, Present, Future Perfect?} The conference was co-organized by the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies (SALIS), at the Dublin City University, Ireland and hosted by Professor Jean-Philippe Imbert.

The main focus of the X IASSCS International Conference was sexual literacy, one that sees and welcomes a history of non-normative sexualities and gender, framed as cultural heresy. Issues of sexual literacy are also taken on-board by different protagonists in the health and medical worlds, which always inform cultural, ethical, legal and political discourses. All these are different means of making sense of sexuality and of gender, in sites from classrooms to streets, from stages to senates.

IASSCS welcomed 300 participants from 47 countries to attend the conference. Special sessions were jointly co-organized by Poetry Ireland, Transgender Equality Network Ireland – TENI, BLISS Ireland, BeLonG To Ireland, Slí An Chroí Shamanism, St. Vincent's University Hospital - Ireland and the American Institute of Bisexuality. This year’s conference showcased 190 presentations, from 47 countries, along with 11 exhibits, 8 IASSCS selected posters and 13 Dublin City University Master in Sexuality Studies Student Posters.

Plenary sessions included keynote presentations by \textbf{Michael Kimmel} on \textit{Promoting Men’s Sexual Literacy on Campus: Pornography, Hooking Up, and Sexual Assault} and \textbf{Nivedita Menon} on \textit{Seeking Oneself, Finding the Other}. Unfortunately, due to personal reasons, the third keynote speaker \textbf{Bibi Bakare-Yusuf} gave a last minute cancellation.
IASSCS, along with Jean-Philippe Imbert, organized a plenary session that replaced Bibi’s absence, entitled *Sexuality at the Crossroads. A Conversation with IASSCS*. The participants were Gary Dowsett (La Trobe University, IASSCS Founding Member, Australia), Carlos Cáceres (Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, IASSCS Founding Member, Peru), Frans Mom (Independent Consultant, IASSCS Member, The Netherlands), Diane di Mauro (Academic Director, Summer Institute on Sexuality, Culture and Society, University of Amsterdam, IASSCS Member, United States of America), Horacio Sívori (Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, IASSCS Member, Brazil) and chaired by Jean-Philippe Imbert (Dublin City University, Ireland).

With the generous support from Ford Foundation and HIVOS, IASSCS was able to grant a total of 16 conference scholarships (12 full scholarships and 4 partial scholarships) to participants from 14 countries, in addition to a significant number of registration fee waivers. 9 conference scholarships were granted to participants who identified as female and 7 to participants who identified as male.

The IASSCS Paper Award was granted to Andrew Westle, for his paper entitled *When Men Dance: Contesting Normative Sexualities through Movement*. Due to the quality of the poster presentations, the IASSCS Award Committee decided to grant two Poster Awards. The first Award was granted to the academic poster by Fabiola Trejo, entitled *Attitudes towards Sexual Permissiveness in three Different States of Mexico*. The second Award was granted to the activist poster by Robert Lawlor, entitled *The Virtuous Pedophile*. Unfortunately, this year the Culture, Health and Sexuality Award was not awarded.

We appreciate the support from all who participated in all aspects of the planning and organizing of the conference.