



Sexual and reproductive health and rights today and tomorrow

*ICRH celebrates 20 years of SRHR research, training and
advocacy*

Thursday 4 December 2014, Het Pand, Gent (Belgium)

Symposium on “Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Well-being: How to align the need for complex interventions with the call for more evidence?”

Adolescents and young people make up one quarter of the world population, the overwhelming majority (90%) of them living in low- and middle-income countries. The transition from childhood into adulthood usually includes the initiation of sexual activity, making adolescents vulnerable for unplanned pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, and sexual violence. Unsafe sexual behaviours are a major contributor to disability-adjusted life years lost for very young adolescents in nearly every region of the world, but in particular in low-income countries. Recent evolutions in the field of adolescent sexual health research include the development and testing of innovative approaches in health promotion and the increased attention for studying upstream determinants, such as gender norms, of adolescent sexual and reproductive health.

The general objective of the symposium is to move the field of adolescent SRH research forward. In the first track, on *Innovations in adolescent sexual and reproductive health promotion*, state-of-the-art and recent evolutions of promising approaches in adolescent sexual and reproductive health promotion will be presented. During the second track we will discuss on *Understanding, defining and measuring sexual health and well-being of adolescents*: we will provide an overview of research on measuring adolescent sexual well-being and develop a pathway on how to arrive at quality indicators for adolescent sexual wellbeing.

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Welcome

9.00-9.15: *Kristien Michielsen* (Ghent University - ICRH, Belgium): **Adolescent sexual and reproductive health research at ICRH: past, ongoing and future**

Track 1 - Innovations in adolescent sexual and reproductive health promotion

9.15-9.40: *Chandra-Mouli Venkatraman* (WHO, Switzerland): **Twenty years after the International Conference on Population and Development, where are we in adolescent sexual and reproductive health?**

➤ **New topics:**

9.40-9.55: *Minou Friele* (BZGA - Federal Centre for Health Education, Germany): **Five years after the development of European Standards for Sexuality Education: experiences in promoting holistic sexuality education**

➤ **New technology:**

9.55-10.10: *Adesegun Fatusi* (Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria): **ICT and adolescent health promotion in low and middle income countries**

10.10-10.25: *Bernardo Vega* (University of Cuenca, Ecuador): **Breaking barriers in information and communication on sexuality for adolescents, using NICTS. A field experience in Cuenca, Ecuador**

10.25-10.40: *Peter Decat* (Ghent University - Department of Family Medicine and Primary Health, Belgium): **Adolescent driven access to contraceptives**

10.40-10.55: **Questions and comments, moderated by Sara De Meyer**

10.55-11.15: *Coffee break*

➤ **New approaches:**

11.15-11.30: *Jim Lees* (University of the Western Cape - Centre for Research in HIV and AIDS, South Africa): **“Sexual Diversity and the Role of Educators”: experiences in developing and teaching the first accredited course in Afrika for teachers in training?**

11.30-11.45: *Caroline Kabiru* (African Population and Health Research Centre, Kenya): **A multi-sectorial approach to improve adolescent girls’ SRH: The Adolescent Girls Initiative – Kenya**

11.45-12:00: *Lies Verhetsel* (Sensoa, Belgium): **Participatory projects: the do’s and don’ts. Experience from Sensoa**

12.00-12.15: **Questions and comments**, moderated by Sara De Meyer

12.30-13.30: *Lunch break*

Track 2 - Understanding, defining and measuring sexual health and well-being of adolescents

13.30-13.55: *Deborah Tolman* (The Hunter School of Social Work, USA): **From sexual health to sexual wellbeing: Integrating the complexities of adolescent sexuality**

13.55-14.20: *Caroline Moreau* (Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA): **Sexual dysfunction among youth: an overlooked sexual health concern**

14.20-14.40: *Ragnar Andersson* (Guttmacher Institute, freelance SRHR researcher, Finland): **Sexual pleasure as a crucial part of wellbeing**

14.40-15.00: *Ine Vanwesenbeeck* (Rutgers WPF, the Netherlands): **What is sexual empowerment? And how to measure it?**

15.00-15.20: **Questions & answers**, moderated by Kristien Michielsen

15.20-15.35: *Coffee break*

Debate on discrepancy between the need for more complex interventions (action-based research, holistic sexuality education) and the call to evaluate and demonstrate causal effectiveness

16.00-16.10: *Evert Ketting* (Guttmacher Institute, USA & Radboud University, the Netherlands): **Evaluating complex interventions: the challenges** (*introduction to the debate*)

16.10-17.00: Debate with participants from

- Rajib Acharya (Population Council, India)
- Chandra-Mouili Venkatraman (WHO, Geneva)
- Kristien Verbrugghen (VLIR, Belgium)
- Jim Lees (UWC, South-Africa)
- Ine Vanwesenbeeck (Rutgers WPF, the Netherlands)

Closing remark / Reflections

17.00-17.15: *Evert Ketting* (Guttmacher Institute, USA & Radboud University, the Netherlands): **Pathways for process to develop useful and adequate evaluation designs and indicators**