

Working Groups at the BCDSS

[Gender Reading Group \(GRG\)](#)

The **Gender Reading Group** was created on the initiative of two PhD candidates belonging to [RA E](#), [Dita Auziņa](#) and [Danitza Márquez](#). Since its inception in September last year, the group has brought together [RA E members](#) and interested BCDSS colleagues to discuss current debates in gender and intersectionality studies and to reflect on approaches to gender, gender relations and the intersections between these and related categories in our research on slavery and (strong) asymmetrical dependencies.

To begin our activities with a common background, our **first four sessions** (September – November 2020) focused on the discussion of some ‘canonical’ literature. The pre-selection of texts was done in collaboration with senior members of the RA. During the **second phase** (November 2020 – May 2021), in the spirit of interdisciplinarity, several participants organized their own thematic sessions. These sessions were framed by the particular interests of group members and aimed to address the theoretical challenges of their ongoing research. They provided active space for participants to work together and explore interpretations of gender relations and intersectionality from their diverse contexts and standpoints.

During the **third phase** (in June 2021), members discussed texts produced by peer members, as well as the BCDSS concept paper in light of RA E’s objectives. As a result of our past endeavours, and thanks to the growing number of members in the RA, the group will continue to move forward in addressing the connections between gender, intersectionality, and (strong) asymmetrical dependencies in this productive format.

Up until now, most of the meetings have been held online every two or three weeks. A total of fifteen sessions have already taken place. For the winter term 2021/22 we plan to hold monthly sessions in hybrid form, restarting in November. The GRG is coordinated by [PhD candidates](#) and advised by [senior members of RA E](#). As time goes by, and as Dita and Danitza resume their fieldwork, we are very happy to announce that our colleague [Lisa Phongsavath](#), PhD candidate, has now joined the coordination team.

Contact: If you would like to take part in our sessions, please send an email to lisa.phongsavath@uni-bonn.de and dmarquez@uni-bonn.de, and we will add you to the mailing list.

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