

ANNA KUROWICKA

Assistant Professor at the American Studies Center, University of Warsaw

RESEARCH

My main research focus is the application of gender and queer theories in popular culture and social studies. I have analyzed television and literature using feminist and queer theoretical perspectives as well as methods grounded in cultural, social and literary studies. In my current research I explore asexuality as a non-normative sexuality and the way it functions in the Polish, European and American cultural contexts.

EDUCATION

2018 PhD in cultural studies with distinction awarded at the University of Warsaw. Thesis title:

Politics of Asexuality. A Critical Analysis of Discourses on Asexualities.

2012-2017 Graduate School for Social Research, Polish Academy of Sciences

2012 Post-graduate program in Gender Studies at Institute of Literary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences

2012 Master's Degree in English Studies received at University of Social Sciences and Humanities

2011 Master's Degree in American Studies received at University of Warsaw's American Studies Center

2009 Bachelor's Degree in English Studies received at Warsaw School of Social Science and Humanities

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2021- Associate Professor at the American Studies Center, University of Warsaw

2019-2021 Assistant Professor at the American Studies Center, University of Warsaw

2018-2019 Assistant Professor at the Department of English, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University

2015-2019 Lecturer at the American Studies Center, University of Warsaw

2013-2018 Assistant at the Institute of Slavic Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences

2013-2018 Research Support Specialist at the Institute of Slavic Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences

RESEARCH GRANTS

2021-2022 Microgrant within the Excellence Initiative: Research University framework (study visit at University of California, Riverside).

2021-2024 National Science Center research grant (SONATA), *Asexuality in American Popular Culture*.

2020-2021 Microgrant within the Excellence Initiative: Research University framework (copyediting).

- 2019-2020 *The image of autism in science fiction*. A research grant funded by the State Fund for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled.
- 2016 Research grant for a library query at the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies, Freie Universität, Berlin.
- 2015 The Kościuszko Foundation grant for a research stay at the Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia; work under the supervision of prof. Lynne Huffer.
- 2014-2016 *Transforming sexual norms and national identity in Poland post-1989. A critical discourse analysis*. A PATTERNS Lectures grant, funded by ERSTE Foundation and WUS Austria. Principal Investigator and lecturer, with dr Anna Jawor.
- 2014-2019 *Dzieje polskiej psychoanalizy w kontekście kulturowym, literackim, polityczno-społecznym (1900-2013) [History of Polish psychoanalysis in cultural, literary, political and social context (1900-2013)]*, funded by the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education within the framework of the National Programme for the Development of Humanities. Research team member and secretary.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- 2021- Innovative Research Award committee at the Science Fiction Research Association, member
- 2021- Science Fiction Research Association, member
- 2021- European Association for American Studies, member
- 2021- LGBTQ+ Studies Network affiliated with EAAS, member
- 2018-2020 National Women's Studies Association, co-chair of the Asexuality Studies Interest Group
- 2014- National Women's Studies Association, member

WORKING GROUPS

- Gender/Sexuality Research Group, American Studies Center, University of Warsaw
- Speculative Texts and Fiction Research Group, American Studies Center, University of Warsaw
- R/ACE: Race, Asexuality, Colonialism and Empire Working Group

PUBLICATIONS

- Kurowicka, Anna. "The Unproductive Asexuality of Todd Chavez." *The Routledge Companion to Gender, Sexuality, and Culture*. Ed. Emma Rees. Routledge (forthcoming).
- Kurowicka, Anna. "Asexual and Genderless Futures." *Routledge Companion to Gender and Science Fiction*. Ed. Sonja Fritzsche, Wendy Pearson, Keren Omry, Lisa Yaszek. Routledge (with editors).
- Kurowicka, Anna. "Allucquère Rosanne Stone." *Fifty Key Figures in Cyberpunk Culture*. Ed. Anna McFarlane, Graham J. Murphy, and Lars Schmeink. Routledge, 2022.

- Kurowicka, Anna. "Cyberpunk ucieleśniony: Feministyczne reinterpretacje gatunku." ["Embodied Cyberpunk: Feminist Reinterpretations of the Genre"]. *Teksty Drugie* 6/2021, 91-108.
- Kurowicka, Anna. "Asexuality." *The Handbook of Social Work and Sexualities*. Ed. SJ Dodd. Routledge, 2021. 37-55.
- Kurowicka, Anna and Marta Usiekniewicz. "Fat Girl's Wet Dream: Girl Sexuality, Fatness, and Mental Disability in *My Mad Fat Diary*." *Fat Studies* 10:1, 2021. 7-20. DOI: 10.1080/21604851.2019.1644062.
- Kurowicka, Anna. "'The only story I will ever be able to tell:' Nonsexual Erotics of Friendship in Donna Tartt's *The Secret History* and Tana French's *The Likeness*." *Feminist Formations* special issue "The Erotics of Nonsexualities: Intersectional Approaches" guest edited by Ela Przybylo and Kristina Gupta. Vol. 32 No. 3, Winter 2020. 24-50.
- Kurowicka, Anna. "'Aliens' Speaking Out: Science Fiction by Autistic Authors." *Przegląd Kulturoznawczy* 3(45), 2020. 261-277.
- Kurowicka, Anna. "Przyszłość bez płci i pożądania" [Future without Sex and Desire]. *Teksty Drugie* 5/2019. 80-97.
- Kurowicka, Anna and Ela Przybylo. "Polish Asexualities: Catholic Religiosity and Asexual Online Activisms in Poland." *LGBTQ+ Activism in Central Eastern Europe*. Ed. Radzhana Buyantueva and Maryna Shevtsova. Palgrave Macmillan, 2019. 289-311.
- Kurowicka, Anna. "Sherlocka Holmesa droga do „normalności” [Sherlock Holmes on the road to "normal"]. *Studia de cultura* 10(1), 2018. 125-136.
- Kurowicka, Anna. "Ludwig Jekels - apostoł Freuda w Galicji, w Szwecji i w Nowym Jorku." ["Ludwig Jekels – Freud's apostle in Galicia, Sweden, and New York"]. *Przywracanie pamięci. Polscy psychiatrzy XX wieku orientacji psychoanalitycznej*. Ed. Paweł Dybel. Universitas, 2017. 45-83.
- Kurowicka, Anna. "Recenzja: Agnieszka Kościańska, *Zobaczyć losia. Historia polskiej edukacji seksualnej od pierwszej lekcji do internetu*, Wydawnictwo Czarne, Wołowiec 2017, ss. 424." [Review of Agnieszka Kościańska, *Zobaczyć losia. Historia polskiej edukacji seksualnej od pierwszej lekcji do internetu*, Wydawnictwo Czarne, Wołowiec 2017]. *Etnografia Polska* 61, 2017. 1-2.
- Kurowicka, Anna and Anna Jawor, eds. *Adeptus* 8, 2017. Special issue Body, Gender, Culture.
- Kurowicka, Anna, Ewa Serafin, and Ewa Wróblewska-Trochimiuk, "The (Lost) Voice of a Woman: the Gorgonowa Case in Irena Krzywicka's Narrative." *Poznańskie Studia Slawistyczne* 11, 2016. 127-142.
- Kurowicka, Anna, "The Healing Power of (Hetero)Sexual Love: How Sheldon Cooper Was Cured of Asexuality." *kuckuck. Notizen zur Alltagskultur* 1/16, 2016. 6-9.
- Kurowicka, Anna, "Asexual Affects: What Abjection, Anxiety and Shame Have to Do with Asexuality?" *Proceedings from the Summer School for Sexualities, Cultures and Politics* 2015. Ed. Mirjana Stošić and Stanimir Panayotov. IPAK.Center - Research Center for Cultures, Politics and Identities, 2016. 48-57.
- Kurowicka, Anna and Anna Jawor, eds., *Polska transformacja seksualna [Polish Sexual Transformation]*. Wyd. Naukowe SCHOLAR, 2016.

- Kurowicka, Anna, „Wpływ kontekstu religijnego i kulturowego na konceptualizowanie aseksualności – przypadek Polski” [“The Influence of Religious and Cultural Context on Conceptualizing Asexuality: The Case of Poland”]. *Polska transformacja seksualna [Polish Sexual Transformation]*. Ed. Anna Jawor and Anna Kurowicka. Wyd. Naukowe SCHOLAR, 2016, 39-57.
- Kurowicka, Anna, Joshua Kjerulf Dubrow, Nika Palaguta, and Kazimierz M. Słomczyński, “Representation and Accountability: Intellectual Foundations of EAST PaC.” *Towards Electoral Control in Central and Eastern Europe*. Ed. Joshua Kjerulf Dubrow and Nika Palaguta. IFiS PAN Publishers, 2016, 21-42.
- Kurowicka Anna, “What’s Love Got to Do with It? Asexuals in Love.” *(Re)Imagining Gender and Love*. Ed. Morgan Ereku and Dikmen Yakalı-Çamoğlu. Inter-Disciplinary Press, 2016, 3-18.
- Kurowicka, Anna. “The Queer Identity for the Twenty-First Century? An Exploration of Asexuality.” *The Personal of the Political: Transgenerational Dialogues in Contemporary European Feminisms*. Ed. Elżbieta H. Oleksy, Aleksandra M. Różalska and Marek M. Wojtaszek. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2015, 203-216.
- Kurowicka, Anna. “What Can Asexuality do for Queer Theories?” *LES Online* 6(1), 2014. 21-27.
- Kurowicka, Anna. “Конструирование стабильной идентичности в мире квир: асексуальность.” *На перепутье: методология, теория и практика ЛГБТ и квир-исследований: сборник статей*. Ed. Alexander Kondakov. Centre for Independent Social Research, 2014. 155-164.
- Kurowicka, Anna, and Marta Usiekniewicz. “How Neo-Victorian are the 21st Centuries Emanations of Sherlock Holmes: BBC's *Sherlock* and CBS's *Elementary*.” *We the Neo-Victorians: Perspectives on Literature and Culture*. Ed. Dorota Babilas and Lucyna Krawczyk-Żywko. Institute of English Studies, Warsaw University, 2013. 165-184.

ACADEMIC COURSES TAUGHT

- 2021 “Who Counts as Human? Defining "Human" in American Culture” (American Studies Center, University of Warsaw)
- “(Re)Imagining the World: American Speculative Fiction” (American Studies Center, University of Warsaw)
- “Happily Ever After: Dismantling the Myth of Romantic Love” (American Studies Center, University of Warsaw)
- “Unruly Women in American Culture” (with dr Natalia Pamuła) (American Studies Center, University of Warsaw)
- “American Literature I” (American Studies Center, University of Warsaw)
- “American Literature II” (American Studies Center, University of Warsaw)
- 2020 “Introduction to Gender and Sexuality Studies” (with dr Ludmiła Janion and Aleksandra Kamińska) (American Studies Center, University of Warsaw)
- “BA Seminar: Sexualities in American Culture and Society” (American Studies Center, University of Warsaw)
- “(A)sexualities in American Culture and Society: Redefining Sex, Sexuality, and Intimacy” (American Studies Center, University of Warsaw)

- “American Literature II” (American Studies Center, University of Warsaw)
- 2019 “Non-normative Sexualities in American Popular Culture” (Maria Curie-Sklodowska University)
- “New American Intimacies” (with dr Natalia Pamuła) (American Studies Center, University of Warsaw)
- “Politics and Aesthetics of American Fantasy” (with dr Jędrzej Burszta) (American Studies Center, University of Warsaw)
- “American Literature Since 1945” (Maria Curie-Sklodowska University)
- “Writing I” (Maria Curie-Sklodowska University)
- “American Literature II” (American Studies Center, University of Warsaw)
- “BA Seminar” (American Studies Center, University of Warsaw)
- 2018 “American Literature I” (American Studies Center, University of Warsaw)
- “Transgressing Identities” (American Studies Center, University of Warsaw)
- “American History and Society” (American Studies Center, University of Warsaw)

WORKSHOPS, EXCHANGE PROGRAMS AND SUMMER SCHOOLS

- 2016 *Inside/Outside. Queer Networks in Transnational Perspective*, summer school organized by Leibniz University, Hannover, Germany.
- 2016 Summer School for Sexualities, Culture and Politics organized by IPAK Center and Faculty for Media and Communications, Singidunum University, Belgrade, Serbia.
- 2015 Summer School for Sexualities, Culture and Politics organized by IPAK Center and Faculty for Media and Communications, Singidunum University, Belgrade, Serbia.
- 2013 *Sex Machines: Politicizing Contemporary Sexual Pleasures*, InterGender workshop for PhD students organized at Linköping University, Sweden.
- 2013 *Studying Feminist Texts and Thinkers*, InterGender workshop for PhD students organized at Helsinki University, Finland.
- 2013 Summer Institute in Sexualities, Culture and Politics organized by Ohrid Summer University in Ohrid, Macedonia.
- 2013 *Kinship, Kinning, and Cultural Representations*, InterGender workshop for PhD students organized at Uppsala University, Sweden.
- 2013 *Methodologies in American Studies*, workshop for PhD students, organized by the American Studies Center at the Warsaw University.
- 2010 Socrates-Erasmus scholarship at the John F. Kennedy’s Institute for North American Studies at the Freie Universität, Berlin.

GUEST LECTURES AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 European Association for American Studies conference *Wastelands* (online); participation in a roundtable “The State of LGBTQ+ Resilience: Perspectives and Challenges” organized by the LGBTQ+ Studies Network.
- 2021 Science Fiction Research Association conference *The Future of/as Inequality* (online); paper “Sexless and Genderless Futures in Samuel R. Delany’s ‘Aye, and Gomorrah’ and Ann Leckie’s *Ancillary Justice*.”
- 2021 European Association for American Studies conference *20/20 Vision: Citizenship, Space, Renewal*, Warsaw (online); paper “Autistic (non)Citizens in American Science Fiction.”
- 2019 National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference *Protest, Justice, and Transnational Organizing*; organization of a panel “Imagining social and sexual justice: asexual lives and activisms” and a paper “Worlds without Gender and Desire: Asexual Perspectives on Science Fiction.”
- 2019 Workshop “Gender/Queer Trouble in Poland” at the *Gender Studies 1989–2019 Bilanzen und Perspektiven im transnationalen und transdisziplinären Vergleich* summer school organized by the University of Leipzig.
- 2019 Conference *Days of Fantasy*; Maria Curie-Skłodowska University; opening lecture: “Ludzki koszt technologicznej reprodukcji: dystopijna wizja świata bez płci w Księdze Joanny Lidii Yuknavitch” [The Human Cost of technological Reproduction: A Dystopian Vision of A World Without Gender in Lidia Yuknavitch’s *The Book of Joan*].
- 2019 *Unthinking Sex, Imagining Asexuality*, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada; paper “Imagining Asexual Futures.”
- 2018 National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference *Just Imagine, Imagine Justice*; Atlanta; organization of a panel and paper: “Polish Asexualities: Catholic Religiosity and Asexual Online Activisms in Poland.”
- 2018 Science Fiction Research Association Annual Meeting *The Future of Labor*, Milwaukee; paper: “Futures Without Gender or Desire in Jacek Dukaj’s *Perfect Imperfection* and Lidia Yuknavitch’s *The Book of Joan*.”
- 2017 American Studies Association Annual Meeting *Pedagogies of Dissent*, Chicago; paper: “Affective Politics of Coming Out in Polish Academia.”
- 2017 Conference *Vulnerabilities*; organized by the Institute of Romance Languages and Translation Studies, University of Silesia and the Silesian Museum; Katowice; paper: “(In)vulnerable Bodies: Asexuality as Rejection of Sexual Vulnerability.”
- 2017 Conference *Between Hope and Despair. History of Psychoanalysis in Poland in the Polish-Jewish-German Cultural Context 1900-1939*; organized by IFiS PAN, International Psychoanalytic University, Berlin, Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung, Bonn, and Pedagogical University of Cracow; paper “Ludwig Jekels in the United States.”
- 2017 Conference “*Homo Academica*”? *Gender and gender order in academic cultures of Central and Eastern Europe of the nineteenth and twentieth century*, organized by the German Historical Institute in Warsaw; paper: “Naukowiec? Naukowczyni? Kreowanie wizerunku kobiety w nauce na podstawie wspomnień slawistek pracujących w Polskiej Akademii Nauk” [“Male academic? Female academic? Creating the image of women in academia based on memoirs by Slavic studies scholars working in the Polish Academy of Sciences”] (with Ewa Serafin-Prusator and Ewa Wróblewska-Trochimiuk)

- 2016 National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference *Decoloniality*; Montreal, Canada; paper: "Studying Catholic Asexualities: How Spirituality and Institutional Religion Affect Asexuality."
- 2016 Conference *Queer Strategies 2* organized by InterAlia and Queer UW in Warsaw; paper: "Jak zostać asekswalist(k)ą? Wolny wybór a tworzenie tożsamości asekswalnej" ["How to Become Asexual? Choice and the Creation of Asexual Identity"]
- 2016 Guest lecture at the Institute of American Studies, Karl-Franzens University, Graz, Austria; lecture: "(A)Sexual Politics of Choice. On the Role of Choice in the Formation of Asexual Identities."
- 2015 National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference *Precarity*; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; paper: "Asexual Affects: What Anxiety, Shame, and Abjection Have to do with Asexuality."
- 2015, First Biennial European Association for American Studies Women's Network Symposium *The State of the Nation: American Women in the Twenty-First Century* organized at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin; paper: "Reclaiming Celibacy: Sexual Abstinence in Contemporary Feminist Thought."
- 2014 National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference *Feminist Transgressions*; San Juan, Puerto Rico; paper: "The Suffering and the Saintly: Asexuality in Poland."
- 2014 Conference *Revolting Peripheries* organized by the University of Bielsko-Biala; paper "Revolting families: How 'families of choice' subvert the social order in Donna Tartt's *The Secret History* and Tana French's *The Likeness*."
- 2013 Conference *On the Crossroads: Methodology, Theory and Practice of LGBT and Queer Studies* organized by the Centre for Independent Social Research in St. Petersburg, Russia; paper "Political and intellectual challenges of building a stable identity in a queer world: asexuality."
- 2013 II European Geographies of Sexualities Conference organized in Lisbon, Portugal, paper "What Can Asexuality Do for Queer Theories?"
- 2013 Conference *Gender and Love* organized by Inter-Disciplinary.net in Oxford, Great Britain, paper "What's Love Got to Do with It? Asexuals in Love."
- 2012 Conference *Intersecting Feminisms: Theory, Politics and Activism* organized by the Women's Studies Centre of the University of Łódź, paper "The queer identity for the 21st century? Asexual experience in the sexual world."
- 2012 *Gender in English Studies* International Symposium organized by the Department of English Studies of University of Szczecin, paper "Lost and confused? The portrayal of male and female asexuals in culture."
- 2012 Conference *The Body in North American Literature and Culture* organized by the Department of the American Literature and Culture of the University of Łódź, paper "Alternative Paths to Immortality in Mary Rosenbaum's *Chimera*: A Feminist Take on Embodiment in Cyberpunk."
- 2012 The Young Researchers Conference on British and American TV Series organized by the TEXTS and CODES Students' Association at the Institute of English Studies at the University of Łódź, paper "Battlestar Galactica as a Mirror of American Society."

ORGANIZATION OF WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

2022 Student Conference “Gender and Sexuality in American Studies” at the American Studies Center, University of Warsaw, Gender/Sexuality Research Group, co-organized with dr Ludmiła Janion; keynote: prof. Richard Reitsma (Canisius College).

2017 conference „New Gender/Queer Archives” at the American Studies Center, University of Warsaw, Gender/Sexuality Research Group, co-organized with dr Karolina Krasuska; keynote: prof. Jack Halberstam (Columbia University).

2015 international conference “Polska/Polski/Polskie/Polskość Warianty (narodowej) tożsamości” [Poland/Polish/Polishness. Variants of (national) identity] organized by the Slavic Foundation and the Institute of Polish Culture, University of Warsaw. Co-organized with dr Agnieszka Pasieka.

2014 organization of workshops for PhD students Feminist workshops: Deleuze for beginners.

2012-2013 Cooperation with Gender Center Foundation; involvement in the organization of Warsaw Summer School Gender Studies IBL PAN 2012 and a cycle of lectures Animalia.

September 2012 organization of classes for high school students on the history of feminism and gender stereotypes in advertisement, co-taught with Ewa Serafin as part of the Festival of Science in Warsaw.