













Call for expressions of interest

International Transdisciplinary Workshop on Sex Work

« DIGNITY BY DESIGN FOR SEX WORKERS »

Saint-Etienne (France) & online (Webex), 6-10 October 2025

The "Droit(s) et Politique(s) du Travail Sexuel 2026" (DPTS2026, The Law and Politicy of Sex Work) project is a participatory action-research initiative funded by the Agence Nationale de la Recherche (France). It brings together researchers from all disciplines, sex workers' and allied organisations (including Parapluie Rouge and Médecins du Monde) to draw up a draft law based on scientific evidence and a community consultation. The workshop, organised in partnership with the CRID&P of UCLouvain, will contribute to its robustness.

Objectives:

- Contribute to the DPTS2026 project
- Support the international research community
- Supporting and raising the profile of young researchers and collective projects
- Laying the foundations for future international collaboration

Suggested participation formats:

- A poster
- An individual speech scheduled in a session or plenary session
- A training session on a publication/project
- A proposal for a session on a thematic issue

Parallel sessions:

- Coordinated by an expert
- Combining researchers and the sex work community
- Will aim to expose established knowledge and identify unresolved research questions
- Leading to a possible collective publication

Aspects financiers:

- Funded (within budget) for:
 - Researchers in precarious situations
 - o Members of the sex work community

TO MAKE YOURSELF KNOWN AND SUBMIT A PROPOSAL:

Online form: https://forms.office.com/r/wELYY697a4

Infos: DPTS2026

Contact: benoit.schmaltz@univ-st-etienne.fr

Deadline: 15 June 2025













PURPOSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOP

To contribute to the work of the DPTS2026 project, the workshop will bring together researchers and sex workers, as well as other stakeholders and interested parties. Organized in partnership with the CRID&P of UCLouvain, it will also be a preparatory step towards another event in Belgium in the fall of 2026.

The workshop will alternate between plenary sessions and breakout sessions, the latter being the core of the event. In fact, our main goal is to institutionalize the field of research, and as far as possible we will propose ways to make people, experiences, work and projects visible (recording video clips, putting state of the art and fact sheets online, etc.).

We attach particular importance to the goal of structuring the research community and will support the creation of collaborative projects as well as young researchers.

A follow-up project to DPTS2026 is envisaged and this workshop would be an opportunity to initiate partnerships with a view to submitting an application in response to a call for proposals from the Agence nationale de la recherche (ANR), the European Research Council (ERC) or elsewhere.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Berthe DE LAON (Fédération Parapluie Rouge), Cybèle LESPÉRANCE (Tullia), Sarah-Marie MAFFESOLI (Médecins du Monde), Arnaud CASADO (Univ. Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne), Steve GILSON (UCLouvain), Jean-Marc HAUSMAN (UCLouvain), Dominique LAGORGETTE (Univ. Savoie-Montblanc), Salomé LANNIER (Univ. du Luxembourg) Hélène LE BAIL (Sciences Po), Julie LEONHARD (Univ. de Lorraine, Nancy), Benjamin MORON-PUECH (Univ. Lumière Lyon 2), Samantha PRATALI (Institut Catholique de Lille), Benoît SCHMALTZ (Univ. Jean Monnet Saint-Étienne), Raphaël SERRES (Univ. Grenoble Alpes).

IDENTIFIED WORK THEMES

Comparative perspectives on sex work

- Comparative public policies
- Belgian reform (partnership with UCLouvain)
- The European framework (EU, ECHR)

Methodology and research

- Quantitative versus qualitative methods,
- Participatory methods
- Risk-based approach
- Epistemology and position

Multidisciplinary approaches

- SW Related Concepts (Definitions & Categories)
- Comparative Analysis and Policy Design
- Limits to SWR: penalized behavior
- Working conditions and social security
- SW as an independent activity (service contracts, entrepreneurship)
- Taxation and SW
- SW & local governance (administrative law, urban planning)
- Digital dimension of SW
- SW & Migration

These themes will be refined according to the expressions of interest received, in particular from a multidisciplinary point of view, while maintaining a balance between comparative approaches, sectoral analyses and methodological perspectives.