



CALL FOR PAPERS
International Symposium
"Imaginaires of Sex, Gender, and
Sexualities in the Literary, Artistic,
and Media Productions of the
Circumpolar North"
Umeå University (Sweden)
June 17th-18th 2024

The countries and cultures of the circumpolar North experienced their feminist and homosexual revolutions more or less at the same time, in the 1970s and 1980s, and were among the first to put forward values of equality between men and women and to recognize the rights of LGBTQ+ people. However, there still exists in these cultures, even though seen from an outside point of view as a model, a tension between the valorization of diversity and traditional values. Today, at a time when sexual and gender identities and desires are being redefined, what sexual and gender figures populate cultural productions in Northern cultures? Are we really done with traditional role models? What are the current explorations about? Which sexualities can be written and represented today? What place is given to trans and non-binary people in our narratives? Which forms do the literary, artistic and media works featuring them take?

We invite you to the University of Umeå, North of the 55th parallel, to reflect on the forms and discourses that translate images of the North when it comes to sex, gender and sexuality. What connections and expressions of different forms of "nordicity" can be found in the literary, media and artistic productions of northern countries, with a focus on Sweden-Québec but not exclusively?

Paper proposals will adopt both a comparative and cross-cultural stance (readers from one Northern culture analyzing works from other Northern culture), or will present what, in their own culture, emerges from the images of the North and the Arctic in relation to ways of performing and experiencing gender, as well as gendered and sexual interpersonal relations. We expect papers from both doctoral students and established researchers.

Possible but non-limiting lines of enquiry:

- The feminist awakening of the 1970s and beyond
- Language as a tool for promoting equality and diversity
- Homosexuality and bisexuality
- Trans and non-binary identities
- Sexual and gender-based violence
- Couples and their queer avatars
- The sexed body, the gendered body, the desiring body
- Queer, "Two-spirit", the "Silde" and the "trickster" in northern cultures
- Sex, gender and Northern spaces
- Diversity and Indigenous people
- Language and translation
- Circulation of works

Proposals (±250 words) and a short biographical note (all on one page) should be sent to Isabelle Boisclair isabelle.boisclair@usherbrooke.ca, Daniel Chartier imaginairedunord@uqam.ca and Malin Isaksson malin.isaksson@umu.se by **December 15th, 2023**. Authors of successful proposals will be notified in January.

Travel and accommodation costs must be covered by the participants.

This conference is co-organized by Umeå University, the Université de Sherbrooke and the Université du Québec à Montréal, as part of the Centre de recherche sur la littérature et la culture au Québec (le CRILCQ), the International Laboratory for Research on Images of the North, Winter and the Arctic, and the Arctic Centre at Umeå University.