

Iskra de Vries

2024 – present University of Amsterdam
PhD Candidate Political Sociology
Scope and malleability of anti-gender claims: an explorative analysis of gender contestation in the Netherlands.
Supervisors: Prof. Jan Willem Duyvendak (University of Amsterdam), Prof. Sarah Bracke (University of Amsterdam), Prof. Marta Bucholc (University of Warsaw)

2023 – present University of Warsaw
Research assistant
ERC research project ‘[Abortion Figurations](#): Using human rights to change abortion law: Involvement patterns and argumentative architectures in the global figurations of human rights.’

Next to these research activities, I also developed and taught the “Catching on Gender: from Sociology to Socio-Legal Studies” with two other colleagues.

[Tijdschrift voor Genderstudies](#)

Board member

[Stichting Ava](#)

Member of the advisory board

Ava as a foundation is committed to self-determination rights and safe access to abortion in the Netherlands.

2021 – 2022 University of Amsterdam
Junior Lecturer, department Interdisciplinary Social Sciences
In this position, I guided seminars for the courses:

- Doing Diversity
- Mens en Maatschappij
- Onderzoeksmethoden: Verdieping Kwalitatieve Technieken
- Introduction to Gender and Sexuality Studies
- Education and Work

Member diversity committee, ISS

Baanbrekers

The extracurricular program aims to smoothen the integration process of first-generation students at the ISS department. Baanbrekers is set up in a form of an honest community in which students can share experiences to get a better understanding of their trajectories.

2019 – 2022 Accent Magazine
Co-initiator and Editor

- *Issue 01. Diffracting the Dominant Lens, Spring 2021.* The first issue of Accent discusses and proposes decolonial insights and alternatives to the academic canon and institutions that have been themselves created under coloniality. With contributions by Prof. dr. Gloria Wekker, and Prof. dr. Halleh Ghorashi.
- *Issue 02. Shattering Essentialisms, Spring 2022.* The perpetuate exclusion and absence of the marginalized and disenfranchised that is seen and felt in feminist movements is a tradition that has long prevailed. It would, however, be a mistake to conclude that this reiteration of exclusion is solely in male hands. The second issue of Accent invites readers to break with essentialist theories, along with Prof. dr. Oyèrónkẹ Oyèwùmí and Prof. dr. Silvia Federici.



ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Bucholc, Marta and Iskra de Vries (Spring 2025) [forthcoming]. "The back-and-forth of abortion debates in Poland: towards a historical understanding of the misrecognition gambit by the National Catholic Right." *Österreichische Zeitschrift für Geschichtswissenschaften*.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Sociology of Law Department of Lund University, 2023. Lund, SE: Law, Society and Digital Pasts, Presents and Futures.

Presentation: *State sovereignty on a skewer: on the margin of appreciation in the case of sexual and reproductive health rights in Poland.*

UGent Human Rights Research Network, 2023. University of Ghent, BE: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 75: Rethinking and Constructing its Future Together.

Presentation: *Mold and Malleability of Human Rights and Reproductive Equality: Scapegoating Universalism in the Name of (De) colonization Practices*

Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, 2024. Denver, USA: Unsettling Territories: Tradition and Revolution in Law and Society.

Presentation: *Polemics on Polish patriotisms and reproductive politics: a postcolonial reading of national consciousness and human rights vocabulary* (with Marta Gospodarczyk).

European Sociological Association, 2024. Porto, PORT: Tension, Trust and Transformation.

Presentation: A Toxic Cocktail of Compassion and Transphobia: the Dutch Antagonism to the Transgender Bill

International Sociological Association, 2025. Rabat, MA: Knowing Justice in the Anthropocene.

Presentation: *Navigating 'Abortion Work' Under Restrictive Law: Abortion Testimonies from Honduras and Poland* (with Carolina Mosquera Vera)

ATTENDED SUMMER SCHOOLS

2024 NIAS, Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study
Religion, the radical rights, and how to respond: analyzing for alternatives

EDUCATION

2020 – 2021 University of Amsterdam
MSc Sociology (72 ETC), cum laude
Track (1) Gender, Sexuality and Society; Track (2) Cultural Sociology
Thesis (graded a 9): "Polish Hetero-Domination, State Violence and Queer Dissent: Deconstructing the Political Project of LGBT-Free Zones."