



Institute for Applied Sexuality Studies (IFAS)

The IFAS sees itself as a think tank concerning questions of and about Sexuality Studies, sex education and family planning. At the same time, the focus is on research, education, training, and project consulting. The IFAS is engaged in the development and implementation of concepts of sexual education for educational training purposes; it conducts practice-oriented research and promotes concepts in Sexuality Studies that can live up to our high standards of conceptual and practical sustainability along with the networking of actors in the field of practice.

Our work is supported by the self-understanding of the right to sexual and reproductive self-determination, based on a holistic and integrated view of humans as sexual beings.

The Institute for Applied Sexuality Studies (IFAS) emerged from the Pedagogical Center of Sexuality Studies Merseburg, founded in 2004 and is sponsored by the "Center for the Promotion of Sexual Education Merseburg".

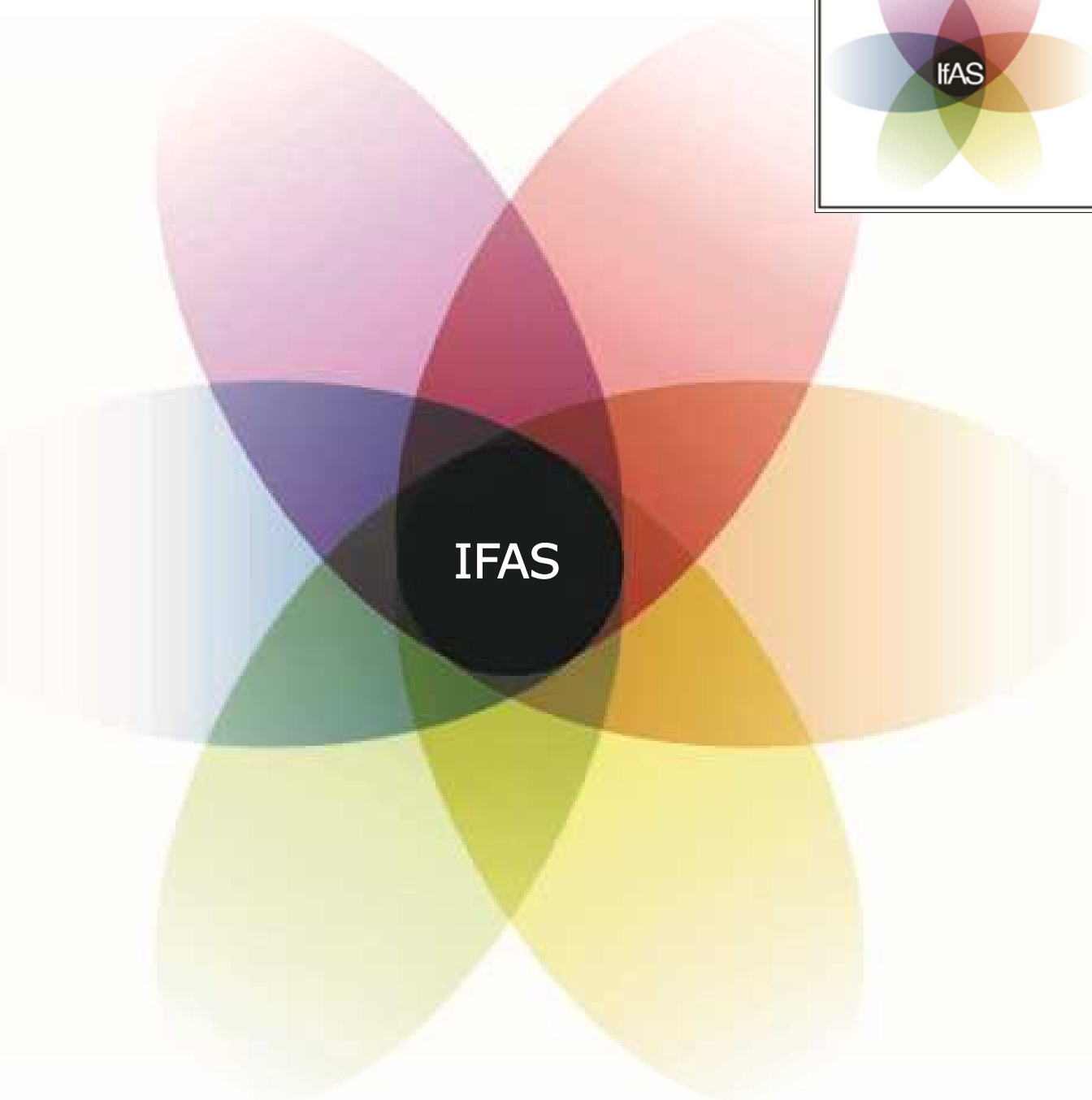
Selected Works:

Preliminary Survey „PARTNER 4“ (Prof. Dr. Konrad Weller et al.):

- Youths’ Sexuality Report of 862 adolescents between 16–18 years, located in Sachsen and Sachsen-Anhalt.

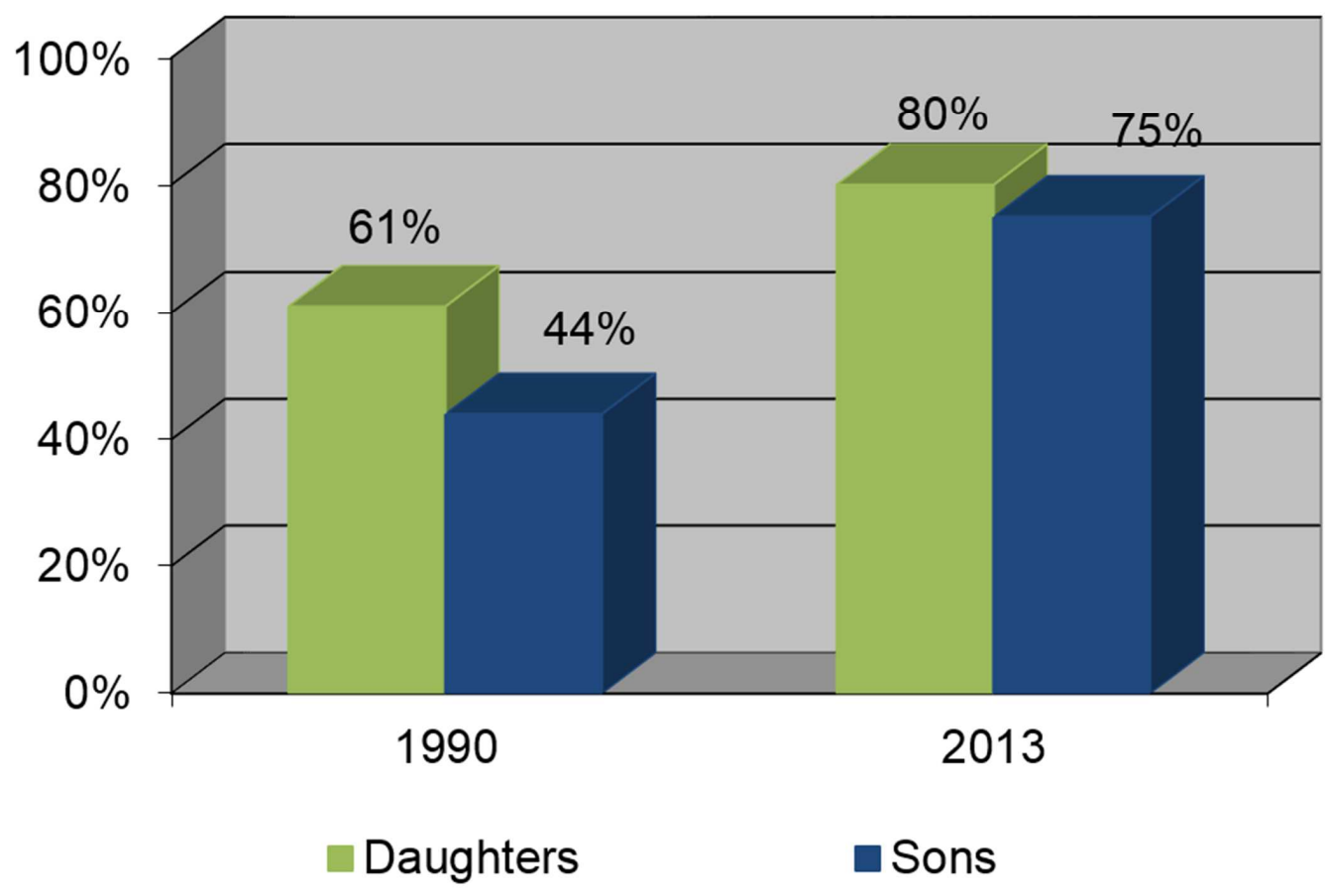
Selected qualifications of the Merseburger master program Applied Sexuality Studies:

- „Mädchen und junge Frauen mit sexuell grenzverletzendem Verhalten – Handlungsempfehlungen für die Praxis“ (Astrid Herrmann-Haase 2013)
- „Ich hol mir meinen Körper zurück! Neue Wege in die sexuelle Selbstbestimmung für Überlebende sexueller Gewalt“ (Viola Butzlaff 2013)
- „Familiäre Sexualkultur: Die Bedeutung familiärer Sozialisation für die sexuelle Entwicklung Heranwachsender – Empirische Befunde und Folgerungen für erzieherische Hilfen“ (Torsten Linke 2013)
- „Sexting: Der erotische Foto- und Nachrichtenaustausch unter Jugendlichen und jungen Erwachsenen“ (Daniel Hoffmann 2013)



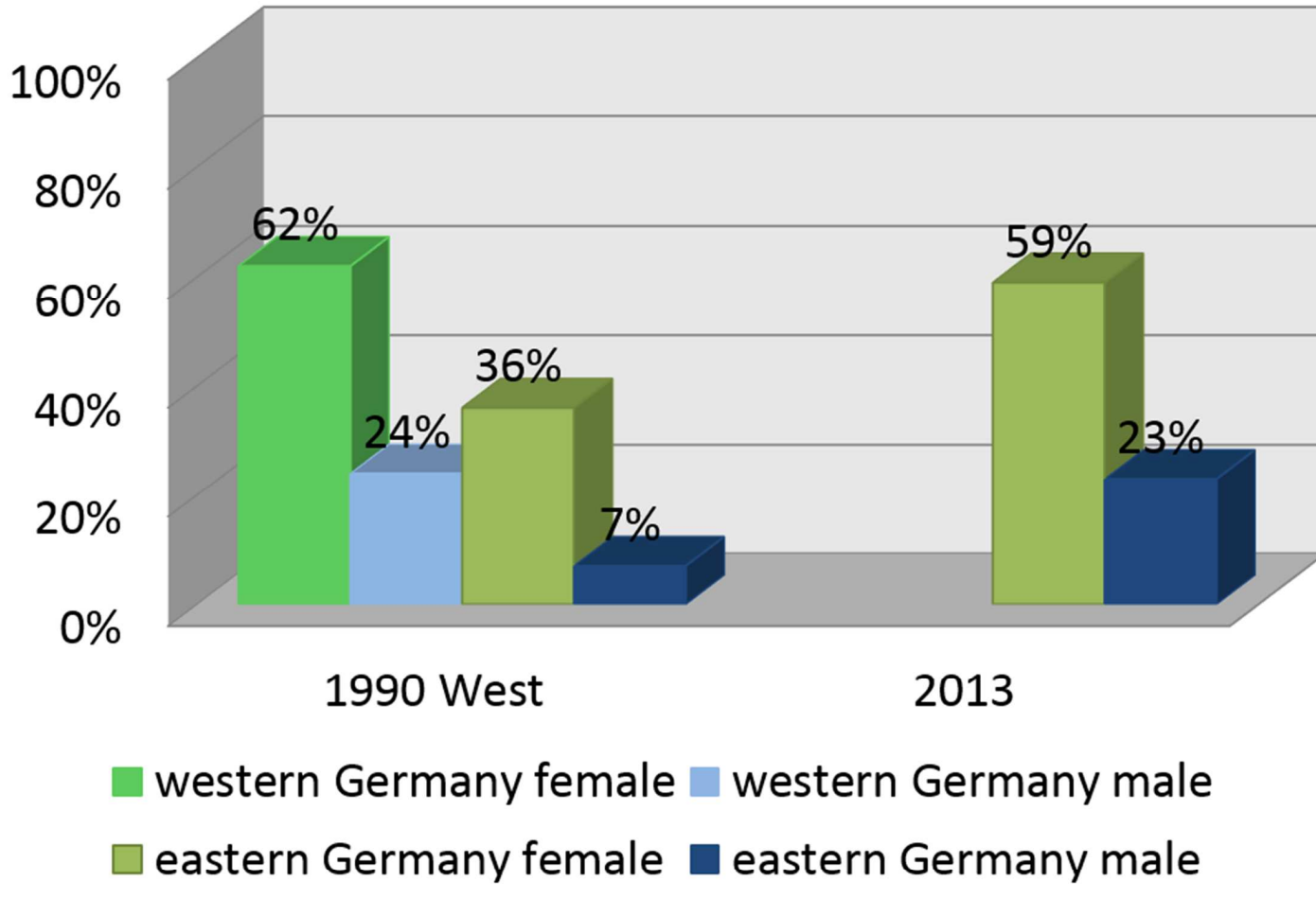
Preliminary Survey PARTNER 4 — Selected findings

Dicline of violence inside of families



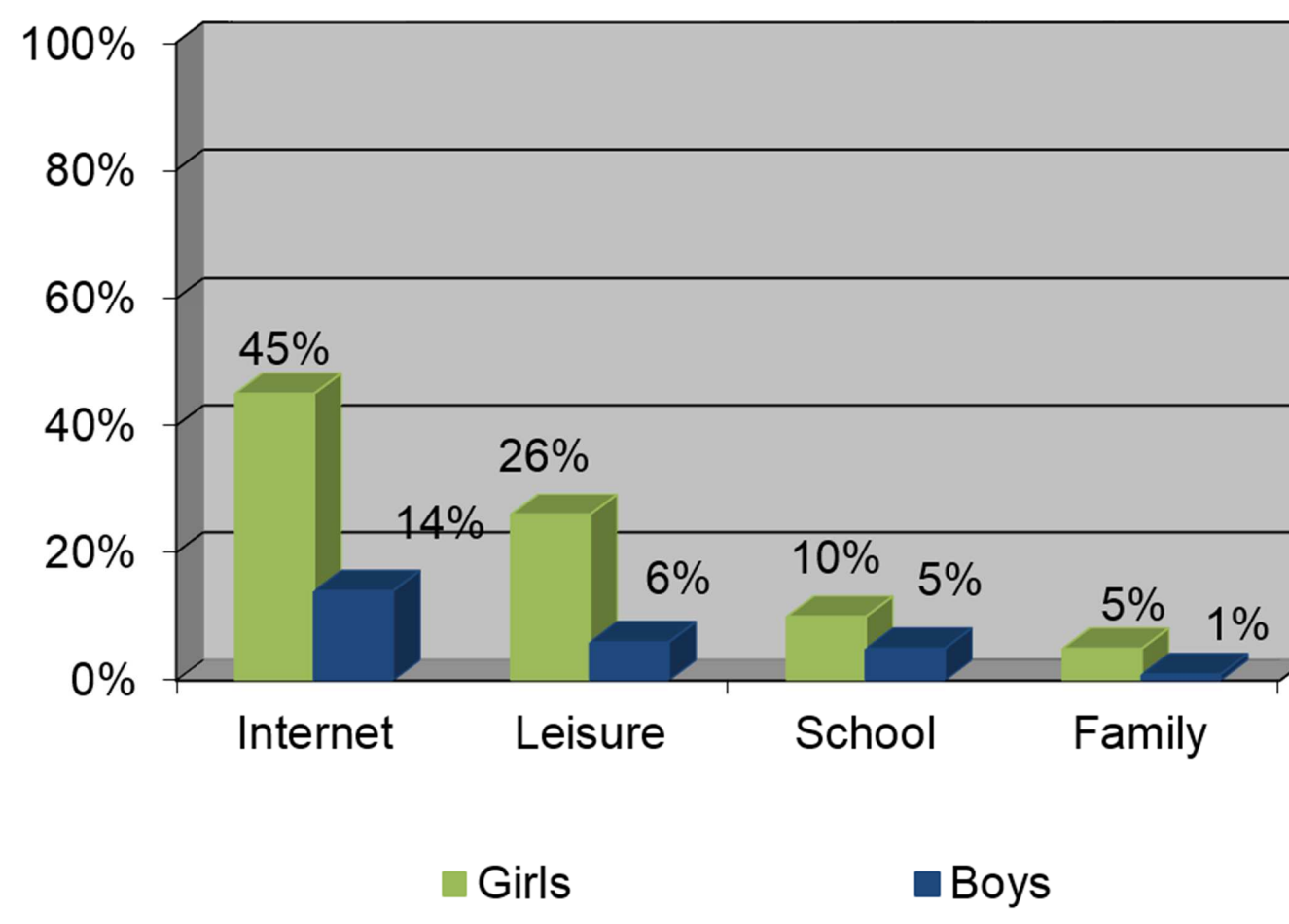
„I have **never** been beaten up at home.“
4 = never (further, not presented, answer options: 1 = often, 2 = once in a while, 3 = seldomly)
Surveys: PARTNER III - Youths Sexualities (Eastern Germany) 1990
PARTNER 4 - Youths Sexualities in Eastern Germany 2013

Experiences with sexual transgression



„Some form of transgression was experienced already“
Typology developed from various single questions
Surveys: PARTNER III - Youths Sexualities (Eastern Germany) 1990, including findings out of the comparable survey from Hamburg
PARTNER 4 - Youths Sexualities in Eastern Germany 2013

„Sites“ of sexual transgressions



Have you experienced the following already at least once in your life? (Sexual Harrassments on the Internet, in your leisure time, School, Family)
Please, answer accordingly...
1 = yes, several times 2 = yes, once 3 = no
Surveys: PARTNER 4 - Youths Sexualities in Eastern Germany 2013

Research professorship Sexuality Studies and Sexual Education

Sexuality Studies & Sexual Education at the University of Applied Sciences Merseburg

The research professorship “Sexuality Studies and Sexual Education” is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research within the project framework called “Sexual Violence in Educational Settings”. The research project is anchored within the department of Applied Sexuality Studies at Merseburg University of Applied Sciences, and its aim is to find out how to prevent sexual (re-) traumatization of children and teenagers. The special focus we are developing on the overlapping of sexuality, violence and trauma, is so far unique in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Central aim of the project is the sustainable strengthening of the research profile and the anchoring of that research on the issue „Protection of children and

youths against sexual traumatization” in the department of Applied Sexuality Studies. One aspect centers on the steady and research-orientated development of the master program. We aim to enhance an academic approach that is oriented towards strengthening children’s and teenagers’ self-determination and decision making in order to progressively prevent sexual assaults due to sufficient knowledge and self-confidence on behalf of the youths. Furthermore, we are interested in understanding how to help and restore victims of sexual transgression against persisting traumatization.

Part and parcel of our research inquiry is to work closely with counselling centers, independent organizations as well as pedagogical facilities. With regard to networking and the expertise of the aforementioned organizations we are very well connected and truly appreciate existing cooperations in our regional area:

the federal states of Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia and Saxony.

Within the project we gather data about the state-of-the-art of the social projects at work who fall within our area of research topics: We then ask for gaps in praxis and theory and try to work in cooperation with the involved organizations to tackle existing problems. Furthermore, it is of utmost importance for us to participate vividly in exploring and broadening our cooperations with regard to academic partners, NGO projects as well as publishing houses.

Team:

Michaela Katzer (Medical Doctor of Urology)
Katja Krolzik-Matthei (M.A. Applied Sexuality Studies/Diploma Social Worker)
Prof. Dr. Heinz-Jürgen Voß
Anna-Esther Younes (M.A. International Relations)

Research project: Protection of children and youths against sexual traumatization

Fundamental issues

1. How can sexual education serve to prevent sexual violence?
2. How can we achieve a better sexual self-determination, that helps to repel or process experiences sexual transgressions, through better sexuality aware pedagogy and sex education?
3. What are the conditions of human and institutional work in educational institutions (and in the living environment of children and young people) conducive to sexual self-determination?
4. The inquiries are designed as a long-term analysis.

Salutogenesis

A concept developed by Aaron Antonowsky for the field of medicine as an alternative to the concept of pathogenesis. It provides us with a term that is resource oriented, and a useful basis for developing new concepts for the protection of children and young people from sexual trauma.

The salutogenetic approach is resource oriented, participatory and emancipatory. Antonowsky asks how skills and potentials can be activated. **Salutogenetic thinking** starts its analysis from existing resources. **Salutogenetic intervention** aims to promote and strengthen such existing resources.

The project’s main question is thus what can be done to educate children and young people to develop strong and self-determined egos / personalities, who are successfully able to avert a sexual assault, or who at least can reasonably process it afterward.

Intersectionality

Developed by Black American women in order to critique discriminatory structures, **Intersectionality addresses historically grown and intertwined forms of domination**. Such intersections thus also form subjectivities partially, but they can also influence the course of life individually and collectively. Intersectionality is an invitation to consider multiple discriminations at the same time, in order to engage systemic structures in a conceptual and critical way, without however denying individual agency. Hence, the concept assumes that a critical study of **overlapping, historically evolved forms of domination** can be a way to better understand structural inequalities in a multi-directional way, and thus contribute to change collective and individual agencies on a systemic level. Possible forms of discrimination, which merge into each other and influence each other can i.e. be class, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexuality, ableism. These categories are **not to be understood as static and/or additive, but as fluid and entangled**.

Practice orientation

The project is double practice-oriented: Through an **interdisciplinary research team** and the ongoing involvement of practitioners, the practice orientation in fact is the starting point for all activities.

The project largely aims to bring about results of **practical relevance** and **every day utilization**, particularly in the form of training curricula.

Objectives

Analysis and evaluation of resilience and salutogenetic aspects for a better sexual self-determination and to repel and process experienced sexual transgressions:

Based on a survey of demands of practioners in education, social work and NGOs further interdisciplinary training concepts will be developed and carried out as Inhouse-trainings in reference institutions. **Long-term analysis with pedagogics as well as children and youths will serve a solid evaluation of effectively prevention and development of a ‚Kultur des Hinsehens‘ (culture of inspection’).**

Research process (Started May 2014):

Phase 1 — Preliminary Interviews

Sample: Practitioners in education, social work and NGOs
Method: Semi-structured interviews with focus groups
Goals: Generating hypotheses, assessment of research field, development of questionnaire and research guide

Phase 2 — Interviews and written survey

Sample: Practitioners in education, social work and NGOs; pupils
Method: Structured interviews; written questionnaire survey with groups
Goals: Hypothesis’ testing, material for the development of potential curricula

Phase 3 — Transfer to Universities and other educational centers

Target group: Practitioners in education, social work
Students of the MA in Applied Sexuality Studies
Method: Training modules, In-House-Seminars, adjusted course contents
Goals: (Further) qualification of teaching staff; development of guidelines and questionnaire