



The Netherlands Association
for Gender Studies and
Feminist Anthropology

LOVA International Summer School 2018

'Unschooling the Anthropologist'

2-6 July, Amsterdam

LOVA's International Summer School is back with a sixth edition! The theme of LOVA ISS 2018 is 'Unschooling the Anthropologist'. Unschooling is seen as a philosophy or educational attitude that promotes self-directed learning, as well as the acquiring of skills, knowledge and wisdom through natural life experiences, honest, meaningful dialogues and curiosity. This Summer School is focused on helping participants to fundamentally empty themselves from acquired constructs and concepts, in order to be open to the world as it enfolds around us. This practice of 'unschooling' can be very helpful for researchers, and particularly anthropologists.

Jiddu Krishnamurti: I hope that you will listen, but not with the memory of what you already know; and this is very difficult to do. You listen to something, and your mind immediately reacts with its knowledge, its conclusions, its opinions, its past memories. It listens, inquiring for a future understanding. Just observe yourself, how you are listening, and you will see that this is what is taking place. Either you are listening with a conclusion, with knowledge, with certain memories, experiences, or you want an answer, and you are impatient. You want to know what it is all about, what life is all about, the extraordinary complexity of life. You are not actually listening at all.

Through self-research, interactive workshops and inspiring lectures, LOVA creates a platform for participants to critically and playfully examine their held beliefs and attitudes towards several broad themes that commonly arise in the work of anthropologists, including 'education', 'gender and sexuality', 'development work' and 'stress and (mental) health'. There will also be several excursions to stimulate the mind and body, and an exceptionally enjoyable encounter with the history and culture of Amsterdam.

Feedback from past years has been very positive and underlines the pleasure of intensively working and developing new ideas in a small group. The LOVA ISS is designed for students (BA, MA and PhD) and lifelong learners, and combines academic learning with body exercises and good food. Our maxim is to work with anti-hierarchical structures and we invite newly graduated students to teach next to professors. Lastly we provide information about ethnographic 'tools' within the parameters of gender and feminist anthropology. Our summer school gives the opportunity to submerge oneself in the methods and conduct of ethnographic field research through interactive didactic methods.

The (preliminary) programme:

Please note that the programme is subject to change. The names of the speakers will be announced as soon as confirmed.

Some of the topics of this year's workshops, lectures and excursions are:

Workshops:

- Material Semiotics: the lessons that *things* might hold for an ethnographer
- The virtue of selfishness: unschooling morality and altruism through the objectivist works of Ayn Rand.
- Theater or life? Learning public ethnographical methods based on theater dialogues
- Stress Management: journeying through your own mental constitution
- The gendered body: exploring the (natural) construction of binary sexed identities through dance and movement.

Lectures:

- Unschooling Education: reimagining industrialized universities and understanding learning in the face of wellbeing.
- Unschooling gender and sexuality: (digital) self-presentations from feminist perspectives.
- Unschooling development aid: (sexual) education and the 'other'.
- Unschooling health; posing critical questions regarding current paradigms on health, illness and care.

Excursions:

- Gendered tour through the Rijksmuseum by Carola Lammers (Anthropologist & guide).

The venue

The workshops and lectures will be provided at different locations (more information regarding the actual location per date will be given later). The following venues are included:

CEDLA: The Center for Latin American Research and Documentation is located in the Eastern part of the city center of Amsterdam, at the Weesperplein area. This inspiring research center will be our host for one of the five days.

Cultural Melting Pot Café OKO: located in the West of Amsterdam, this art gallery, workshop space and vegan café offers an ideal setting for our Summer School program. We will be here for two of the five days.

Nelson Mandela House: this beautiful inn, located in the North of Amsterdam, alongside the river IJ, is dedicated to celebrating and restoring interconnection, based on the Ubuntu-philosophy. We will be using their beautiful workshop space for two of the days.

Practical matters

Requirements

- BA, MA or PhD student (or lifelong learner with an affinity with gender studies)
- Academic English proficiency.

Application

We would like to receive a short letter (maximum half a page) stating your motivation to participate. We will inform you about your acceptance in due time. Upon receipt of the acceptance letter please proceed with the payment of the tuition fee and you will receive a letter of confirmation and updates about the summer school program. For any questions don't hesitate to contact us!

Deadline for application: 1 May 2018

Tuition fee

€350,-

The tuition fee includes:

- All lectures, workshops and excursions mentioned in the program
- Bike-rental (5 days)
- Breakfast & lunches (5 days)
- Coffee, tea, refreshments (5 days)

The program fee excludes accommodation. We encourage students to book their accommodation in time as Amsterdam is rather popular during the summer. For suggestions regarding stay, please contact us (we will inform you about possible solutions, including camping or hostels).

Schedule

The daily schedule runs from 9.00/10.00 – 17.30/18.00. We guarantee small groups. In previous editions there were participants from around the world. Courses and workshops are taught in English. Please note to bring comfortable shoes for the excursions as well as strolls around the city.

The complete programme will be available as soon as possible. We look forward to receive your application and to answer any questions that you might have! Please send your message to: summerschool@lova.network

You can read updates about the Summer School at our website: www.lova.network/summer-school/

LOVA Summer School committee

Academic Directors: Dr. Emmy de Wit & Irene Arends MA

Chair LOVA: Dr. Marina de Regt