**Anti-feminist, anti-LGBTQ+ and far-right extremism: transnational confluences**

*25. Hate, threats, and anti-gender movements*

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Proposal: Anti-gender rhetoric often identifies feminist (and feminised) left-wing elites and the LGBTQ+ movement as the cause of both the destruction of ‘traditional’ families, and of nations’ downfall more generally. These ideas are propagated across a variety of political contexts and by a range of actors. However, as of recent, a confluence of anti-feminism, anti-LGBTQ+ and -far-right ideologies has become a political phenomenon of its own, with transnational linkages and global effects. This confluence no longer operates at the margins of movements but has taken centre stage in mainstream politics. This panel will illustrate how this confluence manifests via a series of case studies, showcasing a diverse range of methods and approaches. In a project based on participant observation and interviews with actors, including children, parents, drag queens, politicians, Emil Edenborg and Fanny Ambjörnsson examine drag queen story-readings – and the political controversies around the phenomenon – as a site of meaning-making in relation to children, gender and sexuality. Kirill Polkov interrogates how anti-LGBTQ and anti-gender discourses in Russian print media and legislation draw on and contribute to the transnational circulation of ideas. Analysing four pieces of legislation, including the anti-gay propaganda ban, the anti-trans law, and the prohibition of the promotion of “childfree” ideology, he demonstrates how these discourses support a regime of sexual sovereignty in Russia while simultaneously reinforcing the notion of the liberal (and liberated) West. Jullietta Stoencheva analyses the growing presence of manosphere-related tropes and terminology fostering expressions of both ‘casual’ and extreme misogyny on a Bulgarian online forum. Utilising a mixed-methods approach combining Structural Collocation Analysis and Critical Discourse Analysis to track the evolution of conversations around masculinity and femininity on an anonymous Q&A forum, she demonstrates how conversations about gender categories turn increasingly antagonistic and violent over time through a series of discursive shifts. Maria Brock and Tina Askanius examine contemporary forms of networked misogyny as they are embodied and propagated by influencers operating under the broad umbrella of ‘Tradwives’ in Sweden, Germany and Russia. They argue that an understanding of the proliferation of anti-feminism and far-right thought can be gained by focusing on the affective economies of social media and the imperative to become visible. Åsa Eriksson analyses continuity and change in right-wing anti-gender rhetoric in Sweden from the

early 2000s until today, exploring the convergence of critique of gender studies, feminist and anti-racist politics and activism, and efforts to reduce economic and social disparities.