

# CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

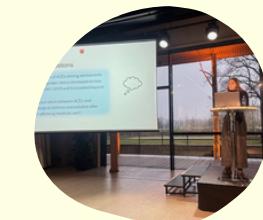
In 2025, the AFFIRM Relationships team and colleagues joined several conferences. Below, we highlight some of the conferences.

## EPATH 2025



At the European Professional organisation for Transgender Health (EPATH) conference 2025, several team members presented their work. David Doyle presented a “Year in Review” session on Social & Political Sciences, Nessa Millet presented about Participatory research in trans health, Skye Stanwich presented about trends in adolescent referrals, and Sigsten Stieglitz, Guendalina Di Luigi, and Margot Morssinkhof presented posters about their projects.

## EPH 2025



David Doyle, Guendalina Di Luigi and Skye Stanwich also attended the 18<sup>th</sup> European Public Health (EPH) Conference in Helsinki, where Guendalina presented an oral presentation on Adverse childhood experiences in transgender and gender diverse youth seeking care.

## RGS-IBG conference

Affiliated researcher Ed Kiely organized a panel on trans theory at a geography conference in Birmingham in August of 2025, entitled "Geographies of Trans Creativity". The panel addresses the empirical, theoretical, methodological and ethical dimensions of the challenge that trans lives pose for our conventional understandings of central concepts in geography. The panel featured 11 early-career speakers from the UK, Spain and Canada, who discussed their work.

## APH Meeting



At the Annual meeting of the Amsterdam Public Health graduate school (APH), Sigsten Stieglitz presented his poster: "Biopsychosocial Factors in Depression Risk Among Trans and Gender Diverse People: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis". Sigsten also won a poster prize for his poster presentation!

# OUTREACH



## Webinar

In October 2025, we organized a webinar with many of the experience group members in which we shared updates on our projects so far and future plans. We loved discussing this all together, and received very helpful feedback! This included insights on how to better disseminate our work, important avenues for participant recruitment, and suggestions for research questions and concepts to include in our studies.



## Wetenschapscafé

David Doyle, Guendalina Di Luigi and Skye Stanwich planned a “Science Cafe” at the end of October. This event brought researchers, clinicians, and community members together in discussion about adverse child experiences among trans youth seeking care. The Science Cafe included a presentation of Guendalina and Skye’s research, an introduction to trauma-informed care and two related case studies, followed by a discussion on how trauma shows up in gender-affirming medical care.

# INTERN SPOTLIGHT!

The AFFIRM project is supported by several talented interns, who help with data collection and analysis. Meet the interns and students who worked with us this year.



Vera (she/her)

Degree: Clinical Psychology  
Internship topic: Sleep state misperception in participants starting feminizing GAHT

Studies: Clinical Neuropsychology  
Internship topic: Changes in sleep and energy levels after starting masculinizing GHAT



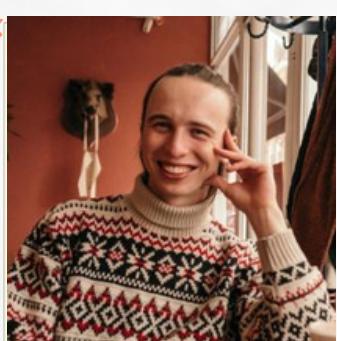
Merel (she/her)



Luca (he/him)

Studies: Psychobiology  
Internship topic: Body image and gender dysphoria in TGD people with and without interest in gender-affirming care

Studies: Behavioral and Cognitive (Neuro)science  
Internship topic: Changes in emotional interference processing



Petr (he/him)



Loena (she/her)

Studies: Natural and Social Sciences (Neurobiology)  
Internship topic: Estradiol levels and Mood in transfeminine people on GAHT

# EDUCATION

Several of the AFFIRM team members and colleagues also provided education this year!

## Lectures

Sigsten provided a guest lecture at the Gender Minor of the VU Medicine Bachelor's degree, about Gender identity, Sex hormones and the Brain. Margot also gave a guest lecture on Gender dysphoria at the Psychobiology Bachelor's degree of the UvA. We're glad that through lectures like these, we can also share our knowledge and findings with the new generation of healthcare professionals and scientists!

## UvA Elective (with IIS)

In 2025, Margot was invited as a guest course coordinator for an elective course at the University of Amsterdam, called Sex, Stigma, and Steroids. The course started in October 2025, and features (guest) lectures about sex, gender, hormones and gender-affirming care! Guest lecturers include David Doyle, who presented about Stigma, and a lecture about trans people's lived experience from Tim de Jong and Ashley de Bruijn from the Gender clinic's Support Point.

# COLLABORATIONS

The AFFIRM team also has several ongoing collaborations. Below, we outline some of the other projects we are involved with!



## ACEs project

The ACEs project is a NWO-funded study looking at whether the rise in referrals to adolescent gender clinics was linked to more difficult experiences in childhood (ACEs). Using data from 2001 to 2019, the study examined trends over time and how these experiences affect gender affirming medical care. The results showed that the number of ACEs in trans youth has not increased or decreased over the years. While having more ACEs is linked to higher psychological distress overall, ACEs do not seem to make psychological distress worse during or after receiving gender-affirming medical care.

## TANDEM project

TANDEM (Transgender Adolescents' Needs in Decision-Making Empowerment) is a ZonMW-funded study that aims to strengthen gender-affirming care for adolescents, integrating both a quantitative and qualitative design to co-create an optimal decision-making framework. During 2025, the TANDEM project reached the milestone of completing inclusion for its young adult follow-up study. This study included anyone who had an intake at the clinic during adolescence between the years 2009-2015, offering valuable longer-term follow-up data regarding adolescent care. 271 people completed the survey out of 605 who were invited to participate, resulting in an almost 50% inclusion rate!

# THANKS FOR BEING WITH US IN 2025!

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- [Bluesky](#)
- [Linkedin](#)
- Our website:

[www.AFFIRMRelationships.com](http://www.AFFIRMRelationships.com)



With love,

The AFFIRM Relationships team and colleagues



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