

PRESS RELEASE | BERLIN, SEP 18, 2013

## 1. LGBTI\* SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS

### **Federal Foundation Magnus Hirschfeld hosts first congress – huge interest among science, economy and the LGBTI\* community at start of registration**

Berlin (Sep 18, 2013) **“Same-sex life and experience”** – that is the title for the first scientific congress of the German Federal Foundation Magnus Hirschfeld, held from 28th to 30th of November, 2013, in Berlin. Current scientific research on LGBTI\* will be presented in public for the first time in Germany. There will be a broad variety of scientific research projects.

The interdisciplinary congress covers a field between politics and law, history and psychology, social movements and culture, art and media. The presentations will be about LGBTI\* and queer identities, biographies, transphobia and stigmatization as well as sexual ambiguity.

*“The congress aims to open new discussions, identify scientific areas which have not or not sufficiently been researched yet, giving ideas for new research projects,”* stated **Prof. Dr. Johanna Wanka, Federal Minister of Education.**

One thematic priority will be historic research – like e.g. the persecution of homosexuals by the Nazis – but also current queer perspectives in education and research.

The congress presents numerous presentations in eight symposia, and offers enough space for discussion and reflection. Target groups are scientists and students as well as interested participants from the LGBTI\* community, from (further) education, economy, media, politics and administration.

In addition to three panel discussions, the congress will present the **4th “Hirschfeld Lecture”** (presentation and book series of the Foundation), held by **Prof. Jeffrey Weeks** from the London South Bank University. He will speak about “The Changing Meanings of Sexual Justice: Gender, Sexuality and Homosexual Emancipation in Europe”. His English presentation will be interpreted simultaneously into German.

The congress will take place in the dbb Forum Berlin. It is located on Friedrichstraße in the centre of the city – about two kilometres from the historic spot where Magnus Hirschfeld’s Institute for Sexual Research had existed, before the Nazis raided and burned it.

**You can register for the congress on [www.hirschfeld-kongress.de](http://www.hirschfeld-kongress.de).**

The congress is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (ref.nr. 01FP1301).

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