ERC Special Day

25th September 2014

Pavilhão Ciência Viva, Lisboa

1st call Consolidator Grant, Social Sciences and Humanities

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1.The project – a brief overview

"**TRANSRIGHTS -** ***Gender citizenship and sexual rights in Europe: Transgender lives from a transnational perspective" (615594)***

Three major lines of inquiry:

1) analysis of gender citizenship and sexual rights;
2) examination of different institutional frameworks;
3) study of trans-lives, including the immigration of trans-individuals to Europe.

Comparative strategy:

- 5 countries: Portugal, UK, France; the Netherlands; Sweden

Interdisciplinary framework in theory and methods

Interdisciplinary team (3 post-docs & 2 PhD students) plus 'local researchers'

Advisory Board: scholars from the US, UK, Australia and Brazil

2. Before the project...

What is important to be sucessful?

- Institutional support
- National policies and investment on science and researchers
- A place for innovation regardless of immediate utility
- Balance between colective factors and individual skills/ track-record

From and idea to the design of the research:

- Explore the field and your possibilities: research and reading
- Scientific ambition, but in the right amount: make it work
- Match between personal experience and the sientific project (*do what you know best but take risks!*)
- Rethink and mature the topic and the design of the research: how to propose the idea
- Theoretical and methodological coherence and robustness
- The reflexive role of social sciences

3. Writing and submitting the proposal...

- **Programme documentation**
- **Time for writing (*take notes and keep your thoughts organized)***
- **Clarity and strong argumentation (*do not include too much or too less, do not get lost in translation)***
- **Strong methodological justification**
- **Emphasize aspects of innovation and expected outcomes**
- **Budget justification: balance between feasibility and resources**
- **Discuss the project with colleagues from different areas of expertise**

Organizing the proposal: PARTS B1 & B2

- ***Extended Synopsis of the scientific proposal (max. 5 pages):* the key to stage 2**
  - ***Making evident the qualities of the scientific proposal and how it may work***
- **Part B2: *The scientific proposal (max. 15 pages, excluding Ethical Issues Table and Annex)***

SUBMIT BEFORE THE DEADLINE!

4. The interview...

- Know all aspects of your project very well
- Reflect on the whole coherence of the research
- Defend the project at all levels while being sensitive to challenges and critiques
- Be prepared to all types of questions and critical comments: from the epistemological foundations of science to practical implementation
- Be prepared for an interdisciplinary evaluation panel
- The importance of the oral presentation and the performance during the interview

- *Not all will evaluate the proposal in the same way: views on what is important, on the role of knowledge and on scientific knowledge itself vary!*

IN SUM...

- The ERC experience is experiencing science as a practice:
  - a question, how it posed, who makes the question!
  - Any idea can be valuable and valued
  - The important is how the idea is developed and constructed ‘outside the box’