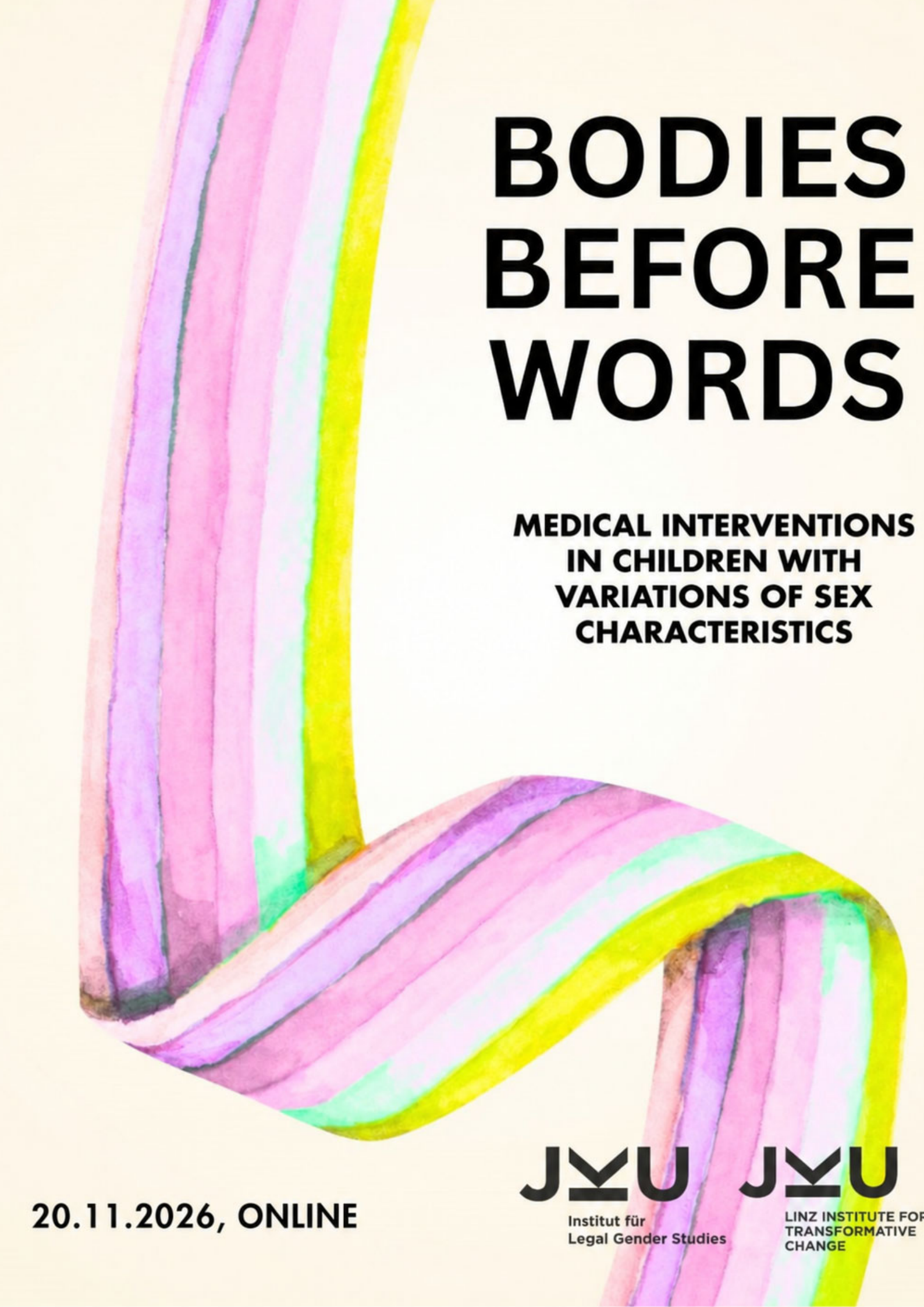

BODIES BEFORE WORDS

MEDICAL INTERVENTIONS IN CHILDREN WITH VARIATIONS OF SEX CHARACTERISTICS

20.11.2026, ONLINE

JKU
Institut für
Legal Gender Studies

JKU
LINZ INSTITUTE FOR
TRANSFORMATIVE
CHANGE

BODIES BEFORE WORDS

Dear colleagues,

Medical interventions involving children with variations of sex characteristics raise fundamental questions about bodily integrity, autonomy and the limits of parental, medical and legal decision-making. Its title points both to a temporal dilemma—what may be decided about a child's body before they can speak for themselves?—and to a normative claim: that the body, its integrity and its future possibilities must remain primary when others seek to describe, classify or alter it through diagnoses, proxy consent, legal arrangements or judicial decisions.

We very much look forward to welcoming you and to an open and stimulating interdisciplinary and international exchange.

Kind regards,

Elisabeth Greif, Linda Greuter und Katharina Lugani

ONLINE
Friday, 20 November 2026 | 9:00 am – 5.30 pm The dial-in details will be sent out shortly before the event.
Registration: https://www.reglist24.com/bbw2

Participation is **free of charge**, and a **certificate of attendance** can be issued.
If you have any questions, please contact lift_c@jku.at

JOHANNES KEPLER UNIVERSITÄT LINZ

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Fritz Thyssen Stiftung für Wissenschaftsförderung

Institut für Legal Gender Studies

LINZ INSTITUTE FOR TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

Heinrich Heine Universität Düsseldorf

PROGRAMME.

Part I | Friday, 23 October 2026 | Venue: JKU Linz, Science Park 3 & Foyer, Room HS 19
Bodies before Words: Critiques of Normalization, Binary Order and Normative Attempts

- **9:00 – 9:30**
  Introductory Remarks: The Focus on Time
  Elisabeth Greif
- **9:30 – 10:30**
  Protecting Intersex Rights in Times of Turmoil: The Greek Experience
  Nikoletta Pikramenou

  Introduction & Q&A: Claudia Bartolo Tabone
- **10:30 – 11:00** Coffee Break
- **11:00 – 12:00**
  Bodies before Words: Contributions from Human Rights, Depathologization, and Epistemic Justice Perspectives
  Amets Suess-Schwend

  Introduction & Q&A: Konstanze Plett
- **12:00 – 13:00**
  Basic Goods and the Right to an Open Future
  Bert Heinrichs

  Introduction & Q&A: Konstanze Plett
- **13:00 – 14:30** Lunch Break
- **14:30 – 15:30**
  Between Binary Law and Bodily Integrity: Intersex Minors and the Right to an Open Future within the Slovak Constitutional Framework
  Ľubomír Batka

  Introduction & Q&A: Claudia Bartolo Tabone
- **15:30 – 16:30**
  Binary Conceptions of Sex and the Future of Persons: Empirical Findings on the German Ban on Surgery for Intersex Children
  Anna-Katharina Mangold

  Introduction & Q&A: Max Schulze
- **16:30 – 17:00** Coffee Break
- **17:00 – 17:15**
  Comment from the Perspective of Persons with VSC
  Charlotte Wunn, VIMÖ

  Introduction & Q&A: Konstanze Plett
- **17:15 – 17:30**
  Concluding Remarks
  Elisabeth Greif/Linda Greuter/Katharina Lugani
- **17:30** End of the first day

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PROGRAMME.

Friday, 20 November 2026 | Venue: Online
Bodies before Words: Protection, Care, and Normative Reconstruction

- **9:00 – 10:00**
  The Child's Right to an Open Future: Ethical Foundations *Friederike Wapler*
  Moderation: *Dagmar Coester-Waltjen*
- **10:00 – 11:00**
  Building Sex Characteristics into Law: From Valletta to the World *Silvan Agius*
  Moderation: *Dagmar Coester-Waltjen*
- **11:00 – 11:30** Coffee Break
- **11:30 – 12:30**
  The Medical Perspective *Uta Neumann*
  Moderation: *Nick Marwald*
- **12:30 – 13:30**
  Reframing 'Best Interests': Bioethics, Human Rights, and Intersex Medical Decision-Making
  Claudia Bartolo Tabone
  Moderation: *Nick Marwald*
- **13:30 – 14:30** Lunch Break
- **14:30 – 15:30**
  Who Decides? Law, Medicine and Children with VSCs in Belgium *Maxime Castermans*
  Moderation: *Alix Schulz*
- **15:30 – 16:30**
  The Dynamics of Time and Embodiment in Fertility Processes among Intersex People
  Limor Meoded Danon
  Moderation: *Alix Schulz*
- **16:30 – 17:00**
  Coffee Break
- **17:00 – 17:15**
  Comment from the Perspective of Persons with VSC
  Charlotte Wunn, VIMÖ
- **17:15 – 17:30**
  Concluding Remarks
  Elisabeth Greif, Linda Greuter, Katharina Lugani
- **17:30**
  End of the conference

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SPEAKERS, MODERATORS AND ORGANISERS.

- **Silvan Agius**, Co-Director, aequitasbridge, Brussels, Belgium
- **Claudia Bartolo Tabone**, PhD Candidate in Ethics, Faculty of Theology, University of Malta; M.A. in Bioethics, B.A. (Hons.) in Theology, Dip. H.S.; Advanced Clinical Medical Laboratory Practitioner, Mater Dei Hospital, Malta
- **Maxime Castermans**, PhD Researcher in Medical Law and Human Rights, University of Antwerp; FWO Fellow; Antwerp Health Law and Ethics Chair (AHLEC), Belgium
- **Dagmar Coester-Waltjen**, Professor Emerita, Dr, Dr h.c., LL.M. (University of Michigan), former holder of the Chair of German, European and International Private and Procedural Law and Director of the Lichtenberg-Kolleg at the Georg-August University of Göttingen, Germany
- **Elisabeth Greif**, Professor of Legal Gender Studies, Anti-Discrimination and Diversity; Head of the Institute for Legal Gender Studies, Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria
- **Linda Greuter**, PhD in law, Research Associate, Institute for Legal Gender Studies, Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria
- **Katharina Lugani,** Professor of German, European and International Private and Procedural Law, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Germany; Chair of Excellence for Transformative Change: Ethics, Medicine, Law and Governance in Health Policy, Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria
- **Nick Marwald,** Research assistant and PhD researcher within the Collaborative Research Centre “Sex Diversity – Determinants, Meanings and Implications of Gender Diversity in Sociocultural, Medical and Biological Contexts”, based in the Department of European Law of Prof. Dr. Anna-Katharina Mangold, European University of Flensburg
- **Limor Meoded Danon**, PhD, Lecturer and Researcher, Azrieli Faculty of Medicine, Bar-Ilan University, Israel
- **Uta Neumann**, MD, Department of Paediatric Endocrinology and Diabetology, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany
- **Alix Schulz,** PhD in Law, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Chair of Civil Law, Private International Law and Comparative Law, LMU Munich, Germany
- **Friederike Wapler**, Professor of Legal Philosophy and Public Law, Faculty of Law, Management and Economics, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany
- **Charlotte Wunn**, VIMÖ Austria – Austrian Association of Intersex People, Vienna, Austria

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