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# Observations on the GIRARE project

*Dr. Benjamin Moron-Puech*

Researcher, Aix-Marseille Université, CNRS,  
IDEMEC, Aix-en-Provence, France

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# I. GIRARE

*« What are we talking about ? »*

# A. Historical background

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- Sex registration : a contemporary problem
  - No such problem when no national registry existed
  - A problem link with the birth of bureaucratic States

## B. Comments on the two aspects of the GIRARE project

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### 1) [Second strand in the project]

*« the effects of invoking human rights to  
change the ways in which sex has been  
institutionnalised »*

*Girare Project Outline, p. 1*

## a) Main questions regarding sex registration

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- ◉ [Q.1] Why is sex registered ?
- ◉ [Q.2] When is sex registered ?
- ◉ [Q.3] What are the sex markers ?
- ◉ [Q.4] How can the registry be changed ?

## b) Combining those questions with human rights

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- [Q.1] Why is sex registered ?  
[Q.1'] **Do we have good reason to register ?**
- [Q.2] When is sex registered ?  
[Q.2'] **Is it the proper time to register sex ?**
- [Q.3] What are the sex markers ?  
[Q.3'] **Do we register enough sexes ?**
- [Q.4] How can the registry be changed ?  
[Q.4'] **Are the procedure of changing sexes ok ?**

## B. Comments on the two aspects of the GIRARE project

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### 2) [First strand]

*« relation between [...] changes in sex  
registration practices and human well  
beings »*

*Girare Project Outline, p. 1*

## a) Upcoming changes in sex registration practice

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- [Q. 1'] Do we have good reason to register ?  
[A. 1'] **Not for every document → no more obligation to register sex on ID and passport**
- [Q. 2'] Is it the proper time to register sex ?  
[A. 2'] **No → more time to declare the child's birth**
- [Q. 3'] Do we register enough sexes ?  
[A. 3'] **No, in many countries → more sex markers**
- [Q. 4'] Are the procedure of changing sexes ok ?  
[A. 4'] **No, in many countries → no more unnecessary conditions such as medical requirements**



## b) Effects of these changes on human well being

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- ◉ [A. 1'] No more obligation to register sex (ID/passport)  
[E. 1'] **Less discrimination for intersex and persons**
- ◉ [A. 2'] More time to declare the child's birth  
[E. 2'] **Less anxiety for parents**
- ◉ [A. 3'] More sex markers  
[E. 3'] **Less mental and bodily injuries for intersex**
- ◉ [A. 4'] No more unnecessary conditions.  
[E. 4'] **Less mental and bodily injuries for transgender**

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II.  
Theoretical & Methodological  
Framework

# 1) Identity documents : *registry & title*

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## ⊙ Elements of distinction :

- Who keep it ?
- Who can see it ?

## ⊙ A distinction often forgotten when talking of « civil status »

## 2. Intersex & trans'

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- **Strict conception of sex → no connexion between intersex and trans' :**
  - Trans' = biological sex  $\neq$  psychosocial sex
  - Intersex = biological sex neither male nor female
- **Broad conception of sex → connexions**
  - Trans' = sb who changes his social sex (sex marker)  
→ Intersex are trans' when they change their social sex
  - Intersex = sb whose psychosocial sex is neither male nor female → trans' can be intersex (e.g. Norrie)

## 3. Gender / sex

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- How do we articulate these concepts ?
  - Different ?
    - Sex = biological aspects
    - Gender = psychological + social aspects
  - Identical ?
    - Sex = gender = biological + psycho-social aspects
    - But then which word should we use ?

# Expert Meeting GIRARE Project

## III. Interdisciplinary research

*Dr. Benjamin Moron-Puech*

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CNRS, IDEMEC, Aix-en-Provence, France

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III.

Interdisciplinary research

# Question & Answer

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*« How to establish how changing legislation affects people's lives and well being » ?*

*Expert Meeting program*

By creating experimentations combining skills from different specialities



# Example

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[A. 1'] No more obligation to register sex (ID/passport)

[E. 1'] Less discrimination for intersex and persons

How to ensure that A. 1' → E. 1' ?

- Law : identify countries which has different legislation related to sex marker on identity document
- Sociology & anthropology : organize a comparative study in those countries, in order to count the number of discrimination suffered by people per year

# Example

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[A. 2'] More time to declare the child's birth

[E. 2'] Less anxiety for parents

How to ensure that A. 2'  $\rightarrow$  E. 2' ?

- Law : identify countries which has different legislation related to sex marker on identity document
- Sociology & anthropology : organize a comparative study in those countries, in order to count the number of discrimination suffered by people per year