

# Nevien Kerk

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Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich  
Department of Sociology  
Research and teaching unit for qualitative social research  
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## Research interests

- Sociology of Emotions
- Sexuality and intimacy
- Gender sociology and feminist theories
- Digital capitalism and political economy
- Qualitative social research and research ethics

## Academic positions

10/2023 – present	<b>Research Associate &amp; Lecturer (PhD researcher)</b> <i>Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich</i> Department of Sociology Research and teaching unit for qualitative social research <b>PhD research:</b> Loving AI in this Economy? A qualitative study of intimate relationships with AI companions in modern society.
01/2024 - present	<b>Research Associate</b> <i>Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich</i> Department of Sociology Research and teaching unit for qualitative social research Project: CHANGER – Challenges and innovative changes in research Ethics Reviews (funded through Horizon WIDERA of the EU) [ <a href="#">Project website</a> ]
10/2022 – 09/2023	<b>Junior Researcher</b> <i>Erasmus University Rotterdam</i> Project: Evaluating Societal Impact - Conceptualization and implementation of a framework (including methods, tools, templates) for evaluating societal impact at Erasmus University
09/2019 – 10/2021	<b>Student Assistant</b> <i>Syspons GmbH</i> Qualitative project evaluation in the public sector on the topics of equal rights, anti-discrimination and migration

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# Education

09/2020 – 07/2022	<b>Master of Science Sociology</b> (with distinction) <i>University of Amsterdam</i> Focus: qualitative research, body sociology, gender and queer studies Thesis: Spitting in the Cabbage Soup: Negotiating the abjection of the fat body
09/2017 – 08/2020	<b>Master of Arts Humanitarian Action</b> <i>Ruhr University Bochum &amp; University of Warsaw</i> Focus: Peace and conflict studies, Post-conflict-transitions Thesis: Just enough? Structural violence during South Africa's transitional justice process
09/2014 – 07/2017	<b>Bachelor of Arts European Studies</b> <i>The Hague University of Applied Science</i> Focus: International relations, human rights Thesis: The Spring that didn't come: human rights violation by security forces in Bahrain in 2011

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## Teaching

Winter term 2025-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Supervision of Bachelor theses: three qualitative, empirical these</li><li>▪ Doing Digital Ethnography: Researching Intimacy Online: undergraduate practice seminar [English language]</li></ul>
Summer term 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Supervision of Bachelor theses: three qualitative, empirical these</li><li>▪ Loving Machines: Analyzing discourses on machines and social relationships: undergraduate methods seminar [English language]</li></ul>
Winter term 2024/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Supervision of Bachelor theses: three qualitative, empirical these</li><li>▪ Qualitative research on Emotions: undergraduate practice seminar</li></ul>
Sommer term 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Supervision of Bachelor theses: three qualitative, empirical these</li><li>▪ Ethnography of Emotions: undergraduate methods seminar</li></ul>
Winter term 2023/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Qualitative interviewing: intersectional approaches to social justices in Munich: Undergraduate practice seminar</li></ul>

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## Teaching qualification courses

- PROFiL Basic seminar (basics of didactics, holistic view of the teaching situation, (teaching) methods, communication techniques teaching reflection) – LMU Munich
- Basics of assessment at university level – LMU Munich

- Self-management while teaching – University of Augsburg
  - Mindful time-out in everyday teaching - University of Würzburg
  - On the trail of your own teaching style - TU Munich
  - Foster critical thinking in the classroom - TU Munich
  - SBDG - Dealing with (sexual) harassment, discrimination and violence in teaching
- Completion of the **Bavarian University Teaching Certificate** (March 2025)
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## Publication

- 2025      Kerk, Nevien; Mohrat, Lisa; Gerloff-Blood, Clara (co-first authors) (Sept., 2025) "Critical Sex Work Research" – Perspectives, Continuities, and New Impulses: Conference Report on the 10th Interdisciplinary Workshop" [Report]. Zeitschrift für Sexualforschung, 38(03), 168-169, doi:10.1055/a-2664-3960.
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## Conference presentations

- 2025      **“Loving AI in this economy? Intime Beziehungen und KI companions“** 42. Congress of the German Sociological Association (DGS) ,Transitions‘, Section: Womens and Gender Studies, Duisburg. (September 2025).
- “Sex with AI. Deviant Intimacies and Sex Without Another in Digital Capitalism.”** European Sociological Association (ESA), RN23 Mid-term conference ‘Deviants, Sinners, and Rebels. Sexuality Studies in Times of Trouble’, Palermo, (September 2025).
- “Loving AI in this economy? A qualitative study of intimate relationships with AI companions within digital capitalism.”** European Sociological Association (ESA), RN18 Mid-term conference ‘Communications and Capital(ism)’, Ljubljana, (August 2025).
- 2024      **“Body, Emotions, and Capitalism in the Sex Work Industry: An Ethnographic Study of the Commodification of Body and Emotion of Fat Sex Workers.”** Workshop Critical Sex work research: GSPF, November 2024 [Working group]
- “Body, Emotions, and Capitalism in the Sex Work Industry.”** Porn Studies Course: Linköping University, October, 2024
- 2023      **“Making Sense of Impact: how researchers’ sense-making informs an institutional impact strategy.”** EU-SPRI: University of Sussex, June 2023. (with L.S. Baldeh, T. Chang, S. de Jong)
- 2022      **“Spitting in the Cabbage Soup: Negotiating the Abjection of the Fat Body.”** Sociology Student Conference: University of Amsterdam, May 2022.

2019                    **“Homophobia as Strategy for Political Legitimacy in Russia.”** European Conference on Politics and Gender: University of Amsterdam, July 2019. (with T. Westenberg)

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## Stays abroad

07 – 12/2018	Semester abroad: Javeriana University – Bogota, CO
02- 06/2018	Master study: University of Warsaw – Warsaw PL
02 – 07/2017	Internship: Human Rights Watch – Brussels, BE
02 – 06/2016	Semester abroad: University of St. Petersburg – St. Petersburg, RU
09/2014 – 07/2017	Bachelor study: The Hague University – The Hague, NL
08/2012 – 08/2013	European Volunteer Service: Youth for Understanding – Budapest, HU
07/2009 – 05/2010	Student exchange: Youth for Understanding e.V – Jalandhar, IN

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## Awards, Scholarships & Mentoring

2024-2025	<a href="#">Ment15 - Mentoring-Program for PhD researchers at the faculty 15</a> (Mentor: Prof. Dr. Paula-Irene Villa Braslavsky)
2018	<a href="#">Zaida Catalán-Stipendium</a> : for talented students of the gender studies
2017	Deutschlandstipendium (national scholarship): for academic achievement
2015	NL4Talent-Conference for talented, international students in the Netherlands

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## Other Courses

- InterGender Course on Porn Studies – Linköping University
  - Summer School: Intersectional Posthumanities – Utrecht University
  - Liberatory Methods for investigating and generating non-capitalist / anti-colonial social power – El Cambalache
  - Methods course decolonial epistemologies in research – Decolonising Collective Leiden
  - Refugee law & EU border policies – ICRC & UNHCR
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## Professional Services

05/2025 – present	Non-tenured staff representative in a tenure commission at the Department of Sociology, LMU Munich
01/2024 – 07/2025	PhD representative in the steering committee of the <a href="#">Munich Graduate School of Social Sciences</a> (MuGSS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Main organizer of the 2024 and 2025 Graduate Day of the Institute of Sociology</li><li>▪ Organizing of other Workshops and Events for PhD Researchers</li><li>▪ Successful funding application for continued funding of the Graduate School (Doctoral Research Training II: Funding through the Graduate Center LMU): 4500 EUR for three years</li></ul>
05/2024 – present	Founding member and speaker of the union group at the social science faculty, LMU Munich
06/2025 – 07/2025	Member and Team representative in the working group „Artificial Intelligence in Teaching” at the department of sociology, LMU Munich

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## Skills

Language	German (Native), English (C1), Dutch, Spanish (B2), Hindi, Chinese (A2)
Software	Atlas.ti, MAXQDA, SPSS, Zotero

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## Membership

- German Association of Sociology (DGS)
    - Methods of qualitative research
    - Section Gender and Women’s Studies
  - European Sociological Association (ESA)
    - Research Network 23: Sexuality Studies
  - Gewerkschaft Erziehung und Wissenschaft (GEW) [labor union]
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