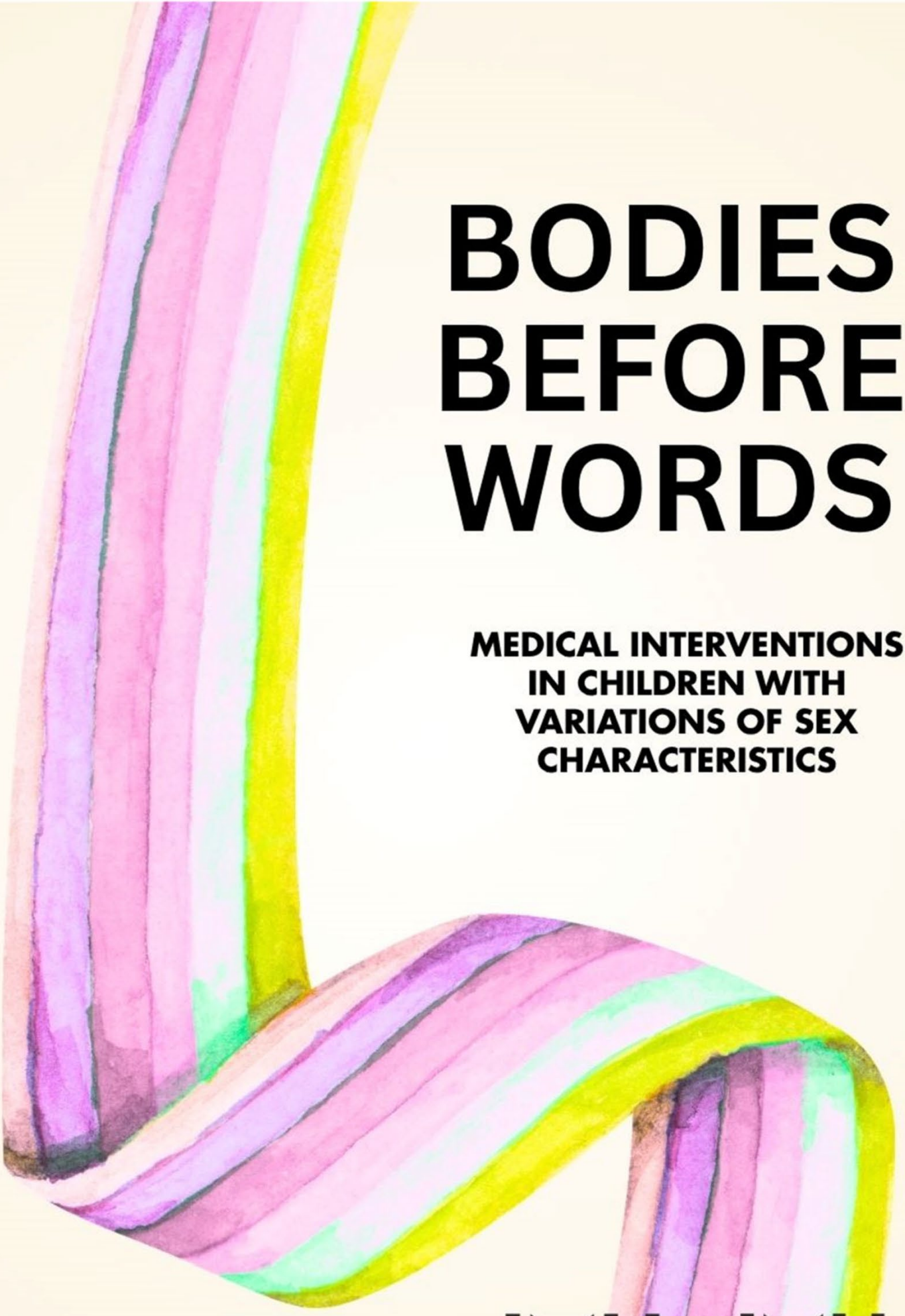


BODIES BEFORE WORDS

MEDICAL INTERVENTIONS IN CHILDREN WITH VARIATIONS OF SEX CHARACTERISTICS

23.10.2026, JKU
20.11.2026, ONLINE

JKU
Institut für
Legal Gender Studies

JKU
LINZ INSTITUTE FOR
TRANSFORMATIVE
CHANGE



INVITATION.

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.

The conference brings together perspectives from law, medicine, ethics and lived experience in two distinct, yet complementary parts: Part I, held in person in Linz, explores critiques of normalisation and binary ordering; Part II, held online, turns to protection, care and normative reconstruction.

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

PART I – IN PERSON
Friday, 23 October 2026 | 9:00 am – 5.30 pm
JKU Linz
Altenberger Str. 69 4040 Linz Austria
Registration: https://www.reglist24.com/bbw1

PART II – 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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Institut für Legal Gender Studies

LINZ INSTITUTE FOR TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

Heinrich Heine Universität Düsseldorf



PROGRAMME.

Part I | Friday, 23 October 2026 | Venue: JKU Linz
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
- **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
- **12:00 – 13:00**
  Basic Goods and the Right to an Open Future
  Bert Heinrichs
- **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
- **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
- **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 first day

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PROGRAMME.

Part II | 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
- **10:00 – 11:00**
  Building Sex Characteristics into Law: From Valletta to the World
  Silvan Agius
- **11:00 – 11:30** Coffee Break
- **11:30 – 12:30**
  The Medical Perspective
  Uta Neumann
- **12:30 – 13:30**
  Reframing 'Best Interests': Bioethics, Human Rights, and Intersex Medical Decision-Making
  Claudia Bartolo Tabone
- **13:30 – 14:30** Lunch Break
- **14:30 – 15:30**
  Who Decides? Law, Medicine and Children with VSCs in Belgium
  Maxime Castermans
- **15:30 – 16:30**
  The Dynamics of Time and Embodiment in Fertility Processes among Intersex People
  Limor Meoded Danon
- **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 second day

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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
- **Ľubomír Batka**, Professor, Dr theol., Department of Theory of Law and Philosophy of Law, Faculty of Law, Comenius University Bratislava, Slovakia
- **Maxime Castermans**, PhD Researcher in Medical Law and Human Rights, University of Antwerp; FWO Fellow; Antwerp Health Law and Ethics Chair (AHLEC), Belgium
- **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
- **Bert Heinrichs**, Professor of Ethics and Applied Ethics, Institute of Science and Ethics (IWE), University of Bonn; Neuroethics and AI Ethics Research Group, Institute of Neuroscience and Medicine – Brain and Behaviour (INM-7), Forschungszentrum Jülich, Germany
- **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
- **Anna-Katharina Mangold,** Professor of European Law, Europa-Universität Flensburg, Germany; LL.M. (Cambridge)
- **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
- **Nikoletta Pikramenou**, PhD in law, Faculty of Sociology, University of Warsaw, Poland
- **Konstanze Plett**, Professor Emerita, Faculty of Law, University of Bremen, Germany; LL.M. (University of Wisconsin–Madison)
- **Amets Suess-Schwend**, PhD in Social Anthropology, Professor, Andalusian School of Public Health, Granada, Spain
- **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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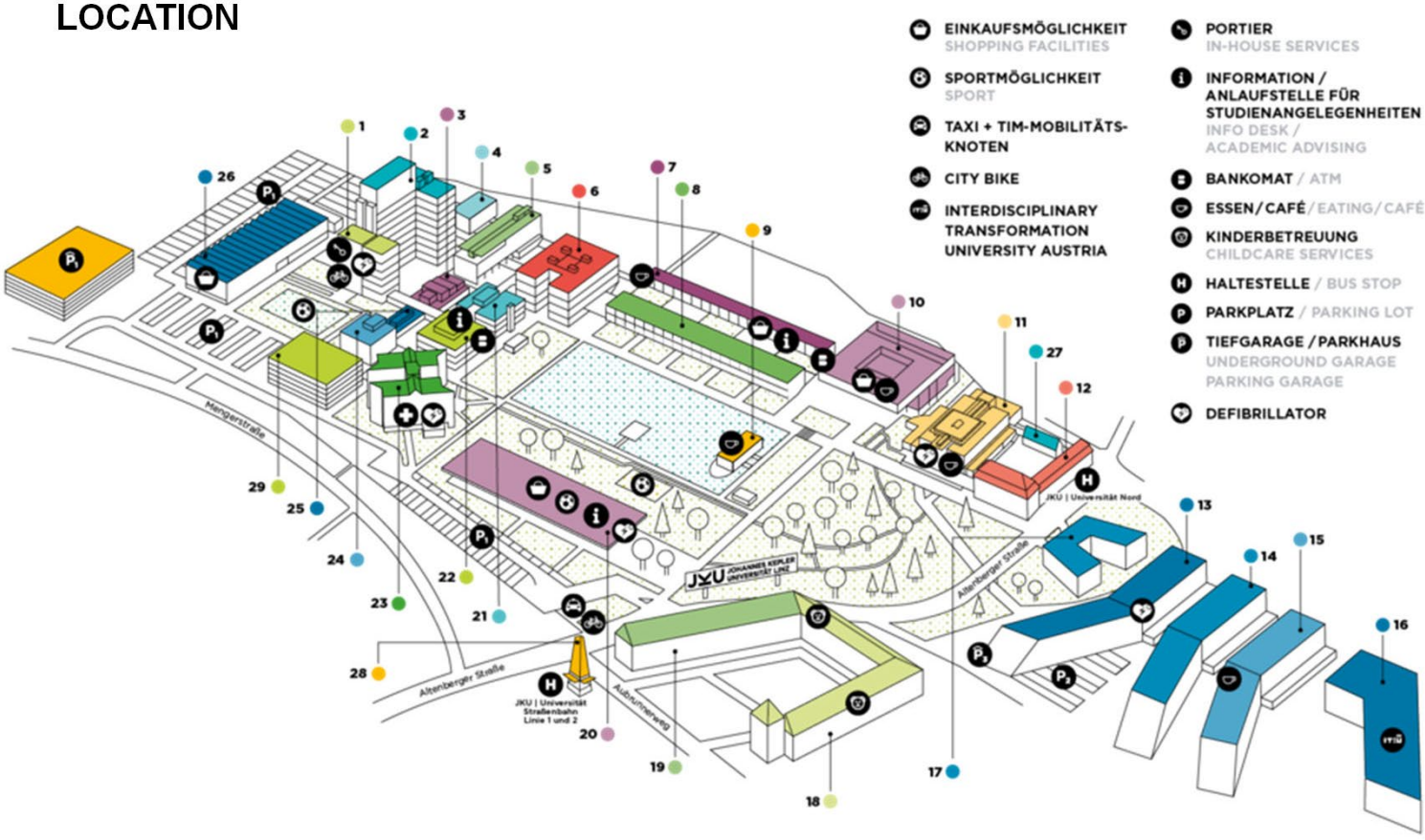
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CAMPUS MAP.

LOCATION



JOHANNES KEPLER
UNIVERSITÄT LINZ