

**Faculty of Social and Political Sciences
Sciences and Technologies Studies Laboratory (STS Lab)**

Thinking Outside the Medical Box: Better Healthcare and Holistic Support for People with Innate Variations of Sex Characteristics (IVSC)

Symposium international et interdisciplinaire organisé par Cynthia Kraus (Université de Lausanne) en collaboration avec Jürg Streuli (Université de Zurich), dans le cadre du projet FNS SHARED-VSC, financé par le Programme national de recherche 83 (PNR 83) « Médecine, santé et genre »

Wednesday 4 November 2026

17:00 - 18:45

**Auditoire Alexandre Yersin,
CHUV**

Thursday 5 November 2026

09:15 - 18:45

**Building Amphipôle, room 340,
University of Lausanne**

About the Symposium

This interdisciplinary symposium in Lausanne (UNIL–CHUV) brings together researchers, educators, students, healthcare professionals, psychosocial practitioners, and people with lived experience to explore forms of care and support for people with intersex variations or innate variations of sex characteristics (IVSC) that go beyond medical treatment. Explicitly integrating a gender perspective, the symposium examines how social and medical norms surrounding sex, gender, embodiment, and family shape clinical practices, institutional responses, and healthcare experiences.

While medical expertise remains essential, the symposium deliberately broadens the focus to the psychosocial, relational, ethical, and socio-political dimensions of care. The program brings medicine, psychology, social work, ethics, law, social sciences, and gender studies into dialogue, with particular attention to psychosocial support, family and sibling experiences, long-term support, and ethical issues including bodily integrity, informed and ongoing consent, and shared decision-making.

A round table with people directly concerned will foreground first-person perspectives as indispensable forms of expertise. An afternoon workshop, based on case vignettes and conducted in collaboration with two specialized VSC teams (CHUV Lausanne and University Children's Hospital Zurich), will provide a structured space to discuss concrete situations, ethical tensions, and non-medical dimensions of care across clinical, academic, and experiential perspectives.

The symposium will be open online to members of Psychosocial Studies in Intersex International (PSI-I) as part of the PSI-I seminar series

Registration is free but required for both online (via MS Teams) and in-person attendance. Click [here](#) to register (Online participants will receive the Teams link after registering).

Organization

Cynthia Kraus, PhD, Philosopher of science, Senior Lecturer, Gender Studies and Social Studies of Science and Medicine, STS Lab, Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lausanne (UNIL); Associate Researcher, Institute for the Humanities in Medicine, UNIL-CHUV

In collaboration with Jürg Streuli, PD Dr. med., Dr. sc. med. Pediatrician and ethicist, Institute of Biomedical Ethics and History of Medicine (IBME), University of Zurich; Member, Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS) Subcommittee on Variations of Sex Development (VSD).

This symposium is organized as part of SHARED-VSC – Support and Guidance for Health Care Access with Resources for Empowerment and Shared Decision-Making in Variations of Sex Characteristics/Intersex (2025–2028), J. Streuli, PI; C. Kraus, Co-PI), a project funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) under the National Research Programme 83 (NRP 83) “Gender Medicine and Health” (<https://www.nfp83.ch/en>).

With the support of :

- STS Lab & Institute of Social Sciences, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Lausanne (UNIL)
- Platform for Gender Studies (PlaGe), University of Lausanne
- Department Woman-Mother-Child, Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV)
- Institute of Biomedical Ethics and History of Medicine (IBME), University of Zurich
- Institute of Public Health, Zurich Applied University of Sciences (ZHAW)