This talk will provide an overview of recent research on sexual motivation in four parts. First, I will present a theoretical conceptualization of trait sexual motivation based on individual differences in consistent patterns of sexual cognition, affect, and behavior. The second part reports on an experience sampling study that investigated (a) how sexual motivation unfolds in everyday life, (b) what dispositional and situational variables predict sexual events, and (c) how the experience of sexual events affects subsequent emotional, cognitive, and interpersonal processes. Third, I will present the construction process of a scale to measure trait sexual motivation that is based on the presented theoretical conceptualization. The final part reports a meta-analysis on gender differences in sexual motivation that (a) quantifies the gender difference, (b) examines potential moderator variables, and (c) investigates the role of socially biased responding. The talk will conclude with a discussion of open questions around the origins and real-life implications of (gender differences in) sexual motivation.

Prof. Dr. Malte Friese
Saarland University

This lecture takes place at Liebiggasse 5, 1010 Vienna, Lecture Hall G 2nd floor and will be streamed.
Thursday, June 13, 2024; 3pm