

Foundation of the Institute for Sexual Science



1919

Magnus Hirschfeld, physician and activist for gay rights, founded the world's first Institute for Sexual Science in Berlin which was looted and destroyed by the nazis in 1933.

In 1919, Dr Magnus Hirschfeld, a physician who had been campaigning for the decriminalisation and social acceptance of homosexuality since the end of the 19th century, founded the world's first Institute for Sexual Science in Berlin. The institute was primarily an outpatient facility for counselling on sexual problems and for the examination, assessment and treatment of all sexual disorders. It provided further training for doctors and lectures for interested laypeople. Finally, it was also a contact point for queer people in need. Hirschfeld's work on transgender issues was revolutionary. On 5 March 1930, one of the first gender reassignment operations was performed with the institute's involvement. The institute issued so-called transvestite certificates, which allowed people to wear clothing in public that corresponded to their gender identity. Certificates for transgender people made it possible to change their first name. The National Socialists looted and destroyed the institute on 6 May 1933.

For more information click here!



Source: magnus-hirschfeld.de/ausstellungen/institut-fur-sexualwissenschaft-1919-1933