

LIVING GENDER IN DIVERSE TIMES CONFERENCE



Pink #1

FREE, Saturday 2 April 2022
at Shoreditch Town Hall, 380 Old St, London
EC1V 9LT: <https://shoreditchtownhall.com/>

Shoreditch Town Hall is fully accessible
Gender-neutral and accessible toilets will be available.

[Floor Plan](#)



Network (FGEN) was founded in July 2021 by Professor Sally Hines (University of Sheffield) and Dr Natacha Kennedy (Goldsmiths) to bring together academic and professional staff and students, policy makers, third sector, community and campaigning organisations, members of cultural industries and health and medical professionals whose work understands gender as fluid and diverse.

FGENs first conference 'Living Gender in Diverse Times' brings Network members and international keynote speakers in trans, gender and sexuality studies together over two days to share ideas and work and to forge future collaborations. In exploring the diverse ways in which gender is lived and understood in current times, the conference addresses practices of gender regulation and resistance, representations and mediations, and social institutions and transformative cultures. In addition to individual presentations, the conference will host roundtable discussions and cultural/visual interventions.

Twitter: [@NetworkGender](https://twitter.com/NetworkGender)

Facebook: [Feminist Gender Equality Network](https://www.facebook.com/FeministGenderEqualityNetwork)

Instagram: [@fgequalitynet](https://www.instagram.com/fgequalitynet)

Podcast: [Feminist Gender Equality Network](https://www.feministgenderequalitynetwork.org/podcast)

#FGENConference2022



FGEN logo

Last year Sally asked for submissions for FGEN's new logo design. We received several very thoughtful and creative submissions, all of which had features we liked. Both the FGEN Steering Committee and the Media/Communications Working Group considered each submission and voted on their preferred designs. Two designs stood out and were selected.

John Stoltenberg

This design was inspired by Robert Indiana's iconic [LOVE](#). We appreciate all the thought that has gone into this design, which is distinctive, simple and bold. It will look great on the website, the cover of our planned journal, and a wide range of other settings. We worked with John on incorporating pride colours to create an inclusive colour scheme while retaining the "=" sign for equality.

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Stoltenberg

Laurie Pink

Laurie submitted a series of vivid, exciting and vibrant designs (one of which is on the cover) that we think will look great on FGEN merch and will appeal to a wide range of people, including younger feminist and gender diverse members. Laurie also made significant refinements to John's logo design.

<https://lauriepink.com/>

PROGRAMME



SATURDAY 2 APRIL 2022

THE SMALL COMMITTEE ROOM: open all day as a Quiet Space

9.00-9.30: Registration

9.30-9.45: Opening and Welcome
(Natacha Kennedy and Stephen Whittle)

9.45-11.00: Keynote: [Julia Serano](#),
Feminism, Sexualization, and Anti-Trans Activism.
(Chaired by Natacha Kennedy)

11.00-11:15: BREAK

11.15-12.15: SESSION ONE PANELS

ASSEMBLY HALL: Gender 'Critical' Feminism

[Claire Thurlow](#): *The Gender Critical Pivot from Anti-trans to 'Pro-women'.*

[Natacha Kennedy](#): *Trans Exclusionism: The normalisation of tacit and explicit marginalisation of trans people.*

[Camila Montiel McCann](#): *The Appropriation of Trans-exclusionary "Feminism" to Reproduce and Update Hegemonic Femininity in British Broadsheet Newspapers.*

PROGRAMME



[Braedyn Ezra Simon](#): *“Gender Critical Feminism”*: A critical look into the colonial remnants of gender discourse.

LARGE COMMITTEE ROOM: Trans Health Care (Chaired by Ash Bainbridge)

[Gillian Love and Elaney Youssef](#): *Trans and Non-binary Perinatal Care: Emerging findings and new directions.*

[M. Stepney and S. Martin](#): *Experiences of trans and gender diverse youth and their families – healthtalk.org.*

[Jodie Hughes](#): *The effects of Gender on Health-related Quality of Life in People with Endometriosis – Virtual Presentation.*

[Tereza Hendl and Loren Britton](#): *Interrogating Gender-oppressive Social Structures: How to better support transgender people.*

OLD SERVERY: Embodied and Sexual Cultures (Chaired by Francis Ray White)

[Gemma Williams, Gemma Commane, Keeley Abbott and Annalise Weckesser](#): *Countering Violence through Bodily Autonomy: Reflections from ‘Bean Flicks,’ an intersectional porn festival celebrating marginalised bodies and sexualities.*

[Harry Wyld](#): *The Trans Body: A Site of Political Discourse.*

[Sebastian Mylly](#): *Navigating the Cis Gaze and Staging the Trans Body.*

PROGRAMME



[Alanah Mortlock](#): *Trans for who, Black for who? The coalescence of anti-trans and anti-Black rhetoric in the transracialism debates.*

MEDIUM COMMITTEE ROOM: Teaching and Researching Gender and Sexuality (Chaired by Sharon Cowan)

[James Cummings](#): *“Currently Not Teaching Trans 101”: The experiences of trans men and masc non-binary folk in digital gay spaces.*

[Kit Heyam](#): *“But were They Really Trans?”: Trans histories and activism.*

[Matt. C. Smith](#): *The Choreographing of Trans in and out of Urban Planning.*

12.15 – 13.15: LUNCH

PLACARD MAKING WORKSHOP. OLD SERVERY.

13.15 – 14.30: KEYNOTE [Marquis Bey](#)
Trans Radicality and Abolitionist Politics.
(Chaired by Robin Todd)

14.30 – 14.40: BREAK

PROGRAMME



14.40-15.40: SESSION TWO ROUNDTABLES AND FILM SCREENING

ASSEMBLY HALL: [Media Representation Research Group](#): Researching Trans People's Marginalisation and Resistance in Social Media.

LARGE COMMITTEE ROOM: [Gender and violence research group](#): *Trans-inclusion in gender-based violence and women's services.*

OLD SERVERY: FILM - *Rebel Dykes*
and Q&A with Directors Harri Shanahan and Sian Williams
and Producer Siobhan Fahey. (Chaired by Sally Hines)

MEDIUM COMMITTEE ROOM: [Visual Cultures Research Group](#): *Representing Gender in Diverse Times.*

15.40 – 15.50: BREAK



PROGRAMME



15.50 – 16.50: SESSION THREE PANELS AND FILM SCREENING

ASSEMBLY HALL: Gender and Education (Chaired by EJ Renold)

[Anna Carlile](#): *The Buddhist Centre and the Ballet Class: How transgender and non-binary youth find their way in extra-curricular spaces.*

[Katie Reynolds](#): *Exploring the Experiences of Trans and Non-binary Educators in the UK.*

[Alice Barber and Emily M. Pattinson](#): *LGBTQ+ health in the medical curriculum: A call for change.*

LARGE COMMITTEE ROOM: Representation and Activism (Chaired by Feona Attwood)

[Łukasz Szulc](#): *Digital Gender Contestations Social Media and Democracy in a Cross-Stance, Cross-Culture and Cross-Platform Perspective.*

[Olu Jenzen, Megan Collier and Matt Trenner](#): *UK Media Representation of Transgender and Gender Diverse Youth.*

[Ece Kocabiçak](#): *When the Myth of Biological Sex Damages Feminist Struggle: Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul convention.*

PROGRAMME



OLD SERVERY: FILM - *Rebel Dykes*
and Q&A with Directors Harri Shanahan and Sîan Williams
and Producer Siobhan Fahey. (Chaired by Dawn Woolley)

MEDIUM COMMITTEE ROOM: *Inequality, Crime and Abuse*
(Chaired by Julie Miller)

[Sarah Lamble](#): *Fake News, False Facts and Flawed Narratives: On the use and misuse of evidence in the Trans Prisoner Policy Debate.*

[Jessica Randall](#): *A Missed Opportunity: Consultation on amending the Gender Recognition Act 2004.*

[Ben Collier and Sharon Cowan](#): *Concept Capture and Category Co-option: Recording Sex/Gender Data in the Criminal Justice System.*

[Siouxsie Bytheway](#): *Heteronormative Discourse: Therapist social constructions of intimate partner abuse (IPA) in queer relationships.*

16.50– 17.00: BREAK

17.00 – 18.15: KEYNOTE - [Agnieszka Graff and Elżbieta Korolczuk](#)

Anti-Gender Politics in the Populist Moment.
(Chair: Emma Proctor)

ABSTRACTS



Keynotes

Julia Serano, *Feminism, Sexualization, and Anti-Trans Activism*.

Feminists have long been concerned about the ways in which women are sexualized in our culture (e.g., via sexual harassment, objectification, slut-shaming, and sexual violence). But of course, sexualization is not a female-specific phenomenon. Other marginalized groups—including LGBTQIA+ people, people of color, and people with disabilities—have long described the various ways in which they are reduced to their real or imagined sexual attributes (their bodies, behaviors, or desires) to the exclusion of other characteristics, often facing disproportionate levels of sexual violence as a result. Here, I will provide an overarching framework for understanding how these seemingly disparate forms of sexualization are all interconnected, and thus we must strive to end them all. In this light, I will critique “gender critical” activists’ increasing reliance on sexualization as a tactic—smearing trans people en masse as “sexual predators,” “perverts,” and “pedophiles”—and show how it is antithetical to feminism.

Biography

Julia Serano is the author of four books, including *Whipping Girl: A Transsexual Woman on Sexism and the Scapegoating of Femininity*, and *Excluded: Making Feminist and Queer Movements More Inclusive*. Her writings have also appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *TIME*, *Salon*, *The Daily Beast*, and *Ms.* juliaserano.com.

ABSTRACTS



Keynotes

Marquis Bey, *Trans Radicality and Abolitionist Politics*.

To be discussed in this talk will be the utility of using an equally trans and abolitionist approach to combating transantagonism. Where transness names not simply transgender embodiment but, perhaps more robustly, a relational and ethical politics of nonnormativity, and abolition names the cultivation of a life and livelihood whose emergence actualizes via the impossibility of violence, "Trans Radicality and Abolitionist Politics" seeks to enter into the conversation surrounding transantagonism via non-exclusivity, nonnormativity, and a generative openness.

Biography

Marquis Bey is Assistant Professor of African American Studies and English, and affiliated faculty in Gender and Sexuality Studies and Critical Theory, at Northwestern University. Their work, broadly, concerns black feminist theorizing, transgender and nonbinary studies, critical theory, and abolition. Bey has written multiple books and articles across subjects of black studies, transness and gender nonnormativity, feminist theory, and abolition. Most recently, Bey is the author of *Black Trans Feminism* (Duke University Press) and a forthcoming collection of autotheory essays titled *Cistem Failure: Essays on Blackness and Cisgender* (Duke University Press, August 2022).

ABSTRACTS



Keynotes

Agnieszka Graff and Elżbieta Korolczuk, *Anti-Gender Politics in the Populist Moment.*

This presentation will discuss the main findings of the book, which examines the new phase of global struggles around gender equality and sexual democracy: the ultraconservative mobilization against “gender ideology” and feminist efforts to counteract it. We argue that anti-gender campaigns, which emerged around 2010 in Europe, are not a simple continuation of earlier trends (backlash), but part of a new political configuration: the rise of right-wing populism. While much of our data is drawn from the Polish case, we extensively discuss transnational networks such as the World Congress of Families and Agenda Europe, and developments in countries such as Italy and France. We show that the Polish case is both context-specific and paradigmatic for the global trend: a right-wing populist revolt against liberal democracy and progressive values, and the rapid growth of coalitions between ultraconservative, mainly religious organizations and right-wing populist forces around the issue of gender.

The presentation will focus on the relationship between populism and gender. Rather than looking for specific gendered aspects of populism as an ideology, we will discuss a growing opportunistic synergy between the right-wing parties and ultraconservative groups opposing “gender.” This synergy plays out on two distinct levels: ideological/discursive and strategic/organizational. Since populism is not a robust ideological project, it readily feeds on ideas and narrative structures promoted by the anti-gender ultraconservative movement, albeit often in an opportunistic and selective fashion. Populists also cooperate closely with the anti-gender organizations as they need new cadres in the process of a sweeping elite change. Simultaneously, the actors behind anti-gender campaigns use the organizational resources that right-wing parties offer and access to political processes, especially in contexts such as Poland where the latter are in power. What facilitates this collusion is the fact that the ultraconservative critiques of “gender” have been framed in populist terms. The movement presents itself as a necessary and courageous defense of “the people” against powerful and foreign “liberal elites,” with “gender ideology” emphatically identified as a modern version of colonialism.

ABSTRACTS



Keynotes

Agnieszka Graff and Elżbieta Korolczuk, *Anti-Gender Politics in the Populist Moment*.

Biographies

Agnieszka Graff is an associate professor at the American Studies Center, University of Warsaw. She is a cultural studies scholar with research interests in gender studies, feminist history, nationalism, and public discourse on gender. Her articles have appeared in *Signs*, *East European Politics and Societies*, *Public Culture*, *European Journal of Women's Studies* as well as a number of collected volumes. She co-edited the Spring 2019 issue of *Signs on Gender and the Rise of the Global Right*. Her most recent publication, co-authored with

Elżbieta Korolczuk is an Associate professor in sociology working at Södertörn University in Stockholm and American Studies Center, Warsaw University. Her research interests involve: social movements, civil society, politics of reproduction as well as right-wing populism and mobilizations against “gender”. She co-edited two books on motherhood and fatherhood in Poland and Russia (in Polish) and published two volumes on social movements and civil society in Central Eastern Europe: *Civil Society Revisited: Lessons from Poland* co-edited with Kerstin Jacobsson (Berghahn Books, 2017), *Rebellious Parents. Parental Movements in Central-Eastern Europe and Russia* co-edited with Katalin Fábíán (Indiana University Press, 2017). Most recent publications include a monograph *Anti-gender Politics in the Populist Moment* written with Agnieszka Graff (2021, Routledge). She is also a commentator and a long-time women’s and human rights activist.

ABSTRACTS



Panel: Gender 'Critical' Feminism

Claire Thurlow: *From TERF to Gender Critical: the pivot from anti-trans to 'pro-women'.*

Over the last five years the UK has seen a significant rise in the prominence of trans-exclusionary feminism. What was once termed TERF (trans-exclusionary radical feminism/feminist) is now more often referred to as gender critical feminism/feminist. In this talk I argue that this new moniker represents a rebranding for a present-day where the unabashed transphobia of earlier trans-exclusionary feminism is no longer tolerated. This rebranding has principally been cultivated by the linguistic pivot from anti-trans to 'pro-woman'. By mapping this move, I will explain the rebranding as an attempted claim to legitimacy with an aim of accruing mainstream support. Of course, with minimal interrogation it becomes obvious that the current 'gender critical' 'pro-women' positions and past 'TERF' anti-trans position differ only in style and not substance, yet this interrogation is so rarely undertaken. In sum, and despite efforts to obscure the point, gender critical feminism continues to rely on eliminationist aims, transphobic tropes, moral panics and essentialist understandings of men and women. These factors also continue to link trans-exclusionary feminism to anti-feminist reactionary politics and other 'anti-gender' movements.

Content warning – will explore transphobic views

Biographical note

Claire Thurlow is a PhD student in the Politics department at Cardiff University, UK. Her PhD research explores the rise of trans-exclusionary feminism in the UK and how it links to the wider 'anti-gender' movements worldwide. Her wider research interests are feminist and LGBTQ+ politics. Claire has previously worked as an independent researcher on LGBTQ+ issues.

ABSTRACTS



Panel: Gender 'Critical' Feminism

Natacha Kennedy: *Trans Exclusionism: The normalisation of tacit and explicit marginalisation of trans people.*

This presentation characterises, from a sociological perspective, the ways trans and non-binary people are excluded from spaces and nodes of power where decisions are made about us. From official bodies and political institutions which make decisions about us in our absence to the media 'debate' from which trans people are almost hermetically excluded trans exclusionism is often a tacitly normalised practice constituting of the marginalisation and debarment of trans people for a variety of purposes and a range of consequences. The exclusion of trans people from research, decision-making and 'debate' about trans people occurs different ways and is manifested in both explicitly and tacitly. This includes the unspoken assumption that trans people cannot speak impartially or dispassionately about issues affecting us or that we cannot be trusted to speak about ourselves – while our opponents can. Trans exclusionism is often discursively framed or euphemised to avoid mention of trans people, misleadingly framing oppressive and exclusionary proposals in terms of the 'rights' of other groups, groups often included as 'stakeholders' when trans liberation is discussed. Whilst trans exclusionism is clearly evident in the activities of organised transphobia, it also occurs in spaces claiming to be impartial, inclusive, balanced or democratic.

ABSTRACTS



Panel: Gender 'Critical' Feminism

Camila Montiel McCann: *The Appropriation of Trans-exclusionary "Feminism" to Reproduce and Update Hegemonic Femininity in British Broadsheet Newspapers.*

Schippers (2007: 95) provided the following definition for hegemonic femininity: 'the characteristics defined as womanly that establish and legitimate a hierarchical and *complementary* relationship to hegemonic masculinity, and so *guarantee the dominance of men and the subordination of women*' (emphasis mine). Hence, the dominant form of femininity embodies a patriarchal ideal of womanhood that is designed to encourage women to not only accept but at times actively maintain their own oppression (Montiel McCann 2021). Adopting Schippers' definition, this paper expands the notion of hierarchically organised femininity by applying intersectional feminist theory to explain the marginalisation of certain expressions of womanhood and the elevation of others more proximate to white supremacist capitalist patriarch (hooks 2000). This paper aims to investigate the appropriation of trans-exclusionary so-called "feminist" ideology by Britain's broadsheet newspapers as a mode of reproducing and updating hegemonic femininity to make it adaptable to a more feminist-informed audience. Applying feminist critical discourse analysis (Lazar 2005), I analyse news articles centring transgender identity published over a forty-week period from September 2020 until July 2021. Of 114 such articles, 25 percent reproduce the discourse that 'trans rights are dangerous' that is the modus operandi of transphobic "feminism". I conclude that anti-transgender bias is dominant in the British news media and is justified by the appropriation of a crude and bigoted "feminism" that, in turn, works to maintain hegemonic femininity and, ultimately, patriarchal society.

Biography

Camila is a doctoral candidate in Linguistics at the University of Liverpool, where they also studied for their undergraduate degree in English and MRes in Linguistics, achieving First Class degrees. Their doctoral research in language and gender investigates the representation of women and minority genders in British broadsheet newspapers and their research interests include intersectional feminism, hegemonic femininity, far-right populism, post-feminism, and critical discourse analysis. Camila's PhD is funded by the AHRC North West Consortium Doctoral Training Partnership (NWCDTP).

ABSTRACTS



Panel: Gender 'Critical' Feminism

Braedyn Ezra Simon: *"Gender Critical Feminism": A critical look into the colonial remnants of gender discourse.*

This will be a presentation of my Master's Thesis in Sociology interrogating gender critical feminist discourse. Despite great work by scholars examining anti-trans feminist discourse, no effort has been made to understand the importance of colonialism in maintaining domination of sex, gender, and intersubjectivity. Using a feminist critical discourse analysis methodology, I analyze 16 different texts from prominent gender critical voices in the UK to examine the question: how is our view of trans(gender) politics and people shaped by gender critical feminist discourse? In order to more completely understand the systems of oppression that construct our gendered reality in the Western world and how they shape transgender experiences and how we understand them, I take a decolonial feminist approach to discussing the results by examining them through the coloniality of gender. This framework provides me with a way to unpack the constructed realities of transgender people in order to think critically about the origins of gender politics in the UK to reveal a legacy of colonialism which is present in the gender critical feminist discourse. The results demonstrate how transgender politics and lives are constructed by a Eurocentric hegemonic gender order where boundary making around essentialist notions of womanhood promote coercive, violent colonial constructs of gender and sex.

Biography:

Braedyn Ezra is a queer and Jewish transgender man from Seattle, Washington, USA. He moved to Berlin, Germany in 2019 to study Sociology and obtained his Master's degree in 2021. He has worked as a bartender in queer nightlife for almost 10 years and is hoping to make the transition to academic life this year as he applies for PhD programs in Germany. His research interests include social and feminist philosophy, transgender studies, discourse analysis, Marxism, the sociology of knowledge, decolonialism, and critical and queer theory.

ABSTRACTS



Panel: Trans Health Care

Gillian Love and Elaney Youssef: *Trans and Non-binary Perinatal Care: Emerging findings and new directions.*

Trans and non-binary people who become pregnant and have children face numerous challenges, from societal stigma to medical ignorance around trans reproduction, pregnancy and childbirth. In this paper, we focus on perinatal care for trans and non binary people in England, sharing insights from the early stages of a research project with a gender-inclusive perinatal/maternity service in the South East. While the literature on trans inclusion in perinatal/maternal services in England is relatively small, we take an interdisciplinary approach in bringing together existing research in medicine, sociology and other related disciplines. The paper will give an overview of the current state of academic work on gender inclusion in perinatal/maternity services; suggest new directions and questions for future research; and share emerging findings from our research with a gender-inclusive service in the South East of England.

Biographical notes

Gillian is a Sociologist who specialises in gender studies. Her previous research has included a qualitative study of abortion narratives, and a review of barriers to sexual violence support for LGBT people in Brighton. She is based at the University of Sussex.

Elaney is a health services researcher with an interest in HIV and sexual health. She is a qualitative researcher, and her expertise is in developing health services to meet the needs of service-users. Elaney is based at the Brighton and Sussex Medical School.

ABSTRACTS



Panel: Trans Health Care

M. Stepney and S. Martin: *Experiences of trans and gender diverse youth and their families – healthtalk.org.*

Trans and non-binary youth are systematically excluded from discussions and decision making regarding their healthcare needs, with much UK media coverage being both ill-informed and inflammatory (Miles. 2018). Many of the arguments used by those pushing for tighter legislation on medical care for trans youth, alarmingly lack trans and non-binary voices. This project draws on 50 narrative in-depth interviews with young people from a range of backgrounds to hear their experiences of healthcare in the UK. From these narrative interviews we produced a section on the award winning website healthtalk.org as a primary dissemination route. Here you can see, hear and read about young people's experiences through audio, video and written clips from their interviews. This website resource provides an insight into young people's everyday lives because narrative interviews allow a holistic and intersectional understanding of experiences – how seeking healthcare is embodied in and related to wider relationships, family, friends, school, work and emotional wellbeing, as well as our socio-economic background, class and ethnicity. We invite you to explore and engage with the interactive resource/session, hearing and seeing what young people feel and think, through their own words.

ABSTRACTS



Panel: Trans Health Care

Jodie Hughes: *The effects of Gender on Health-related Quality of Life in People with Endometriosis – Virtual Presentation.*

By providing evidence of how endo affects the quality of life of patients, this research will provide the framework for health care providers to improve the way they diagnose and treat patients with Endometriosis.

Background. There is very little research of endometriosis and how it impacts the patients' lives, this is even more evident when it comes to gender diverse people.

Method. This cross-sectional study has been collecting data since March 2021 consists of 1,560 responses to a survey quantifying health related quality of life and 21 semi structured interviews to date.

Results. Preliminary results are telling us that 4.8% of our sample are not cis women. Transgender people have the highest EHP scores of 28.5 and gender fluid people with scores of 25.9 of a possible 44. People who chose "other" have the highest average PPQ scores of 27 and transgender people with 25.5 out of a possible 28. Qualitative data that has also been collected which agrees with the statistics, when asked if they feel that they have been discriminated against the answers were all along these lines

"I'm not out to them. Because any time I dress masc, they see me as depressed."
-Anonymous, Gender fluid, Canada

Conclusion. Although the sample size of non cis women is small it is telling us that the health-related quality of life is much poorer in these sample groups.

Biography:

Jodie Hughes is a Health Sciences PhD student; her study is on Health-Related Quality of Life in people with Endometriosis. Specifically, how Health Related Quality of Life differs in a range of sample groups of Endometriosis patients, including

- Race
- Hospital setting
- Gender
- Where patients live

She also founded the charity Endometriosis South Coast.

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ABSTRACTS



Panel: Trans Health Care

Tereza Hendl and Loren Britton: *Interrogating Gender-oppressive Social Structures: How to better support transgender people.*

This talk is based on a commentary that we have written in response to a philosophy paper, which argues for 1. not alleviating commonly restrictive conditions for transgender people's access to gender/sex affirming clinical interventions and 2. introducing additional conditions, inviting transgender people to critically reflect on why they want to undergo gender/sex affirming clinical interventions. The authors of the paper argue that because there is no particular empirically or otherwise justifiable norm for how gender needs to align with sex, transgender people ought to critically assess their desires to undergo clinical interventions and interrogate the ways gender stereotypes and norms might have shaped their feelings and preferences. We appreciate the critique of the social norms that prescribe a binary and heteronormative congruence of sex and gender. However, we believe that any investigations of gender/sex affirmative clinical interventions that take an individualistic and de-contextualized approach are epistemically, methodologically and ethically troubling. We hold that in a gender-oppressive and transphobic social environment, interrogating transgender people's desires to "pass" and adjust to socially dominant and reinforced gender norms - instead of addressing the oppressive and violent social conditions that shape and impact transgender lives - effectively re-oppresses transgender people, fails to grasp the urgent need for actual real-life gender and social justice and as such, also fails to answer the moral and social responsibility for improving the material conditions of transgender lives. We end with sharing our vision for how to better support transgender people – as philosophers, scholars of various disciplines and crossing disciplinary boundaries, and as members of society more broadly.

ABSTRACTS



Panel: Embodied and Sexual Cultures

Gemma Williams, Gemma Commane, Keeley Abbott and Annalise Weckesser: *Countering Violence through Bodily Autonomy: Reflections from 'Bean Flicks,' an intersectional porn festival celebrating marginalised bodies and sexualities.*

In response to dominate intersectional forms of violence on marginalised bodies and sexualities, we held 'Bean Flicks' (2020), Birmingham's first intersectional, ethical porn festival. Bean Flicks brought together sex researchers, performers, creators, and educators, who embody and/or advocate for centring non-conforming (disabled, trans and non-binary, racially minoritized, queer and more) bodies. Audiences told us, via feedback, that they felt the event tackled discrimination by providing a safe space to discuss erotic art forms, sexual ethics and desire.

We argue Bean Flicks constitutes a form of feminist praxis in its ambitions to advocate for the bodily autonomy and visibility of marginalised bodies and sexualities. We will critically reflect upon addressing our own groups' internal power dynamics and blind spots. We will discuss tensions around what makes such events 'legitimate,' and how legitimacy is traded off, taken away and validated dependent on (academic vs. community) context. As part of our presentation, we will share photos, film stills and 'artefacts' in an attempt to continue to communally reflect on the queer potential of events like Bean Flicks, and the significance of bringing a range of communities together to counter violence and forward bodily autonomy of non-conforming bodies and sexualities.

ABSTRACTS



Panel: Embodied and Sexual Cultures

Harry Wyld: *The Trans Body: A Site of Political Discourse.*

Trans healthcare has become an area of moral judgement and moral panic fuelled by trans-exclusionary “feminism”. I ask what this means for our bodies, as trans people, as they become sites of political discourse, and how gender and ideology intersect causing the trans body to be a point of contention. The possibility and freedoms that the trans body offers from the current cisnormative modes of gender also cause our bodies to become target boards for those insistent on denying these possibilities and upholding these rigid binaries. This often has violent and sometimes deadly consequences. Through ethnographic spoken word and the work of theorists Brooks (2006), Prosser (2006), Halberstam (2013), Wilchins (2006) and Bornstein (2006) I reflect on what it is like to transgress these boundaries of gender and how we utilise tools of bodily survival within a debate that tries to deny our very existence. If my body could talk it would be screaming for freedom, autonomy, and the space to exist without judgement, threat, or danger.

Keywords: gender, feminism, identity, bodies, transgender liberation.

Biography:

Harry Wyld is a PhD student at Birmingham City University within the School of Media. The working title of their PhD is ‘Interrogating transmisogyny in LGBTQ+ spaces’. Their work focuses on identity, marginalisation, and space. They combine traditional research methods with creative practices such as spoken word poetry through the methodology of ethnography.

ABSTRACTS



Panel: Embodied and Sexual Cultures

Sebastian Mylly: Navigating the Cis Gaze and Staging the Trans Body.

My research focuses on how transgender performers engage with the cultural fascination around gender-nonconforming bodies. It is one thing to live one's life as a transgender person and to cope with said fascination, but it is another thing to literally put one's transgender body on a stage. Do trans performers feel the weight of this cis curiosity on them while performing? If so, how does it manifest? Further, is this something they would rather evade and avoid – or is it something they can use in order to create meaning? How might a cisgender gaze be subverted or used in theatrical performance? Or, perhaps, is the presence of such a gaze uninteresting or non-existent? Are questions of 'the body' interesting or relevant to trans artists (in the specific context of transness, and, perhaps, political activism)? I am looking to speak to trans performers (theatrical, filmic, or otherwise) to find out whether the trans body, when explicitly subjected to spectatorship, gains new meaning or different meanings when it is made the object of attention.

Biography:

Sebastian Mylly is an aspiring academic and a final year undergraduate Film Studies and Drama student at the Queen Mary University of London. He is writing his written dissertation in Drama on the spectacularisation of trans bodies in performance contexts.

ABSTRACTS



Panel: Embodied and Sexual Cultures

Alanah Mortlock: *Trans for who, Black for who? The coalescence of anti-trans and anti-Black rhetoric in the transracialism debates.*

The proposed paper explores storytelling as a feminist practice that animates affect as method. My research considers how affective circulations of anger, outrage, and pain (amongst others) shape Black women's responses to discourses of transracialism and so evidences that storytelling functions as an essential social, political, and emotional lifeline for Black women. In this paper, I will demonstrate how I have used storytelling to integrate my affective responses – understood as emotional, intimate, and uncontainably social and political – as a method for analysing discourses of transracialism. Specifically, I will focus on how storytelling mobilises anger as an analytical tool, thus making it a method of affective analysis, to argue that storytelling as a method offers a route to establish affect as a locus of feminist knowledge production. I am further interested in how narrative can be understood as a new analytical and epistemological grammar, in which emotion, feeling, and mood become structuring principles of articulation and understanding. Building on interventions from feminist (Hemmings, 2011) – and, importantly, Black feminist (Lorde, 1984; Hartman, 2019) – scholars, I will argue that, by foregrounding affect as a basis of producing and communicating knowledge, storytelling makes possible the voicing of experiences and identities previously unspeakable within hegemonic systems of academic knowledge production. As a technique of world-building that is fundamentally communicative, intimate, and emotional, affect becomes constitutive not only of knowledge, but of social and political relations, and of subjects themselves; I believe such constitution promises new modes of being for Black subjects.

Keywords Affect, Black feminisms, Storytelling, transracialism

Biography:

Alanah Mortlock is a Doctoral Candidate at the Department of Gender Studies, London School of Economics and Political Sciences. Her thesis looks at how academic and popular discourses of “transracialism” interact with theorisations of Blackness, engaging a critical lens invested in Black feminist and trans scholarship and politics. Her research interests include Black feminisms; theorisations of Blackness; mixed-raceness and racial ambiguity; trans theory; theories of identity; feminist epistemologies and methodologies; affect theory; and the intersections of gender, race, and sexuality

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ABSTRACTS



Panel: Teaching and Researching Gender and Sexuality

James Cummings: *“Currently Not Teaching Trans 101”: The experiences of trans men and masc non-binary folk in digital gay spaces.*

This paper explores the experiences of gay trans men and queer masc non-binary folk in digital spaces that are predominantly occupied by and marketed towards gay cis men, such as the hook-up and social apps Grindr and Scruff. It draws on interviews conducted for the Digital Intimacies project, which explored how queer men in the UK experience intimacy in relation to their smartphones. Of the project’s 43 participants, 6 identified as trans and 4 as masc non-binary. Digital gay spaces were recognised as intensely cisnormative. However, participants’ relationships to these spaces were complex and changed over time. Many initially experienced a sense of gender and sexual affirmation in digital gay spaces but later sought to resist cisnormativity and avoid online encounters with ignorance and transphobia. This paper explores these dynamics with a view to understanding complex relationships between gender, sexuality and technology that characterise the present historical moment.

Biography:

James Cummings is a Lecturer in Sociology at the University of York. His research interests are gender, sexuality, being, belonging and identity. He works with queer men and masculine identifying people in the United Kingdom and the People’s Republic of China.

ABSTRACTS



Panel: Teaching and Researching Gender and Sexuality

Kit Heyam: *But were They Really Trans?": Trans histories and activism.*

While activists and scholars have long acknowledged the importance of historical narratives to trans wellbeing and activism, fewer have acknowledged how transphobic attacks on the ontological 'realness' of trans people have profoundly limited the histories we feel able to share. The need to prove the 'realness'/'seriousness' of our genders has led us to import demands for testimony and stability onto the past – limiting the scope of trans history to stories that are overwhelmingly recent, binary, medicalised, stable, stereotyped and white. Drawing on my forthcoming trade book *Before We Were Trans: A New History of Gender* (June 2022: John Murray, UK/Seal Press, US), I argue that widening the scope of trans histories is essential to changing the terms of the conversation about our rights today. By taking seriously fluid/fleeting trans experiences in the past and refusing to simplify experiences which defy modern and/or Western categories, we can provide evidence that disruptive approaches to gender are far from new; challenge narrow ideas of what constitutes 'real' trans experience; and work towards a society which takes individual gendered experiences on their own terms. My paper closes with a creative invitation, providing attendees with cardboard 'Rainbow Plaques' (a project I have run since 2015) to commemorate speculative/personal trans histories. This could, if desired, form a display/artwork at the conference.

Biography:

Kit Heyam (they/them or he/him) is a writer, trans awareness consultant and heritage practitioner. They work with heritage professionals and queer communities to develop ways to tell new, more diverse histories of gender in museums and public spaces. Their first book for a popular audience, *Before We Were Trans: A New History of Gender*, will be published by John Murray Press and Seal Press in June 2022.

ABSTRACTS



Panel: Teaching and Researching Gender and Sexuality

Matt. C. Smith: *The Choreographing of Trans in and out of Urban Planning.*

Urban planning research and literature is increasingly considering what LGBTQ-inclusive policy and practice looks like, and how current and historical practice has reproduced heterosexual and cisgender normativities. The doctoral research conducted seeks to understand how and when trans is considered within contemporary planning practice within an English local authority. This paper theorizes how trans (and gender and sexuality more broadly) is articulated into and out of local urban planning policy and practice. A post structural analysis inspired by the work of political analyst Carol Bacchi is utilised to understand the presences and absences in planning policy. The role of policy technologies such as Impact Assessments as formal equalities mechanisms are explored as spaces where practitioners have a legal obligation to consider trans. The Impact Assessment process both enables a space for trans to be articulated into and be considered in the planning process whilst simultaneously positioning and constraining a more transformative consideration of gendered difference. The idea of 'choreography' is developed to help understand the rhythms of the planning process, opportunities for progressive movement, and the limitations of liberal state-centred policy approaches. Consequently, as activists and advocates we should seek to improve policy and practice where possibilities arise in the knowledge of the limitations in creating transformative city-spaces.

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ROUNDTABLE: Media and Culture research group

Gina Gwenffrewi and Charlotte Galpin: *Researching Trans People's Marginalisation and Resistance in Social Media*

The public sphere is generally understood to be a space for democratic engagement and collective will-formation. However, the exclusion of traditionally marginalised groups is rarely considered. In the UK, legacy media presents trans people not as targets of harassment but as instigators. This is in spite of warnings by international bodies such as the Council of Europe identifying “vitriolic media campaigns ... in which trans women are villified and misrepresented,” accompanied by “UK hate crime statistics [that] show a sharp increase in transphobic crimes’ (Chikha, 2021).

This exclusion and misrepresentation can be considered a form of ‘participatory inequality’, which is exacerbated online. Social media offers opportunities for resistance through what Nancy Fraser terms subaltern counter-publics, in which people seek support and mobilise. Yet, feminist online spaces pose risks for trans women as they are, in the best case, dominated by cis women, and in the worst case, openly hostile. Studies show an increase in transphobic abuse that leaves trans people unsafe in online spaces. Despite this, there has been very little research to date about the extent, nature and implications of transphobia in the public sphere.

This roundtable introduces a new interdisciplinary research network planned by FGEN’s Media and Cultural Representation Stream. The objective is to discuss research gaps and emerging scholarship on media transphobia and to build capacity that bridges the gap between academic and public debates. Panellists will make short contributions, highlighting the state of the art, key issues and research gaps, before discussion between panellists and the audience.

Speakers will include Gina Gwenffrewi, Charlotte Galpin, a representative of Trans Media Watch and others TBC.

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ROUNDTABLE: Visual Cultures Research Group

Cas Bradbeer, EJ Renold, Dawn Woolley and Zhuanxu Xu: *Representing Gender in Diverse Times.*

The discussion will centre on issues around living and representing gender diversity, and trans and gender non-conforming experiences. As cultural practitioners, the members of the Visual Culture Stream will explore the curatorial challenges of, for example, the politics of inviting artists to 'represent' their non-conforming identities in order to advance the understanding of gender and sex as fluid categories. They will also discuss the importance of creating archives of work by trans and gender non-conforming artists. The visual culture stream aim to provide platforms for artists to share their lived experiences of intersecting discriminations, diverse networks of support and multivalent approaches to art in the complex times we live in.


Biographies:

Cas Bradbeer is a History of Art student at the Courtauld Institute of Art where they lead the LGBTQIA+ Society and produce LGBTQIA+ art histories. Beyond the Courtauld, they work with non-profit organisations like Grand Junction to facilitate free arts events that benefit marginalised people, especially trans and gender non-conforming youth.

EJ Renold is Professor of Childhood Studies at the School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University, Wales. Inspired by feminist, queer and new materialist posthumanist theory, their research, engagement and activism investigates how gender and sexuality come to matter in children and young people's everyday lives across diverse sites, spaces and locales. Here, (see www.productivemargins.ac.uk) they have explored the affordances of co-productive, creative and affective methodologies to engage social and political change with young people (see www.agendaonline.co.uk/crush/).

Dawn Woolley is an artist and research fellow at Leeds Arts University. Recent solo exhibitions include; "Consumed: Stilled Lives" bildkultur GbR, Stuttgart, (2022) and Perth Centre for Photography, Australia, (2021). *Consuming the Body: Capitalism, Social Media and Commodification* is due to be published in 2022 by Bloomsbury.

Zhuanxu Xu is an artist and researcher based in London. Their research areas are trans and queer studies, feminist philosophy, and social and political philosophy, emphasising the intersection between them and their entanglement and imbrication with language, visual culture, and socio-cultural transformation.

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ROUNDTABLE: Gender and violence research group

Trans-inclusion in gender-based violence and women's services

Although the issue of trans inclusion in women's services has recently been prominent in media debates, most gender-based violence support services in the UK are trans-inclusive. The recent reports 'One of the Lasses' and "I am not alone" showed that trans and non-binary survivors can be reluctant to use GBV services due to the fear of exclusionary attitudes although trans inclusion is generally viewed positively by service providers and cis survivors.

This session will feature a group of gender-based violence and women's services practitioners, as well as the authors of both reports. They will discuss, amongst other things, the status of trans and non-binary inclusion in GBV services, what can be done to improve practice and communicate effectively about trans-inclusion, and how both genuine concerns and bad-faith arguments about trans-inclusion can be dealt with.

The last 20 minutes of the session will be dedicated to discussion and interaction with the audience. They will be invited to pose questions to the panellists, but also to reflect on and share their own perspectives on how trans and non-binary people can be made more welcome within GBV services and, most importantly, what FGEN can do help. We will also discuss what resources and guidance might be needed by FGEN members to tackle discussions around trans-inclusion in GBV services, with a view to producing a resource for circulation after the conference.

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Panel: Gender and Education

Anna Carlile: *The Buddhist Centre and the Ballet Class: How transgender and non-binary youth find their way in extra-curricular spaces.*

Drawing on interviews with trans young people and their parents, this paper focuses on community and extra-curricular activities delivered by faith groups, sports, youth organisations, clubs and classes as a source of support for TNB youth in England, UK. It considers participation in social networks beyond immediate family to be key to forming and maintaining relational identities and to the development of self-worth and inclusion. In looking outside mainstream spaces such as schools, we evidence, amongst some exclusionary practice, a wider support base for TNB youth than suggested within the negative narratives nurtured by some mainstream and social media contexts. We point in this paper towards the need for those who support TNB youth to more consistently consider the potential for faith and community groups and extra-curricular activity providers in participating in networks of support.

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Panel: Gender and Education

Katie Reynolds: Exploring the Experiences of Trans and Non-binary Educators in the UK.

In April 2019 parliament passed new regulations for compulsory Relationships Education, inclusive of LGBTQ+ content, to be taught to all pupils in England. This appears to mirror a wider cultural shift towards acceptance of minority sexual and gender identities. However, a social-media-fuelled moral panic is escalating: 'gender critical' pressure groups are targetting schools and parents with damaging and inaccurate publications; the 2021 Gender Recognition Act reform consultation prompted a ceaseless media outcry. Yet, there is still a dearth of research into the experiences of trans and non-binary educators.

This presentation provides an initial insight into ongoing PhD research, drawing upon seven online focus groups with thirty-four LGBTQ+ teachers and school leaders, including ten trans/non-binary teachers. Preliminary analysis suggests trans inclusion work is a priority for LGBTQ+ teachers, with many taking on an additional workload despite reports of emotional labour related to their LGBTQ+ identities. Meanwhile, LGBTQ+ specific networks frame teachers' experiences by providing a safe, supportive space to build authentic relationships. However, more needs to be done to increase the accessibility and inclusivity of these networks for minority subgroups who may experience additional barriers to access them, including fear of stigma from others within the LGBTQ+ community.

Biography

Katie Reynolds (they/them) is a PhD student with a background in secondary maths teaching working actively with the National Education Union LGBT+ network. Their research interests include: teacher career development, neurodivergence, non-binary identities, intersectionality, queer theory and LGBTQ+ networks.

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Panel: Gender and Education

Alice Barber and Emily M. Pattinson: *LGBTQ+ health in the medical curriculum: A call for change.*

Alice Barber, Jack Bonnington, Alexander Flach, Poppy Elizabeth Janina Welsh and Emily M. Pattinson

Introduction: LGBTQ+ people often experience healthcare inequalities and barriers to healthcare, as well as higher levels of poor physical and mental health. Despite this, medical education rarely includes sufficient teaching on LGBTQ+ health, leading to a failure to equip medical students with the knowledge they need to treat LGBTQ+ patients.

Methods: A 3 stage study is being undertaken. 1) A systematic review of current literature relating to teaching of LGBTQ+ health in the UK undergraduate medical curriculum. 2) a national student survey of UK medical students experiences and perspectives on the current curriculum relating to LGBTQ+ health. 3) A call to the governing bodies in medical education to enact change.

Results: Findings of the literature review revealed that the current teaching on LGBTQ+ health in medical schools is insufficient, which can have impacts on patients. Findings of a national survey of medical students (N=296) from 29 UK medical education institutions highlighted that over half of participants (51.4%) reported that they had received no teaching on LGBTQ+ inclusive healthcare. Only 25.3% of respondents reported feeling confident to treat LGBTQ+ patients upon qualification, and only 12.5% felt their knowledge on LGBTQ+ healthcare was sufficient.

Next Steps: In order to push for change, the LGBTQ+ Inclusive Medical Education Alliance (LIMA) has been formed. This is a collective of students, graduates, lecturers, researchers, practitioners and service users who are campaigning for the General Medical Council, Medical Schools Council and National Institute of Healthcare Excellence (NICE) to make changes to mandate the teaching and assessment of inclusive LGBTQ+ healthcare in UK medical schools.

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Panel: Representation and Activism

Łukasz Szulc: *Digital Gender Contestations Social Media and Democracy in a Cross-Stance, Cross-Culture and Cross-Platform Perspective.*

Social media create new opportunities and pose new challenges for democracy. While they may enhance access to information and facilitate the emergence of social movements, they are often accused of creating information cocoons, increasing polarisation and spreading fake news. Social media also play a key role in opening dialogue or provoking disputes in public discussions of highly contested issues. One of the most urgent political and social issues that brings the analysis of social media and democracy into sharp focus is gender diversity. Social media may help explore emerging gender identities, such as 'genderfluid' and 'nonbinary', while they also provide new spaces for gender-based harassment, anti-feminist activism and trans-exclusive mobilisation. In this presentation, I will discuss the role that social media play in public discussions of highly contested issues, uniquely recognising that in the 21st century the discussions are most often held simultaneously in different cultural contexts and on different social media platforms. I will focus on ongoing digital gender contestations, by which I mean both (1) the contestations of the gender binary of men and women, along with the contestations of gender's fixed, essentialist and biological nature, and (2) the contestations of those contestations; a backlash against gender diversity, manifested in 'gender critical' discourses and 'anti-gender ideology' campaigns.

Biography:

Łukasz Szulc (he/him) is a Lecturer in Digital Media and Society in the Department of Sociological Studies at the University of Sheffield. His interests include cultural and critical studies of media and identity at the intersections of gender, sexuality and transnationalism. Łukasz has recently published a report *Queer #PolesinUK: Identity, Migration and Social Media* (2019) and the book *Transnational Homosexuals in Communist Poland: Cross-Border Flows in Gay and Lesbian Magazines* (2018). He has published articles in such journals as *Communication Theory*, *New Media & Society*, *Social Media + Society*, *Sociology* and *Sexualities*. He tweets from @LukaszSzulc.

ABSTRACTS



Panel: Representation and Activism

Olu Jenzen, Megan Collier and Matt Trenner: *UK Media Representation of Transgender and Gender Diverse Youth.*

Media visibility of transgender and gender diverse lives has increased (Cavalante, 2017 Halberstam, 2018). However, increased trans rights and visibility has been met with increased opposition and UK mainstream news media play a significant role in shaping such discourse. Since 2018 trans and gender diverse youth has become a debated topic in UK mainstream media. Whilst digital and social media have provided spaces and processes for prolific and diverse trans-produced media representations, legacy media remain dominated by cis-gender perspectives. Drawing on a 'transgender critique of media representation' (Billard and Zhan 2021) that seeks to move beyond notions of 'good' or 'bad' representations, this paper reports on the empirical engagement with UK press representations of trans and gender diverse youth, to identify key frames and motivations and produce a more nuanced understanding of how such discourses are constructed. It suggests that UK media representations of trans youth continues to be dominated by sensationalising and dehumanising discourse and are frequently driven by anxieties around cultural 'stability' and power, such as for example parental and majoritarian authority vis-à-vis institutions (school, health services etc).

Biographies:

Dr Olu Jenzen (she/ her) is a Reader in Media Studies at the University of Brighton, UK and the Director of the Research Centre for Transforming Sexuality and Gender. Her research ranges over different themes in media, gender and sexuality studies, with a particular interest in LGBTQ digital activism. She is the co-editor of *The Aesthetics of Protest* (AUP 2020) and has published in journals such as *Gender, Place and Culture*, *Convergence* and *Social Movement Studies*.

Megan Collier (she/they) is a University of Brighton graduate with a bachelor's degree in English Language and Linguistics. They worked as a research assistant intern on the 'UK Media Representations of Trans Youth' project, and have particular interests in research surrounding the LGBT* and autistic communities.

Matt Trenner (he/him) is a University of Brighton Media Studies graduate and worked as a research assistant intern on the UK media representations of trans youth project. He is involved in various transgender activism projects.

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Panel: Representation and Activism

Ece Kocabiçak: *When the Myth of Biological Sex Damages Feminist Struggle: Turkey's withdrawal from the İstanbul convention.*

Turkey was the first country to sign and ratify the İstanbul Convention, a human rights treaty addressing violence against women and domestic violence. Yet, following an abrupt decision to withdraw from the Convention, Turkey's involvement was terminated in 2021. This paper investigates to what extent the biological deterministic accounts of sex have justified this withdrawal decision. Drawing on the case of Turkey, the paper reveals the ways in which "gender critical" understandings of sex escalates gendered oppression and inequality. I focus on the following key opponents of the Convention: (i) men's rights organisations, (ii) a particular group of elite men who have gained power by sustaining their influence over the leadership of Justice and Development Party (2002-current), and (iii) three political parties against the Convention. Using qualitative analyses, I examine their public announcements and publications as well as conducting semi-structured interviews. My preliminary findings show that the dismissal of the role of social construction in establishing the category of sex strengthens the patriarchal gender contract in Turkey by (1) reinforcing the cis-gender heterosexual family structure, (2) intensifying gendered roles and responsibilities within the domestic and public spheres, and (3) damaging the alliance between 'conservative' women and feminist movements.

Biography:

My research engages with comparative sociology, feminist political economy, and international development. My expertise is on the ways in which varieties of gender regimes diversify the trajectories of capitalist development, state formation and civil society in the global South; and the interactions between the patriarchal, capitalist and racist collective subjects. My research monograph, titled *The Political Economy of Patriarchy in the Global South* will be published this summer by Routledge Gender & Economics series.

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Panel: Inequality, Crime and Abuse

Sarah Lamble: *Fake News, False Facts and Flawed Narratives: On the use and misuse of evidence in the Trans Prisoner Policy Debate.*

Transgender prisoners in Britain have received considerable public attention in recent years. Questions about the placement of trans people in men's and women's prisons, debates around current prison policy, and concerns about safety, well-being and human rights have generated increased public interest and discussion. Yet much of the current public debate, as well as social and corporate media reporting, has been characterised by false claims, misleading narratives and decontextualised statistics. Drawing from a range of examples from corporate media and campaigning groups, this paper will trace why and how such narratives have taken hold, and the social and political context that underpins these claims. Focussing specifically on the debates about trans women in women's prisons, the paper argues that the widespread circulation of misinformation, not only rests on a projected fantasy of what women's prisons are like and who comprises imprisoned populations, but also on a deep investment in carceral feminism.

Biography:

Sarah Lamble is Reader in Criminology & Queer Theory at Birkbeck, University of London. Lamble is also a founding member of Bent Bars Project, which coordinates a letter-writing programme for LGBTIQ+ prisoners in Britain.

ABSTRACTS



Panel: Inequality, Crime and Abuse

Jessica Randall: A Missed Opportunity: Consultation on amending the Gender Recognition Act 2004.

Between 2018-2020 the UK governments opened consultations on amending the Gender Recognition Act 2004(GRA). Within these consultations, questions related to the need for statutory declaration, non-binary recognition. These consultations are relevant to my PhD because I am looking at the extent to which a trans person should have to commit to their gender until death. I would argue that with more of the trans population coming out as non-binary, as seen in the National LGBT Survey, this requirement to commit until to death to a particular binary gender is barring a significant number of people from legal gender recognition. These consultations garnered a great deal of public and media attention, and I would argue that the consultations, and the government's slow response, are partly at fault for the backlash that trans people are experiencing from trans-exclusionary feminists and the rightwing media. Despite the considerable number of responses to these consultations the governments have proposed very minimal amendments to the legislation. Interestingly the 'until death' commitment was not one of the topics that attracted attention. I will suggest amendments that should be made to the consultation process and to the GRA to improve how the act treats trans and non-binary communities.

Bibliography:

Jessica is a 4th year PhD student at the University of Liverpool in the Law School. Her PhD is entitled 'Until Death: The Impact of the Gender Recognition Act on Trans Relationships' which is looking at the impact that a mandatory commitment until death as part of applying for a gender recognition certificate is having on trans and non-binary people and their relationships. The central argument being that it should not be an essential element of the legal gender recognition process as it is highly exclusionary and discriminatory. Jessica is supervised by Professor Nicola Barker and Professor Marie Fox both in the Law department at the University of Liverpool.

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Panel: Inequality, Crime and Abuse

Ben Collier and Sharon Cowan: *Concept Capture and Category Co-option: Recording Sex/Gender Data in the Criminal Justice System.*

There have been recent attempts to have 'common sense' administrative changes made to criminal justice record keeping on the sex/gender of those accused or convicted of rape and attempted rape. In Scotland, police officers record the self-declared gender of those charged with an offence, including those charged with rape or attempted rape. The move against this has been led by "policy analysis collective" MBM (<https://murrayblackburnmackenzie.org/>), who introduced the petition "Accurately Record the Sex of People Charged or Convicted of Rape or Attempted Rape", and called for "the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to require Police Scotland, the Crown Office and the Scottish Court Service to accurately record the sex of people charged or convicted of rape or attempted rape" (<https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE1876>.) The suggestion is that these are minor administrative changes that will preserve the integrity of accurate data collection and public trust in record keeping, and will have no negative impacts on those whose data is collected. In England and Wales, the *Times* has (unsurprisingly) recently focused on this topic, reporting that Police Scotland's position was 'absurd' (<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/self-id-is-a-fantasy-that-hurts-trans-people-bnpvt0h5k>). In this paper, we argue that by attempting to embed a categorisation or record of 'sex not gender' in as many places as possible, including systems such as criminal justice records, "Sex Matters" activists, academics, analysts and lobbyists are engaging in what we would call *concept capture*, through the *co-option* of administrative categories; that is, the slow takeover of administrative categories, which ultimately provides a mechanism for the (re)production and reiteration of a rigid and regressive binary and biological concept of sex. We argue that through these sorts of strategies, the power of administrative category systems is being co-opted by the 'sex not gender' movement to shore up a white patriarchal system challenged by the gains of queer and feminist activism of the past four decades.

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Panel: Inequality, Crime and Abuse

Siouxsie Bytheway: *Heteronormative Discourse: Therapist social constructions of intimate partner abuse (IPA) in queer relationships.*

Researchers have suggested the victim/perpetrator paradigm for understanding IPA reaches its limits when considering IPA in queer relationships. Instead, some propose a post-structural feminist approach as better suited to capturing the complexities involved. However, what this looks like in practice is rarely explored. This study put a post-structural feminist approach into practice, exploring research gaps identified in the literature.

Despite IPA occurring in queer relationships at similar, or higher, levels as compared to heterosexual relationships, queer survivors and perpetrators of IPA, for fear of real and perceived barriers, do not access mainstream IPA services. Instead, accessing local therapy services. However, little is known, outside of queer specific services in city-centre areas, about services received. Therefore, semi-structured interviews were conducted with therapists working outside these areas.

Foucauldian discourse analysis suggests, despite therapists claims of inclusivity and liberal humanist values, that the most drawn on discourse was heteronormative. Further, that heterosexual privilege was identified embedded in a wider range of discourses, including psychodynamic and humanistic therapeutic discourse, as well as liberal humanist, patriarchal and feminist discourse.

Limitations, implications for practice, and areas for future research will be explored.

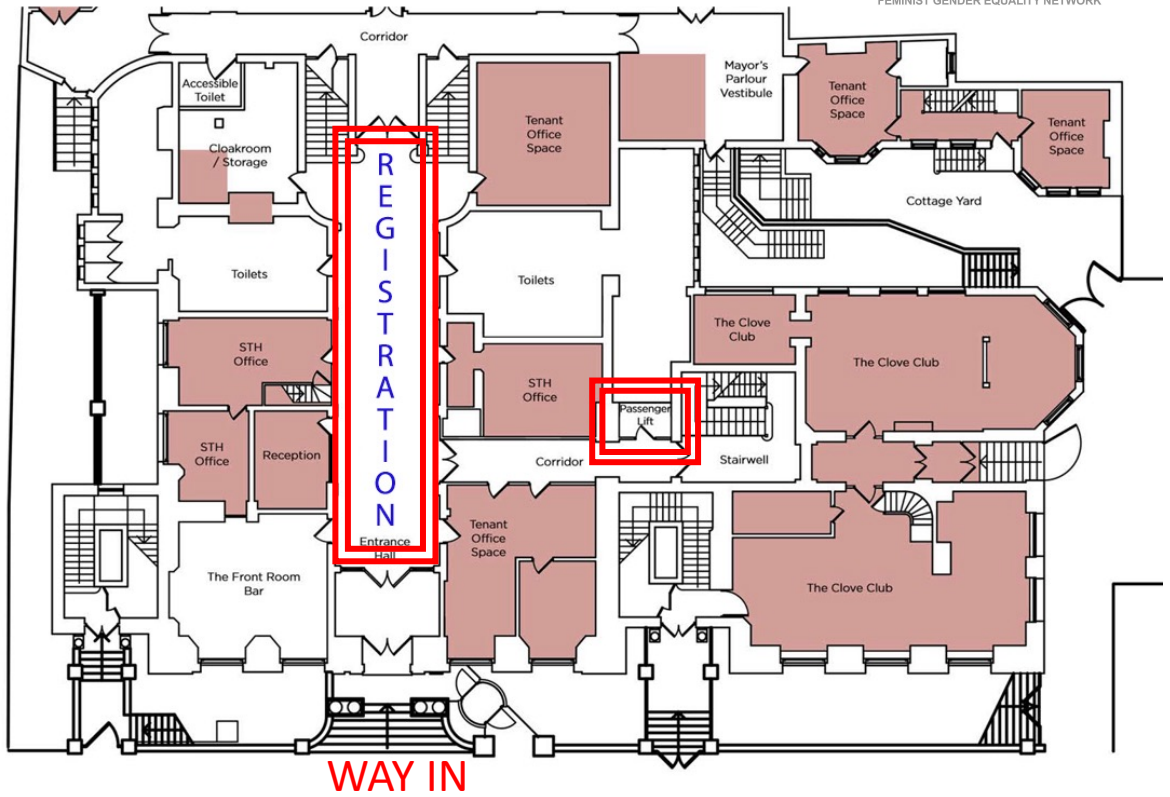
Biography:

Siouxsie Bytheway MBACP MBPsS is a self-employed counsellor working in South West England, and a PhD researcher exploring societal constructions of IPA in queer relationships across small town and country settings.

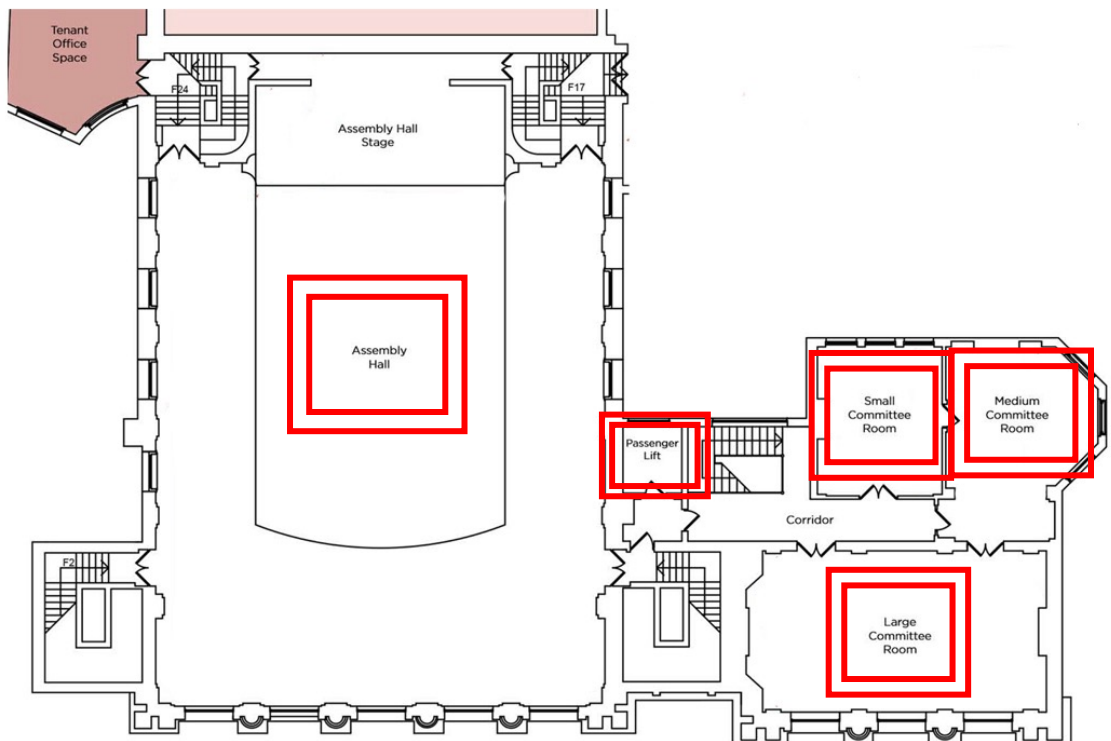
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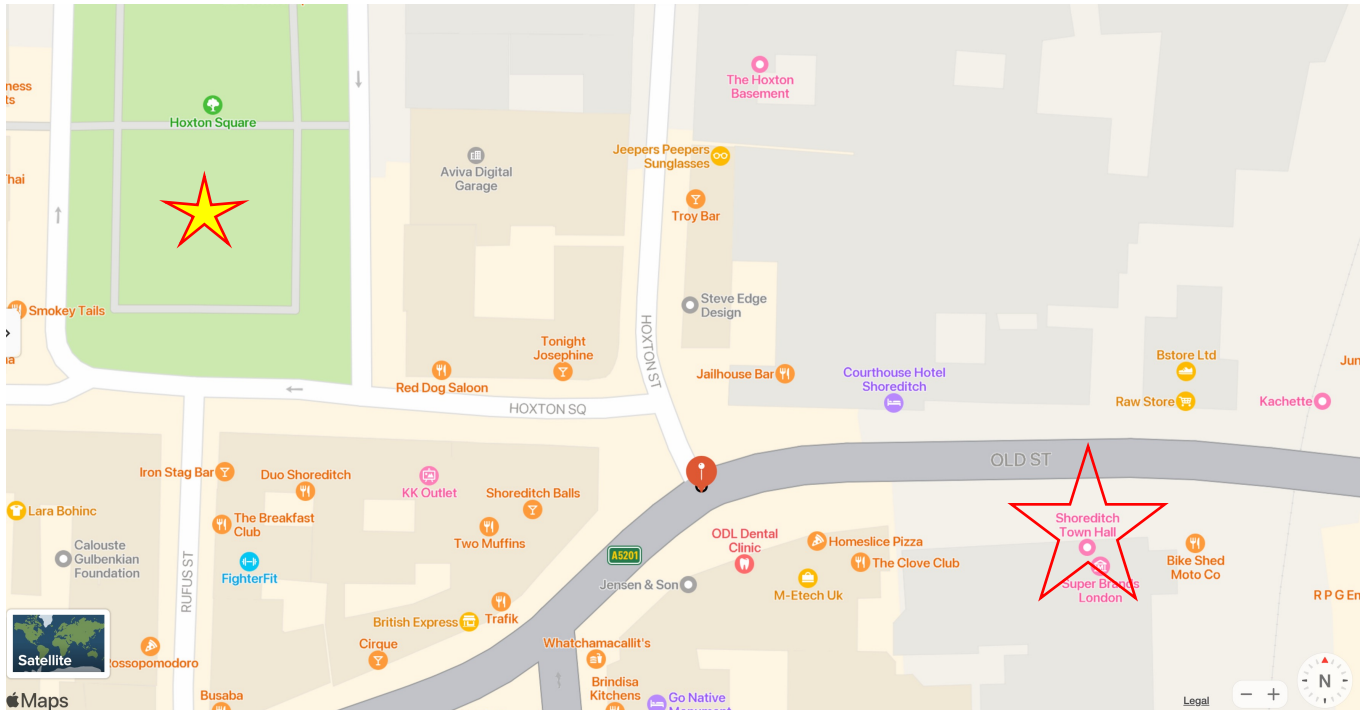
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LOCAL AREA



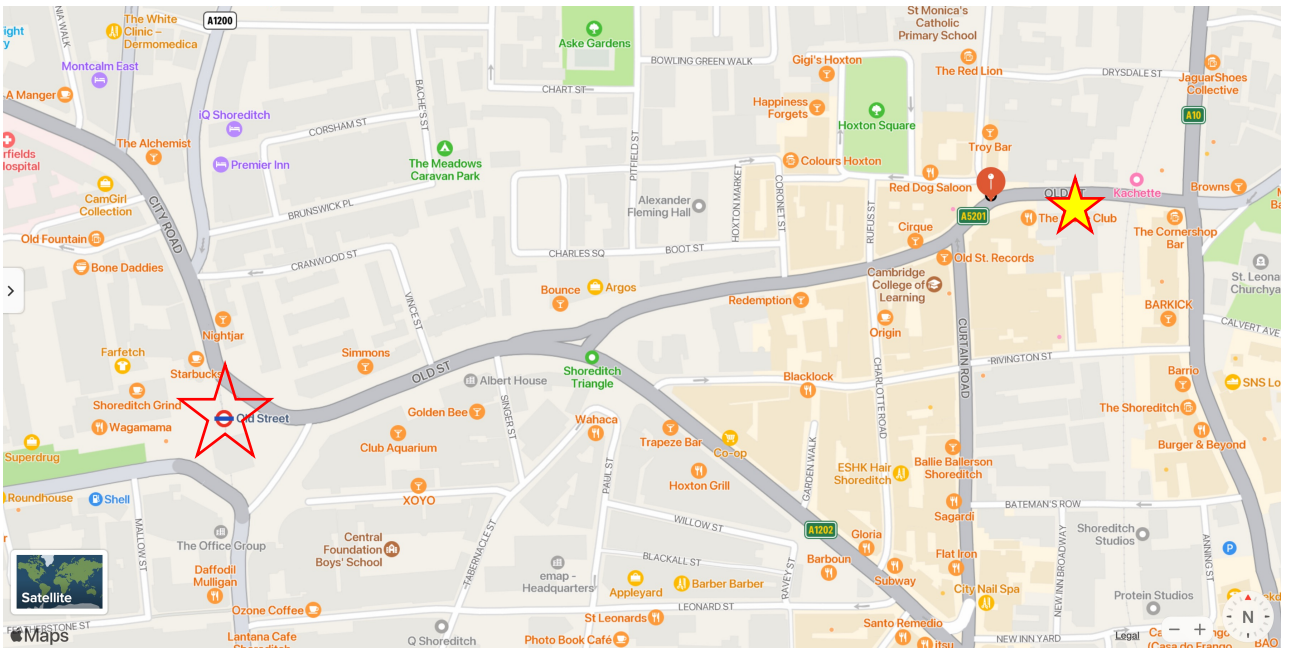
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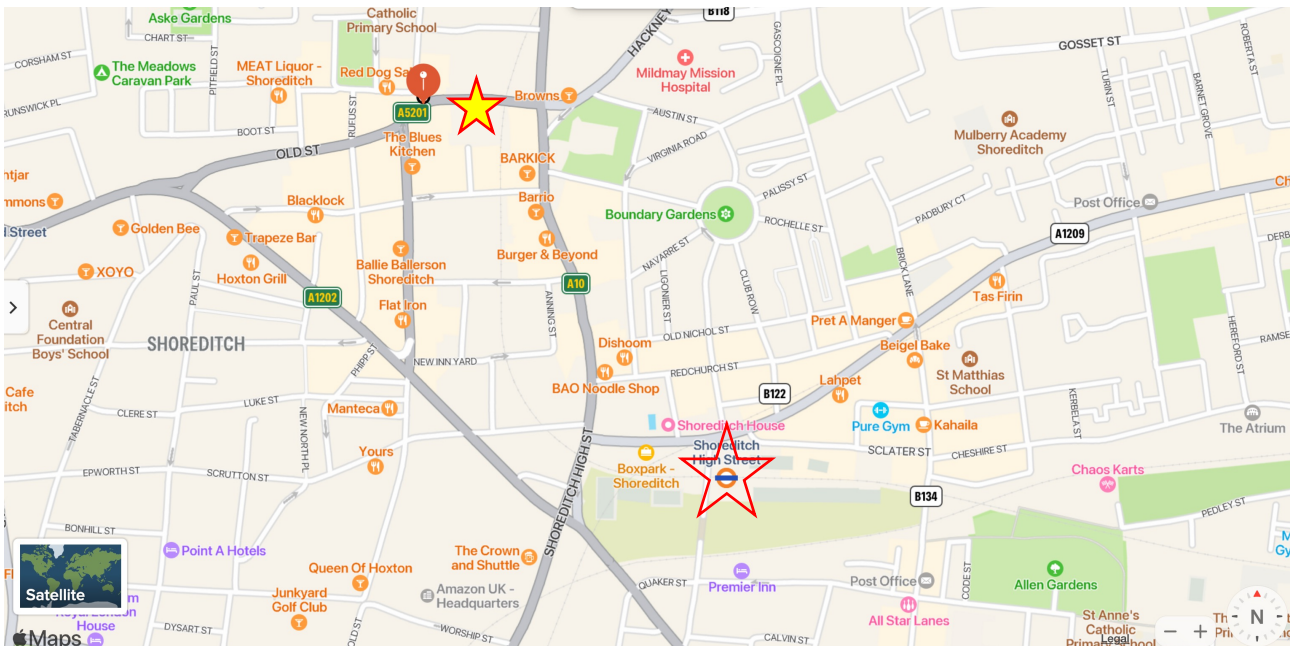
LOCAL AREA



Transport Links Old Street Tube (Northern line)



Shoreditch High Street (Overground line)



LOCAL AREA



Places to Eat and Drink

