



**7th EUROPEAN GEOGRAPHIES OF SEXUALITIES CONFERENCE**  
**University of Brighton**  
**SUMMARIES**

**MONDAY SEPTEMBER 2nd**

**10:00 – 11:30 Parallel Sessions**

**Getting Comfy – creating & experiencing comfortable spaces for different sexualities #1**

Alexandre Rodolfo Alves de Almeida, University of Aveiro

*Bearbie Party: (Dis)comfort Space for Bears in São Paulo, Brazil*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

Joseli Maria Silva and Debora Lee Comassetto Machado, Federal University of Paraná

*Transforming hate into pride: Brazilian travesti funk as public space subversion*

This work aims to analyze the movement of resistance of the travesti identity in Brazilian society, mainly after the strengthening of global communication networks. Intercultural contacts in the globalized world enabled the simultaneous appearance of different sexual and gender identities in Brazil, and also promoted processes of refusal and abandonment of identities rooted in Brazilian society such as those of travestis. In this work, we explore the complementarity between peripheral art, focusing on the funk produced by black travestis, and travesti activism.

Laura Soler Rodríguez, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

*Navegando entre el confort y el desafío: motivaciones para la migración urbano-rural de jóvenes disidentes en Cataluña*

This study explores why young people with diverse gender and sexual identities are moving from cities to rural areas in Catalonia, a topic rarely studied. Although rural areas are often seen as unwelcoming to those who don't conform to traditional norms, some choose to start a new life there. Through interviews with LGBTI youth, the research investigates what attracts them to rural life, how their identity influences this decision, and the role of personal connections. This study challenges common ideas about rurality and sheds light on an emerging trend.



## Creative Reimaginings

Ray Abu-Jaber, Goldsmiths University London

*Cruising Dystopia: playing neurodivergent Queer and Trans worlds in dystopic table-top games*

Through an Ethnographic vignette, the presentation will explore how a group of Queer and Trans players navigate the hostile environment of the tabletop game Call of Cthulhu and its impact on their lives. Using Muñoz's utopia, Lyng's edgework, Haraway's work, and Freeman's erotics in history, it examines how players engage with pain, pleasure, fear, and risk in the 1920s game setting. Through the lens of kink, consent, cruising, mourning and grief, the presentation will explore how they find joy and honor their Queer ancestors, ultimately building community, kinship, and a sense of belonging in the process.

Mons Bissenbakker University of Copenhagen

*A Soundtrack of Discomfort: Trans poetics as trans politics*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

Anna Marocco, University of Lisbon

*Queer Urbanism: participatory art-based practices towards the common*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

Julia Lurfová, Birmingham City University

*Queer musical (dis)comforts*

This paper sets the ground for an ethnographic study situated in Glasgow (Scotland) that explores jam spaces as improvised, experimental music spaces with the potential for both fluidity and rigidity. Literature on music and embodiment is put in conversation with queer phenomenology to question who gets to connect through music, and how this connection takes place in the everyday. The body is approached as a means of examining power dynamics in moments of collective musical improvisation. The intimate, Do-It-Together sociability of home-based jam spaces is positioned as a queer departure from the "straight" line that directs us towards desiring the heterosexual couple arrangement over other forms of intimacy.



## Transit, transition & translation: sexualities on the move

Sarah Best, Philipps-University Marburg

*"Coming-Out as a White Thing": Queer Tunisians Navigating Identity and Sexuality in a Postcolonial Society*

My presentation will summarise the findings of my dissertation, which explores historical and contemporary discourses of queerness in Tunisia. I am interested in how queer Tunisians experience everyday life and how local discourses on queerness have been impacted by French colonialism and colonial discourses on sexuality and gender.

Shu Cean Chua, Birkbeck University of London

*An Inquiry into the Lives of Queer Chinese Malaysians: The Quest for Queer Space and Identity Reconciliation*

This study, drawing from intersectionality and Queer theory, explores the complex identities of Queer Chinese Malaysians (QCM) within Malaysia's shifting landscape. It investigates Queer spatial navigation, especially in new media and migratory contexts. Using a post-structuralist paradigm, it adopts a bottom-up, inductive approach to uncover participants' strategies in negotiating Queer identity and societal norms. Through a unique data collection method blending go-along methodology, semi-structured interviews, and photo elicitation, the study reveals how QCMs navigate migration and utilise new media to carve Queer spaces. Beyond academic inquiry, this study offers a profound narrative, highlighting the resilience and creativity QCMs employ to transform these uncomfortable spaces into sites of identity affirmation and community building. By doing so, it contributes significantly to the conference theme, "Uncomfortable Spaces," shedding light on the lived realities of Queer individuals and enriching the broader discourse on identity, space-making, and Queer rights.

David Murphy, Lancaster University

*Queering International Solidarity: What does a queer British response to queerphobia in Uganda look like?*

How do we show community and solidarity between global queer populations? How do we do this given histories of inequality and colonialism? In this presentation I will look at what a queer British answer to discrimination and harm faced by global queer populations may look like, and what British queer people see this international solidarity as looking like. I will explore how this can be actioned, going through ideas such as aid, the role of NGOs, community dance nights, support for LGBTQ+ refugees and asylum seekers, and others. I then hope to begin to build an idea of what queer international solidarity may look like.



Chen Misgav, Tel-Aviv University

*Queer Urban Displacement: The Case of LGBTQ adolescents' shelter in southern Tel-Aviv*

• The paper looks up on the concept of urban displacement, e.g. the relationship dynamics between the transition of LGBTQ public services into the neighborhood. • This transition is part of the broader phenomenon of gentrification. The internal urban migration is accompanied by the transfer of LGBTQ municipal services such as shelters for LGBTQ adolescents and youngsters, services as largely seen as “NIMBY” – an undesirable phenomenon pushed away to less affluent neighborhoods at the city’s margins. • The case study for this research is Beit-Dror, an adolescent’s shelter that is currently based in HaTikva Neighborhood in southern Tel Aviv, a neglected and low-class neighborhood. • The findings raise issues of sociospatial conflicts familiar from the gentrification literature, and innovate in pointing out LGBTs as “new-generation” gentrifiers. • The displacement of certain LGBTQ services from those neighborhoods to the city margins complete the picture of queer urban displacement, which includes pull and push factors of both individuals and community services.

## 10:00 – 11:30 Parallel Sessions

### **Getting Comfy – creating & experiencing comfortable spaces for different sexualities #2**

Ine Martens, Heriot-Watt University

*Constellations of comfortable spaces: deaf lesbian orientations*

This presentation explores how deaf lesbians navigate a society that often marginalizes them due to their disability, sexual orientation, and gender. Through interviews and observations in London, the study reveals how deaf lesbians create and inhabit spaces that feel comfortable and safe. They do this by connecting with specific communities, such as queer, lesbian, or deaf groups, and by integrating elements from these identities into their lives. The research shows that deaf lesbians develop unique strategies to build supportive networks and spaces, both locally and globally, where they can feel at ease.

Susanna Jussila, University of Jyväskylä

*Body as site of resistance and resourcing – Creating safety and comfort through reconnecting with our bodies*

The presentation explores the role of embodiment in activist resourcing. Inspired by black feminist pioneers of radical self-care and the recent application of somatics in social justice movements, it suggests how cultivating felt sense experience can assist in navigating towards safety and comfort in diverse activist spaces concerning sexualities and beyond. By combining a critical feminist phenomenological framework with empirical examples from expert interviews, the presentation offers a politicised approach to somatics to support activist sustainability and transformative social justice work. Keywords: feminism, activism, embodiment, lived body, felt sense, politicised somatics



**University of Brighton**

Max Andrucki, Temple University, and Adam Gaubinger, William Alanson White Institute

*Domestic Discomforts: Eros, Sexuality, and the Home*

In human geography, homes are usually seen either as oppressive spaces for queer people, due to family homophobia, or as sites in which queer people can consolidate a coherent sense of identity. In this paper we bring in new perspectives from contemporary psychoanalysis to think about how all bodies experience sex as well as eros as forces that simultaneously bind us together and shatter us apart. Using recent research on the phenomenon of gay men's chemsex practices as an example, we argue that human geographers need to attend to the way that the queer home is characterized by both centripetal and centrifugal forces.

### **Out In Public**

Roisin Ryan-Flood, University of Essex

*Holding hands: LGBTQ people's experiences of public displays of affection with their partner*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

Alexandre Chanady, Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique (INRS)

*Beyond the heteronormative city: the making of LGBTQ heritage in Montréal* **Δ**

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

Shannon Grimes

*Making the Extra-Ordinary Ordinary: Changing Spatial Relations of Queer People in Brighton*

The long standing history of Brighton as a safe space for Queer bodies has created a core sphere (objects/places within a bodies reach) which allows homosexuality to be rendered ordinary in the city. This ordinary-ness has produced new patterns and spatial relations within the city which sees people moving away from stereotypically Queer places to those who actively uplift Queer people and are gender inclusive/affirmative against the backdrop of political unrest surrounding trans rights in the UK. Furthermore the inclusive fabric of the city can often cause a new pressure to perform one's queerness and render it visible within the city.

Marta Maria Nicolazzi, University of Milan

*Body, Self and Space: How women's fear articulates in Milanese public spaces*



Research shows that women face a gender-specific tax that limits their right to the city. While women feel most vulnerable in unfamiliar or nighttime settings, most gender-based crimes occur in familiar, populated areas during the day. This study investigates the social construction of fear among individuals in Milan, examining the mismatch between perceived and actual dangers. Using feminist methodologies, it challenges the masculinization of public spaces and seeks to create new inclusive knowledge. In terms of findings, for the purpose of this conference, the presentation towards the end will focus on the account of a person transitioning from male to female. \*\*\* In the research, the term "women" refers to everyone who identify as such or was assigned female at birth.

### **Contemporary perspectives on Pride events #1**

Anat Kraslavsky, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

#### *Homophilosemitism*

In 2019, Germany declared that the BDS movement was anti-Semitic. The BDS movement is a solidarity movement with Palestine. This movement asks Israel to stop human rights violations against Palestinian people. Later that year, at a Berlin Pride event, people weren't allowed to support BDS because it is considered anti-Semitic, which caused arguments. This shows something called "Homophilosemitism." It means some LGBTQ+ people are accepted when they agree with the government and use the narrative of anti-Semitism to marginalize and racialized some queer people. At the same time others, like migrants or Palestinians, are unfairly seen as anti-semitic. This issue is a central issue within the German national discourse and well as within the local queer community in Berlin.

Jordi Calabuig Serra, Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne and University of Girona

#### *Pride! Circuit Festival and Orgull demonstration: when LGBT+ events are not unitary*

In this presentation I am going to talk about LGTB+ territorialities in Barcelona (Spain). To do so, I will take as a reference three events held in the city: The Pride, the Circuit Festival and the critical Pride demonstration. What interests me is to understand their significance for LGTB+ people, whether they are residents or tourists, and their territorial dimension. Not only where they take place, but the place they have in the collective imaginary, making parallels with other elements of the city. This work is part of my doctoral thesis, for which I have conducted interviews with LGBT+ residents, a survey of LGBT+ tourists who have visited the city, and participant observation sessions in LGBT+ sites in the city.

Priyam Ghosh

#### *Whose Pride is it anyways: Articulating Intersections of Gender, Class, and Caste in Queer Prides Parades in Indian Metropolitan Cities*



Queer struggles in India celebrate transgressions but often create "geographies of exclusion," where space's symbolic meanings are intertwined with its materiality. The neoliberal cityscape offers both liberation and discrimination, allowing non-normative sexualities to emerge while reinforcing social hierarchies. Queer subjectivities are shaped by intersections of class, caste, and gender, influenced by urban environments. This paper explores the dynamics of queer pride movements in Indian cities, examining how individuals negotiate their identities within these social structures. Ethnographic research highlights the complex interplay of identity, activism, and the urban landscape.

### **Workshop: What makes us feel good in community spaces?**

Lee Eisold, KU Leuven

This is an interactive and creative workshop. We want to go beyond language and use all our senses to explore these questions: What is it that actually makes us feel good in spaces? What encourages us to participate actively in a community or an activist group? Which role does the physical space, its design, sounds and smells play? You can react to one question or all. Express your thoughts, reactions or reflections with the material provided or material you brought. Anything is allowed. When you are ready: Upload images, videos, sound clips, texts... to share with the others and engage.

## **14:30 – 16:00 Parallel Sessions**

### **Queer-feminist spaces of sexual harassment and violence**

Simone Kreutz, Humboldt University Berlin

*Sexualized Violence in ›Feminist‹ Spaces: Turning Comfortable Spaces into Uncomfortable Ones*

The presentation addresses the issue of sexualized violence within ›feminist‹ spaces. Based on interviews with victim-survivors of sexualized violence within left-wing groups in Germany, It focuses on the ›feminist‹ self-image of these groups and how it influences the (non-)handling of sexualized violence. It argues that the ›feminist‹ self-image can lead to several challenges at the expense of the victim-survivor – from the instrumentalization of ›feminist‹ concepts to the individualization of care/support. These challenges can lead up to the prevention of a process to deal with the experience of sexualized violence at all. As a result, ›feminist‹ spaces become uncomfortable spaces for victim-survivors.

Erzsébet Barát, CEU Vienna and University of Szeged, and Hanna Hacker, University of Vienna

*Beyond disaffected consent: Testimonies as tactical repertoires in academia*

In our talk we argue that contemporary western academia is a major ideological institution of neoliberal capitalism. Researchers and students respond to the violent economization of academic autonomy with



“disaffected consent”. We take up some recent events of sexual violence committed by prominent researchers, known for their critique of the system. We argue that we should turn to the repertoire of resistance by many non-established women of colour experiencing the violence. Their use of graffiti, writing out, or testimony are creative tactics of sabotage in the face of the concentrated efforts of the institution to silence and discredit their lived experience of violence written into their bodies.

Janina Smietanka, University of Plymouth

*Uncomfortable comfortability: A sensory exploration of unwanted sexual attention in the LGBTQ+ night time economy (NTE)*

This presentation looks at how the LGBTQ+ NTE creates a comfortable atmosphere, acting as a social space of expression and belonging. Going out, for many, is a rite of passage to have fun with friends and allow us to experience joy, social bonding and excitement. Incidents of unwanted sexual attention can disrupt and shift these atmospheres into uncomfortable spaces. This can result in an individual and collective spread of emotions and behaviours like a contagion. However, incidents of unwanted sexual attention are often invisible or unacknowledged due to fear of this disruption and not fitting traditional ‘hetero’ understandings.

Panagiota Vogiatzi, University of Birmingham

*Exploring the Queer Past and Travelling in Discomfort Places*

I see this conference as an opportunity to take you on a "visiting without visiting" journey through key moments in the French and Greek queer past. In this presentation, I will explore what happens when we confront the darker aspects of queer history—the violence, oppression, and fear that are integral to it. Our journey will include three significant stops in the shadows of French and Greek literary productions, each revealing the discomfort inherent in this history. These stops will expose us to violent and repressive content against female homosexuality and the struggles queer individuals faced to remain visible while resisting the safety of staying in the shadows. As we navigate these moments, I will also share my own emotional and mental discomfort during this exploration, highlighting how delving into queer history is fraught with challenges and rarely provides reassuring, easy, or safe spaces for researchers. Furthermore, I will address the uncomfortable truths these explorations reveal—not only about our past but also about our present, including the ongoing control over women's bodies, the persistence of patriarchy, and the continued marginalization of queer lives.





## **On The Edge: questioning the urban periphery as an uncomfortable space for LGBTQ\* people**

Milan Bonté and Cyril Blondel, University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne

*When social marginalization encounters territorial peripheralization. A case study on LGBTI mobilities in the French Ardennes*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

Maria Kherbouche, University of Geneva and École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris

*Reconfiguring the margins: LGBTQI+ activism in Saint-Denis and Nørrebro*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

Matt C Smith, University of Brighton

*"I feel like I can breathe properly. I feel open": Centring the liminal in trans urban geographies*

Often narratives of trans life in the city focuses on movement to access healthcare, support services and community connection. Here I draw on the creative storyboards and maps made by transgender and non-binary participants of Brighton & Hove that highlight the importance of liminal spaces e.g. the beach and the urban fringe. These liminal spaces offered some freedom as part of everyday life where being visible in the city could often be a place of discomfort. I add to thinking around liminality which seeks to make it useful for trans experiences, rather than how trans embodiment is a 'useful' tool to think about liminality.

## **Reimagining Bodies and Spaces: Queer and feminist perspectives on censorship, expression and normativity #1**

Andrew McCartan & Kath Browne, University College Dublin

*"That actually felt so much more real to me... than pretending we could coexist": Uncomfortably imagining spaces 'beyond opposition' in relation to sexuality, gender and abortion*

A group of people holding fundamentally different positions on issues relating to gender, sexuality and abortion took part in a drama workshop exploring how we might share space in non-oppositional ways if we cannot change each other's minds. Together, they created short scenes that presented various ideas of what a shared utopian space for the group could be and how they might engage with each other in that space. Most groups produced fantasy or idealized versions of reality and imagined a shared common enemy to encounter rather than each other. However, one group reached an impasse when they realized that they would not exist in each other's utopia.



Ekaterina Filep, University of Freiburg

*Mapping anti-gender discourse in Swiss and Hungarian media and politics*

This presentation explores how anti-gender politics in Hungary and Switzerland create hostile environments for LGBTIQ+ individuals through marginalization and discrimination. By analyzing parliamentary debates and media narratives, it demonstrates how anti-gender rhetoric shapes public discourse. The discussion includes Hungary's child protection law (2021), prohibiting the 'exposure of minors' to LGBTIQ+ related content with one of the measures involving bans on books depicting homosexuality, and the disruption of a drag storytime event in Zurich by the extremist group Junge Tat. These examples illustrate how anti-gender politics has very tangible implications, as it fosters fear and exclusion, limiting queer expression and access to safe, inclusive spaces.

Roberto Kulpa, Edinburgh Napier University

*Mapping so-called 'anti-gender' discourses in parliamentary and media spaces across the 'eastern' and 'western' geopolitical imaginations of 'Europe'*

In the presentation I will first briefly introduce the topic of the RESIST research consortium and the Work Package 1 on which this presentation is based. Next, I will highlight 4-5 arenas of dis-comfort that I see as emerging in the transnational and Polish data of the project. These are not exclusive, and this presentation is a case selection to that may open an discussion during this conference. These arenas are: • Dis/comforts of liberal and conservative actors in relation to science and religion, when gender/sexuality are debated. • Dis/comforts of and about 'Europe' and geographical 'East/West' reference points. • Dis/comforts of researchers when 'unexpected' findings come to light that are, perhaps, politically undesirable (from the researcher's ethical standpoint). At the end, I will offer some ideas about how to approach and interpret these dis/comforts, mostly in relation to the concept of the 'paradigm shift' and 'post-Enlightenment'.

Michal Pitoňák, Charles University

*Contours of Resistance: LGBT+ Activism Amidst Populism and Morality Politics in Central and Eastern Europe*

This presentation examines the evolution of LGBT+ activism in Central and Eastern Europe, focusing on Czechia. It traces the movement's development from its early days under restrictive regimes to current challenges posed by populism and morality politics. Highlighting the strategic responses of activists, the talk explores how they counter efforts to marginalize sexual and gender minorities. It also discusses the role of ontological insecurity and morality entrepreneurs in fostering societal divisions. The presentation emphasizes the resilience of the LGBT+ movement and its broader implications for social justice, policy, and democracy in the face of rising authoritarianism.



## **The Invisibility of Bisexuality Research: looking for bisexual presences and absences in geographies of sexualities #1**

Robin Rose Breetveld, Kent University

*You Don't Belong Here: Navigating the Complex Socio-Spatial and Epistemic In- and Exclusion of Bisexuality*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

Rowan Dowling, University of Oxford

*Dark Blue, Half-Blue, Bi: Tracing Bisexual Identification in Russia*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

Penny Harvey, California Institute of Integral Studies

*Exploring Gender Dynamics in Sexual Interactions: Insights from Bisexual, Queer, Pansexual, and Polyamorous Individuals*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

Maria Rodó-Zárate, Júlia Pascual-Bordas and Juliana Souza, Universitat Pompeu Fabra

*The Imposed Sexual Binary on Bisexual Experience: Heterocisnormativity's Impact on Everyday Places*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

## **16:30 – 18:00 Parallel Sessions**

### **Unruly Dis/comfort: 'Unsexy Spaces' and Later-in-Life Sex**

Giulia Nazzaro and Gabriëlle de Pooter, Ghent University

*"Out of here": older women's unruly sexuality in a care home Δ*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

Valerie De Craene, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

*"I don't want to have sex between 6pm and 8pm on Thursdays because it suits the staff" Home-making as a contested space for intimacy and sexuality at old age*



Sex, sexuality and intimacy are usually confined to private spaces, whereas public spaces are considered to be asexual. Older people, especially those having care needs, do not have much private space. This talk discusses how older adults in residential care homes often feel constrained in having or even discussing intimacies and sexual desires, i) by staff who can decide who is considered a partner or not, ii) by policies who favour the more easily maintained sexualities but limit everything that is more messy and unruly, and iii) by neoliberal policies and budget cuts (fixed incontinence diapers to save time for staff but limits personal autonomy for residents).

Ela Przybyło, Illinois State University

*On the Pressures of Vigor, Productivity, and Pleasure: Aging With Asexuality Studies* Δ

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

Zofia Holewajusz, University College London

*Geographies of asexuality*

In this presentation, I take a closer look at current approaches in queer geographies from an asexual perspective. I demonstrate how “queering” of space often reinforces the idea that queerness is inherently sexual, which can limit the concept of queerness and exclude those who don’t fit into the 12sexualized expressions of queer identity. I believe this approach can undermine asexual experiences while also regulating norms and practices around queerness. I argue for the inclusion of asexual perspectives to promote a more comprehensive approach to queer geographies, one that moves beyond focusing on sex and sexuality and allows for a broader, more nuanced understanding of queerness and space.

## **Reimagining Bodies and Spaces: Queer and feminist perspectives on censorship, expression and normativity #2**

Meg Poff, City University of London

*‘Take Ecstasy with Me’: An embodied autoethnography of hope(fulness/lessness) in London’s queer\* night-life scenes*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

Mujung Tsai, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin

*Public Spaces and Intimate Feelings: Mapping and Blurring Gendered Spatial Dichotomy through Exploring Queer Everyday Life, Tactics, and Attachments in Berlin, Wedding*



This paper examines queer everyday life in Berlin's often overlooked Wedding district, addressing the gap in studies that focus on queer nightlife in gaybourhoods. It challenges the binary of private and public spaces by exploring how queer citizens use mundane spaces, forming intimacies and attachments through daily interactions. The study rethinks the formation of queer spaces amidst urban change, highlighting how queer geographies emerge from the everyday use of public spaces, offering a nuanced understanding of queer spatial production beyond traditional nightlife contexts.

Veronika Valkovičová, Comenius University Bratislava, and Katarina Minarovicova, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

*Picking a side in the culture wars: LGBTQI+ employee/business resource groups in Slovakia*

This study explores how employee resource groups (ER/BGs) in Slovakia-based branches of international companies create "safe spaces" for LGBTQI+ employees in a state known for its heterosexist hostility. Through interviews with 18 employees and 4 civil society representatives, the research highlights tensions between these corporate enclaves and external cultural influences. The study offers insights into the everyday challenges of maintaining such spaces, particularly in non-Western settings.

David Popelka, University of Manchester

*Queering Space in Cinema*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

## **Contemporary perspectives on Pride events #2**

Shanshan Ouyang, Ritsumeikan University

*Safe Space=Comfortable? : experience of disabled queer activists in Japan and Taiwan's Pride Parades*

The LGBT movement has emphasized creating safe spaces, but the experiences of LGBTQ individuals with disabilities in these spaces remain underexplored. They often feel overlooked and excluded from queer spaces. This study examines disabled queer activists' experiences in Japan and Taiwan's Pride Parades, highlighting the challenges of accessibility. In Japan, activists called for better accessibility at Pride events. In Taiwan, while Pride has become more inclusive, some security measures have caused discomfort. The research underscores the importance of organizers engaging in equal dialogue with disabled queer individuals to ensure both physical and emotional safety in these spaces.



**University of Brighton**

David Dooling, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

*The Ideal Sexual Citizen: Securing the Assets of Pride Parade Organizers*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

Tzeni Melachroinou and Alexandra Halkias, Panteion University

*Normalization and Resistance at Athens Pride 2023: A Killjoy perspective*

This paper examines normalization and resistance at Athens Pride 2023, in Greece. The de-radicalization found at Pride events elsewhere characterizes Athens Pride 2023 and other Athenian queer spaces as well. We focus on aspects of homonormativity, homonationalism, and moments of resistance, as they occurred in the field. The research includes 11 fieldwork visits, images collected through online research, and three semi-structured interviews. Attention is honed on how dynamics of normalization linked to capitalism coexist with aspects of resistance. The research suggests that there are no purely queer spaces of resistance and/or normalization, but that these forces seem to be intertwined.

### **18:30-20:00 Central Brighton queer history walking tour**

Rachel Aldred, University of Westminster and August Read, The Clare Project

Please sign up for this walk during registration.

## TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 3rd

9:30 – 11:00 Parallel Sessions

### **Queer Temporalities in the city: personal and theoretical aspects #1**

Dotan Brom, Tel Aviv University

*Queering Memorials: Subversive Temporalities in Haifa's Urban Landscape from the British Mandate to the 1970s*

This paper employs queer temporality to explore the history of Haifa's urban space, particularly the area between Memorial Park and downtown. Despite state-led efforts to nationalize the space — through urban planning, displacement, and memorialization — it has been consistently reclaimed by marginalized groups. Drawing on interviews, journalism, and literature, the paper uncovers how non-conforming sexual practices, from clandestine interethnic heterosexual encounters to homosexual and trans\* cruising and sex work, continuously challenged these nationalizing efforts. The paper highlights the dialectic between state attempts to control the space and the ways this control inadvertently created conditions for its queer appropriation.

Salomé Honório, University of Lisbon

*Within, Through, and Despite: Rethinking the Hermeneutics of the Closet, across Space and Time*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

Matt C. Smith, University of Brighton

*We're From the Future: Planning Trans Care in the City*

In this presentation I attempt to bring together thinking around trans rage and anger, planning for fairer futures, and transitional time. I draw on my own anger and affinity for angry punk music and the creative maps of the city of Brighton & Hove made by transgender and non-binary inhabitants. I argue it is between the emotion of rage and practices of care in the present that may bring us closer to a more liberated future.

### **(Un)Comfortable Homemaking: Exploring the Geographies of LGBTIQ+ Migrants and Refugees in Europe #1**

Rachel Larkin, University of Sussex

*Changing Places: LGBTQ+ Young Migrants in the UK*

Young people who claim asylum in the UK may identify as LGBTQ+ or may start questioning this after they move. We know very little about this group of young people. The ways people express their sexuality in the



UK can be very different than in young people's countries of origin. Young people can be adapting to different ways of 'being' LGBTQ+ as they explore what their LGBTQ+ identity means for them. Some can feel relief but also shame and confusion. It's important that professionals are openly positive about LGBTQ+ identities and find different ways to help young people communicate and get information.

Aadarsh Gangwar, Geneva Graduate Institute

*(Dis)comfort in the field site*

What do we make of the discomfort we evoke and experience as researchers? Qualitative researchers have specifically discussed discomfort in the fieldsite, and there are longstanding traditions (feminist ethnography, reflexive turn, processual ethics) that encourage us to focus on affect and emotions; how they shape data and research, but also examine them in and of themselves. Yet, this remains confined within the scope of "methods" or "ethics". I too, will reflect on comfort starting with method and ethics, but will proceed to engage with how "dis/comfort" has been conceptualised and theorised, and how it could inform my research findings.

Sophia Zisakou, Lund University

*Feeling queer, feeling real: Affective economies of truth in queer asylum politics*

This presentation analyses the role of emotion in the credibility assessment process in queer asylum claims in Greece. Drawing on semi-structured interviews with asylum caseworkers, it examines the affective expectations authorities have for a credible account and explores the transformative potential of affect in legal decision-making.

Rose Nelson, Geneva Graduate Institute

*Embodied Experiences of Forcibly Displaced Persons: Examining the Complex Relationships between Transactional Sex, Discomfort, and Comfort*

The Liminality Research Consortium researches why, when, and how forcibly displaced individuals of diverse gender identities engage in transactional sex (TS). TS describes the practice of adults engaging in sexual activities or relationships for material/non-material benefits. Research with over 400 participants across 5 countries has identified structural vulnerabilities and legal liminality as key drivers of TS. While TS can be a way to navigate vulnerabilities and access certain comforts, the practice often falls between choice and survival/coercion. It is associated with significant health risks, especially among queer refugees. The findings underscore a need for gender-responsive, inclusive interventions to address the structural drivers of TS. Measures should aim to ensure that transactional practices are a matter of choice, not a last resort.





## Risk, Danger & Sex

Alfarel Ridwan Syaifullah, Bandung Institute of Technology

*Gender-Based Segregation Policy and Sexual Harassment Interventions in Public Transport: A Study on Transjakarta Using Public Perception Approach*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

Klara Arnberg, Stockholm University, and Riikka Taavetti, University of Turku

*Discomfort and Danger at Sea: Media Representations of Sexual Violence and Harassment on Passenger Ferries between Finland and Sweden*

Taking a cruise ferry between Finland and Sweden is a popular and affordable means of travel and leisure. The ferries travel overnight including eating, drinking, partying and sleeping. They are sites for sexual encounters but also harassment and violence. Incidences have been reported in Finnish and Swedish press since the early 1980s and sexual violence on the ferries has gradually been recognized as a problem. Reporting has sometimes had a victim-blaming tone and while the issue has been portrayed more as a Swedish problem in the Finnish press, the Swedish reporting included a radical feminist undertone from the onset.

Krishna Gogoi, University of Delhi

*Navigating comfort and discomfort: Spaces of belonging for women in Indian university campuses*

University campuses, though intended for learning, can be places where students from gender and sexual minorities experience both comfort and discomfort. Many campuses in India focus heavily on safety, leading to strict rules that often make these students feel anxious or unsafe. However, there are also "leisure spaces" where they find comfort, form supportive communities, and drive change. The issue lies in how traditional heterosexual norms dominate campus interactions, which can marginalise women and non-heteronormative students.

Vishavjeet Dhanda and Kiran Bhairannavar, University of Delhi

*Uncomfortable Alliances, (extra)Normative Geographies: unpacking rural sexualities in India*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

## 11:30 – 13:00 Parallel Sessions

### Queer Temporalities in the city: personal and theoretical aspects #2

Tilen Kolar, University of Leeds

*Waiting as filling up space: (dis)comforts of queer friendships and public space in Slovenia*

Waiting in cities is associated with queuing and related encounters with strangers. This paper challenges the relationship between waiting and a queue – it presents ethnographic vignettes from a year-long fieldwork in Slovenia. In the session, I will explore the strategies of arriving at queer events with ambiguous beginnings, with whom people arrive and why, and how inclusive coming together with other people is to people arriving alone. Some up-to-date findings suggest that waiting as filling up space is crucial: Slovenia is polycentrally designed, and places are small. Accordingly, people often arrive together in pre-formed groups, sometimes dating back to hometowns.

Priyam Ghosh, Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies

*Kaun jaaye Dilli ki Galiyaan Chodd ke\*: A Case of Shrinking Gay (Male) cruising spaces in Delhi*

The cityscape often serves as a backdrop for various events, from street theatres to queer pride parades, while also being a space where people seek love or engage in sexual solicitation. Locations like Delhi's Palika Bazaar parking lot and New Delhi Railway Station toilets were known for gay male cruising. This paper explores the sexual geographies of desire, focusing on urban gay cruising, a common practice among gay men and MSM. The rise of GPS-based dating apps and urban planning changes have reduced cruising spaces. Ethnographic research highlights how urban cruising faces violence and decline due to neoliberal consumerism and "safe spaces."

Leehee Rothschild, Manchester Metropolitan University

*From Capsulation to Comfort: Israeli Queer and Polyamorous Experiences in Lockdown*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

Heini Salminen, University of Helsinki

*Queer Worldmaking Practices and Temporary Selves in Autonomous Queer Spaces*

This paper explores the interplay between alternative spatial practices and the (de)construction of the queer self as a praxis of democratic living. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork in autonomous queer spaces in Finland, the paper shows how the radical trust created in these spaces allows for the liberation of the self to unfold beyond normative and governable boundaries. Therefore, though ephemeral, these spaces encourage



the imagination of alternative ways of being and making space for what has yet not been imagined while simultaneously practicing those futures here and now—embracing rather than shying away from the impossibility of our ways of living and being.

## **(Un)Comfortable Homemaking: Exploring the Geographies of LGBTIQ+ Migrants and Refugees in Europe #2**

Rieke Schröder and Marlene Spanger, Aalborg University Copenhagen

*Negotiating Intimacy, Sex and Money: The Complex Infrastructure of LGBTIQ+ Refugees' Support in Urban Spaces*

This presentation examines how support for LGBTIQ+ refugees in Berlin and Copenhagen is influenced by race, sexuality, and intimacy. Based on interviews and fieldwork, the study introduces the idea of 'racialized sexual intimacies', showing how intimacy can act as a form of currency. It highlights that while queer support networks can create 'chosen families', they can also reinforce power imbalances. This sometimes leads to exploitation, with refugees in vulnerable situations engaging in intimate exchanges to gain resources. The research calls for an intersectional approach to understand these complex dynamics, recognizing the refugees' agency in navigating support systems.

Diego Garcia Rodriguez, University of Nottingham

*Queering Faith: Challenging Homosecular Narratives in UK Asylum Processes*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

Calogero Giametta, University of Leicester

*Between Silence and Media Discourse: Mobile Queerness in Italy from the 1960s*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

## **Dis/comfort and Sexual Practices**

Katy Pilcher, Aston University

*Creating a desire-led space? Exploring the embodied experiences of Orgasmic Meditation practitioners*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).



Madhusree Dasgupta, University of Essex

*"Get out of your head and just f\*ck": Comfort and discomfort in embodied fat sexualities*

The fat body is socially constructed by how it interacts with society, making fatness a 'performance', with negative stereotypes attached to it. Such stereotypes impact the individual's sex life through the route of (dis)embodiment; a trauma-related disconnect with the body. The present qualitative study analyses interviews of 15 fat people (gender diverse) to understand how they experience dating and sex 'through' their bodies. Findings indicate; differences in the experience of fat embodiment in sex for different gender identities and the impact of embodiment on the comfort felt in the bedroom. The importance of embodiment-focused approaches to improve sexual-satisfaction is highlighted.

Ozan Félix Sousbois and Hande Eslen-Ziya, University of Stavanger

*The Boundaries of a "True-cel" in "Sexo-Society": Disengagement, Moral Panic, and Incel Counterpublics*

This presentation examines how the incel (involuntary celibate) community reacted when one of their leaders, Komesarj, announced he was leaving after having a sexual relationship. This event, on April 24th, 2023, caused a big stir within the group, creating what we call a "moral panic." We'll explore how this incident challenged the core values and identity of the incel community, which often promotes a negative view of women and resists gender equality. By looking at online discussions and reactions, we'll show how this panic led the group to reinforce their beliefs and expand their presence online.

Nathalie Lugand, UTRPP Paris 13

*Navigating Uncomfortable Territories: An Immersive Exploration of Sexuality for a Researcher*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

## **14:00 – 15:30 Parallel Sessions**

### **Building Narratives of Older LGBTQ+ Lives in Southern Europe**

Pedro Fidalgo, University of Coimbra

*Reaching for a Queer Past: Queer critical postcolonial insights for the production of research on queer pasts, history and memories in Portugal*

Memory is crucial for understanding and preventing the reproduction of violence against queer people. This paper underscores the importance of incorporating queer memories into historical narratives as an avenue to address ongoing violence against queer people. Adopting a critical and post-colonial perspective, it reviews Portuguese research on LGBTQIA+ history, focusing on three main aspects: the intersectionality of queer lives



with various forms of oppression, Portugal's colonial legacy, and queer migration patterns. The paper advocates for a Portuguese queer archive that acknowledges colonial and migration histories and reflects the diverse experiences of queer people, aiming for a comprehensive and restorative portrayal of Portugal's queer history.

Ana Lúcia Santos, University of Coimbra

*Remembering the Invisible: Ageing as an LGBTQ+ Person in Contemporary Portugal*

Older LGBTQ+ individuals share a past where non-heterosexual orientations and gender diversity were often criminalized or pathologized. The fear of legal repercussions and societal rejection forced many to spend much of their lives in the closet, leading to a profound silence that had long-lasting impacts on their mental and emotional well-being. In older age, a lifetime of marginalization can create unique vulnerabilities, but it can also be liberating, as they may feel they owe nothing to anyone. A key factor influencing how individuals experience their sexual identity later in life seems to be how they lived it in their younger years.

Víctor Mora Gaspar and Konstantinos Argyriou, December 26 Foundation

*Discomfort and queer aging: Exclusions and politics of ignorance in Spanish identity politics*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

## **Comfort and the city: towards a multiscalar and mobile approach of safe spaces and discomfort #1**

Ráhel Csizmadia, University of Pécs

*An unfinished circle, a line and infinity: What shape does the gender journey take for three nonbinary, immigrant artists in Portugal?*

My presentation is based on a field study I did in Lisbon between October 2023 and January 2024. The participants were three non-binary, immigrant individuals living in the city, and I had three (mainly) walking interviews with each of them. The topic was their gender experience, or more precisely, gender as a journey. By showing the maps we created and highlighting certain contents, moments and aspects of the interviews (and the interviewing situation), I aim to shed light on the complex character of the own experience and its dis/comfort.



Jerònia Cubells, Oriol Marquet, both Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, and Ersilia Verlinghieri, Rachel Aldred, both University of Westminster.

*Queering mobilities: Strategies of (in)visibility and care in Barcelona streets*

This presentation explores how LGBTIQ+ people negotiate visibility and discomfort while walking and cycling in Barcelona. Through interviews and Relief Maps with non-binary and LBTQI+ women, it examines how intersecting identities shape mobile experiences of public space. The study reveals emotional journeys marked by oppression, such as misogyny and transphobia, but also highlights tactics for alleviating discomfort, from invisibility to public displays of affection. Queer resistance, intertwined with practices of (self-)care, asserts the right to comfort. The findings underscore the mutual transformation of spaces and identities and suggest ways to "queer" cities for LGBTIQ+ well-being.

Erin Sanders-McDonagh, University of Kent, and Magali Peyrefitte, Brunel University

*Navigating public toilet access in London's Soho: mapping variations in public toilet availability for marginalized groups*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

Charlotte Briend, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

*From the scale of the city to the scale of the body. Gaining access of Paris through the practice of women's self-defense*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

## **Queer Refugees in "Queer Utopias": Inclusion & Exclusion in Northern Europe**

Árdís K. Ingvars, University of Iceland

*Event(u)al queer crafting in buckled up temporalities of Dublin regulated SOGIE refugees*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

Guðbjörg Ottósdóttir, University of Iceland

*Working with queer refugees in queer utopia: Narratives of professionals in systems of social support*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).



Linda Sólveigar- og Guðmunds, University of Iceland

*SOGIE refugees' transitional existence: Belonging and exclusion in Iceland*

In the past decade, Iceland has increasingly been branded as a 'gay paradise'. This year Iceland reached second place on the ILGA Rainbow Map and first place on the Williams Institute Global Acceptance Index. But activists and scholars have noted that these trends make whiteness, socioeconomic status, and Euro-American citizenship a crucial factor for inclusion in the state. This paper will discuss preliminary analyses of 15 interviews with SOGIE refugees', regarding their experiences of the journey, applying for international protection, and residing in Iceland. Moreover, the paper discusses their experiences of safety and security in Iceland versus feelings of isolation and boredom.

Maja Hertoghs, University of Amsterdam

*The state's sexual desires. The performance of sexuality in the Dutch asylum procedure*

The 'facticity' of sexuality is a key driver of the asylum procedure in LGBTQIA+ cases, where non-heterosexual identities can be grounds for gaining a 'status' as refugee. Underlying the process lies a conception of sexuality as a fixed, invisible but ever-present identity, like an infrastructure of personhood. The veracity and facticity of this infrastructure can only be ascertained in live encounters during the asylum procedure. In these cases, the procedure becomes a test of sexual veracity by means of a truthful performance, which is primarily discursive, but it is also bodily in how bodily comportment is considered indicative of a 'true story'. This presentation highlights how a particular facticity of sexuality is composed in the Dutch asylum procedure.

## **Universities amidst culture wars – safe spaces or battlefields?**

Veronika Valkovičová, Comenius University Bratislava and Shaban Darakchi, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

*Precarious Work or Exploitable Niche? Experiences of Researchers Working on LGBTQ+ Topics in Europe*

This study examines the challenges faced by researchers working on LGBTQ+ topics in Europe, based on 49 self-reported questionnaires from 2022 and 2023. Many scholars engage in LGBTQ+ studies due to personal reflection or social justice values, making it their activist project. However, they encounter opposition, including microaggressions from colleagues, major setbacks from management, and public harassment, especially when visible in the media. The study emphasizes the need for collective professional solidarity, coordinated institutional support, and strategic policies at both institutional and national levels to advance the field.



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Ezgi Pehlivanli and Hande Eslen-Ziya, University of Stavanger

*Navigating Academic Turbulence: The Intersection of Anti-Gender Mobilization, Neoliberal Measures, and Illiberal Governance in Turkish Gender Studies*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

## 16:00 – 17:30 Parallel Sessions

### **The Invisibility of Bisexuality Research: looking for bisexual presences and absences in geographies of sexualities #2**

Mafalda Esteves, University of Coimbra

*“Beyond the Binary”: Navigating Bisexuality in LGBTQI+ Communities in Portugal through the lens of bisexual activists*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

Surya Monro, University of Loughborough

*Changing political landscapes and the erasure of bisexuality*

Surya Monro's presentation looks at the changing context for bisexual politics over the last few years. During the 2010-2022 period there was a shift internationally, in countries with broadly progressive political environments and in some transnational contexts such as the EU, towards the inclusion of bisexuality together with lesbian, gay and transgender in relation to equalities policies. However, since then the rise of xenophobia, sex/gender binaried fundamentalism, and transphobia has fostered a landscape in which - for some people - it may be increasingly problematic to be out as bisexual. I explore notions of strategic essentialism in relation to bisexual politics and liveability. I also raise broader issues of relevance including the climate crisis.

Leon Freude, Universitat Pompeu Fabra

*Bisexual identification in youth surveys: Zooming into the Catalan case*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).





## **Comfort and the city: towards a multiscalar and mobile approach of safe spaces and discomfort #2**

Clément Nicolle, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

*Uncertain spatialities, from the screen to the city. A multiscalar approach to risk and risk management in the use of the dating application Grindr.*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

Gizem Güvensoy

*Solidarity Opportunities of Queer Spaces in Turkey*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

Noémie Gailhac Calixte, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

*Mobile violence: understanding heterosexual intimate partner violence on a spatial network scale*

No summary – please see Book of Abstracts (online).

## **Feeling for Queer Methods**

Kerryn Drysdale, UNSW Sydney, and Jan Filmer, Universität zu Köln

*Sensing scenes in queer space and time*

The investigation of queer scenes - beyond the spectacle, antinormativity, or transgression often demanded of it - has proved somewhat elusive. Sensing queer space and time requires us to attune ourselves to their affective potential; to consider how queerness manifests and materializes. In this paper, we employ anecdotal exchange to identify the everyday lived realities that variously constitute a form of ordinary queerness. Here, the conceptual and the methodological are necessarily entwined in the investigation and representation of everyday queer scenes

Dale Moodley, University of Stellenbosch

*Classroom pedagogy as an uncomfortably comforting space: psychology students' reflections about their gendered and sexual socialization*

The inclusion of gender as a learning area in undergraduate psychology programmes is often absent; when included it is discussed from a bio-medical perspective that does not engage with social, political and



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historical contexts in which people are embedded. In short, psychology routinely individualises gender, while neglecting the social context. However, when students are given the opportunity to talk about gender in a university classroom at Stellenbosch University, using a teaching and learning approach that is learner-centered, their narratives illuminate the symbolic violence of material contexts, which function to correct and discipline their gendered socialisation in alignment with heteronormative ideals.

Amy Prescott, Michael Thomas and Christina Victor, Brunel University

*Pride and Prejudice: Confronting challenges in researching LGBTQ+ older adults*

My team is doing some research about older LGBTQ+ people living in the UK. Sometimes it has been difficult for us to make connections with LGBTQ+ people. The research is about life stories of LGBTQ+ people and they have told us some very difficult stories. When we do research it is important to make sure we don't harm people who take part. We also need to make sure researchers aren't harmed by thinking about these stories. The kind of research, where we ask people to talk about their life story, is very sensitive and needs to be done carefully.

### **18:30-20:00 Central Brighton queer history walking tour**

Rachel Aldred, University of Westminster and August Read, The Clare Project

Please sign up for this walk during registration.