



**Thriving on the Edge of Cuts:  
Inspirations and Innovations in Gender Studies**

**Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2011**

A conference organised  
by the Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies,  
University of Leeds



**Keynote Speaker:**  
**Dr. Kath Browne, University of Brighton**

**Don't look back in anger: Possibilities and Problems of the 'Golden Era' of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Equalities**

When exploring the 'new age of austerity', it is important to explore the supposed 'golden era' that preceded it. There can be little doubt that the early 21st century saw massive legislative and arguably social shifts particularly in the arena of gender and sexual identities. In the United Kingdom not only did lesbians and gay men gain significant rights including equalities in the provision of goods and services, civil partnerships and so on, but by the end of the New Labour era 'transgender' equalities had become part of legislation. Yet how these were experienced, practiced and deployed was not uniform. This talk will explore the ways that lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) equalities initiatives played out 'on the ground' and the mobilisation around rights-claims based on sexual and gender identities engaging with the possibilities as well as the problems of new equalities landscapes. In this paper, using the supposed tolerant, open and alternative urbanity of Brighton & Hove, insights will be offered into the diverse ways the 'golden age of equalities' empowered and marginalised LGBT people. This enables an exploration of possibilities that were afforded to LGBT people in an era of public sector investment, as well as the marginalisations and exclusions. Such nuanced critical attention is offered as a way of questioning nostalgia without neglecting hope, possibilities and promise.

**Conference**

In 2010 the British government decided to cut funding for university Arts, Humanities and Social Science departments, thereby endangering spaces for critical social thought. This

conference aims to provide an interdisciplinary platform for up and coming researchers in the field of gender studies. We welcome papers relating to gender from all disciplines in order to create a space for inspiration, innovation, dialogue and transformation. In addition to individual papers, the conference will also provide a space for discussing the impact of the cuts in the form of a round table discussion at the end of the day.

**Topics of interest may be:**

- femininities and masculinities
- feminist and queer politics and activism
- bodies and identities
- gender and technology
- queer spaces and geography
- feminist and queer methodologies
- gender and management
- sexualities
- popular culture
- sexual health and education
- social policy
- gender and natural sciences
- gender and development
- postcolonial and diaspora studies
- performing arts
- queer marketing
- gender and religion

The above topics are intended as suggestions only. We are open to contributions from people at all academic stages. However, we especially encourage contributions from MA and PhD students, as well as scholars at the beginning of their careers.

**Abstracts**

We welcome proposals for 15 – 20 minute papers (250-300 words), a short biography (50 words), affiliation and contact details. These may be submitted by email to [genderontheedge@gmail.com](mailto:genderontheedge@gmail.com) in the form of an attachment (DOC, PDF) or copied directly into the message. The deadline for the submission of all proposals is Thursday, **14<sup>th</sup> of April 2011**.

**Publication**

Speakers will be invited to submit their papers for publication in a special edition of the Graduate Journal for Social Sciences (GJSS) which will be published in October 2011. For guidelines on editing and submitting your papers for publication please see the GJSS website:

[www.gjss.org](http://www.gjss.org). The deadline for the submission of all papers for publication is Thursday, **7<sup>th</sup> of July 2011**.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us by email: [genderontheedge@gmail.com](mailto:genderontheedge@gmail.com)

Best wishes,  
The Organising Committee  
Ferough Abdullah-khel, Alexa Athelstan, Stefanie Boulila, Meremu Chikwendu, Sarah Foote,  
Saara Jalava, Katie Jennings, Liz Mills, Cassandra McLuckie, Angelica Pesarini, Mercedes Pöll

Website  
<http://www.gender-studies.leeds.ac.uk/about/events/gender-on-the-edge.php>

Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies  
The Coach House  
5 Hillary Place  
University of Leeds  
Leeds  
LS2 9JT  
UK

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