

Agender Conference: Papers/Presentations/Workshops

Monday 16th June:

“I am a Feminist but...”: Transgender Men and Feminism

Dr Sally Hines

In 1998, Stephen Whittle posed the question, “How can feminism accept men with women's bodies (or is that women with men's bodies)?”

Whittle's question remains central to feminist debates and the continuing controversial relationship between transgender and feminism. With this question in mind, this paper draws upon the second and third waves to explore the relationship between feminism and trans masculinity.

Queering the trans masculinity and female masculinity archive with digital media, blogging, film and other avenues, a grassroots initiative. Dr Fiona Philip and Dr Zowie Davy

The transgender archive (University of Victoria, Canada) is imagined as an open repository that will house the ‘history’ and ‘herstory’ of transgender identities and politics. The archive leans towards MtF spectrum people, transwomen and transfemininity and trans narratives for transmen, female masculinity, transmasculinity, FtM spectrum people are less visible. This workshop will consider the possibilities and problematics of community archives (versus institutional ones); together we will explore how the age of ‘new media’ allows us all to collect and curate digital media to tell our stories.”

Near Invisi ‘BI’lity: Representing Bisexuality Through Plurality in Susan Glaspell’s The Verge Charlotte Mallinson

This paper will argue that through processes of ‘silences’, ‘plurality’ and the use of a nuanced discourse, which pertains to both a clitoral economy and contemporary sapphic vernacular, what Glaspell subversively portrays in this piece is a narrative of her bisexual protagonist’s complicated and very frustrated libidinal desires.

Performance Poetry Jamal Gerald aka Fabulash Jones

Fabulash is Jamal's alter ego who draws upon the black LGBT ballroom culture of New York. Jamal has been practising the art of spoken word since 2007. He has represented the city of Leeds and the region of Yorkshire nationally and internationally in poetry slam competitions. He's currently trying to master the transition from stage to the page. He's getting there in small steps.

Transgender Sparkles Dr Lee R J Middlehurst

During this workshop there will be discussions of the impacts of research strategies, which include queering 'Queer Theory', performativity and the subversiveness of drag. Sociological impacting of these two areas will be linked to hate crimes, notably transphobic discriminations that encompass assaults, enabling questioning concepts of 'female and transgender masculinities' with images and reviews of 'Sparkle' the annual transgender celebration held in Manchester.

The scientific construction and popular representations of a lesbians in Poland (1870 – 1939) Agnieszka Weseli

In my project I make use of Zofia Sadowska's biography and the life stories of other non-heteronormative Polish women (between 1870 and 1939) retrieved from sparse archived sources and equally rare memoirs, diaries and letters.

What can ail thee, knightess-at-arms? Dr Susan Clayton

Female prowess and wooing, some examples in life, art and literature: amongst the many expressions of female masculinity that exist this paper will focus on two, gallantry and wooing. Renowned though Joan of Arc and Britomart have been for their gallantry, or Brandon Teena and other female husbands for their courting, neither of these expressions of female masculinity has been condoned by heteronormativity, far less promoted.

Participative Art Workshop The Queer Eye Group Featuring Ryan Thompson and Emily Towler

An interactive workshop, playing with Claude Cahun's representation of gender and identity through the use of poetry, theatricality and collage, then looking at the nature, extent and influence of the collaborative relationship between Cahun and Marcel Moore.

Workshop/presentation about the book: "The naked King. A drag king archive in Italy" Michela Baldo

This workshop aims at presenting and discussing with the audience a book that I co-authored and co-edited, and which can be defined as a performative archive of photos and writings by Italian drag kings. The idea of performative archives will be discussed specifically in relation to queer temporalities, and to the political importance of documenting a phenomenon in a country where the heteronormatives dictates of gender binary are still very much the dominant paradigm.

Performances of Masculinity in the Feminised Field of Dance

Andria Christofidou

This paper will discuss contemporary masculinities and gender performances in the feminised field of dance in Scotland. It will historically explain how theatrical dance became a feminised activity and will then present data from an ongoing ethnographic study to describe performances of gender and masculinity within this context.

Queer Collage Crafting Workshop: Thinking and Representing Queer Intersectionalities, Identities and Community (Un)Belonging Alexa Athelstan

This workshop offers you the opportunity to explore your ideas about queer identities and communities through the medium of collage crafting. Whilst collages can be about anything to do with your queer identity and relationship to queer communities (e.g. how you embody your identity or who inspires you), the workshop emphasises the importance of looking at queer identities and communities through an intersectional lens, by looking at how other parts of our

identities (e.g. "race," class and disability) interact with our queer genders, sexualities and community (un)belonging.

Tuesday 17th June :

Marlow Moss: "Dress Address Name" Dr Lucy Howarth

Using Gertrude Stein's wordplay as a starting point, this paper will examine the relationship between clothing and identity in Stephen Storm's portrait photographs of Marlow Moss. Other female modernist artists and their self-representations will be brought in to the discussion.

"I Am Half-Sick of Shadows": Finding Queer Agency through Life-Model Theatre in Body Art Projects and Gallery Spaces.

Dr Nina Kane

This paper demonstrates that life-model theatre can reveal and contest binary constructions of gender, challenging heteronormativity in figurative arts-making and gallery spaces. Further exploring the theme of female and transgendered masculinities, the paper discusses responses to J. W. Waterhouse's 1894 "The Lady of Shalott" from Cast-Off Drama (2002-2013), Phil Sayers (2008) and Margaret Harrison (2013), noting the importance of mirrors, weaving and song in queer readings of the work.

Thinking Outside of the Box a Performative Presentation

Ebony Rose Dark

Taking the audience on a biographical cross arts journey which reflects his life and work as a performance artist/photographer.

'Ecstasies' Adam Lowe

The performance 'Ecstasies' was developed as a spoken word/theatre piece from poetry Adam Lowe has been working on with Patience Agbabi around the theme of queer spirituality.

Refractions: Claude Cahun's montages & photographs with reference also to the work of Hannah Höch ,Gertrude Arndt and Marta Astfalck David Annwn Jones

A presentation and facilitated discussion exploring the work of Claude Cahun with David Jones making links to other artists.

Anne Lister of Shibden Hall Richard McClenaghan

Anne Lister (1791-1840), formerly of Shibden Hall near Halifax, was a Yorkshire landowner, industrialist, traveller and diarist. She kept a detailed account of her life, her loves and her emotions in a fascinating and painfully honest 4,000,000 word journal. She was a lesbian, who, despite needing to keep her orientation secret from society at large, in private defied the conventions of her times by living with her female lover. A sizeable portion of her diaries were written in code, and the recent deciphering of these has provided an astonishing insight into the life of the woman who has been called Britain's first modern lesbian. This talk will provide an introduction to the life and times of Anne Lister and reveal how her life has inspired an upcoming weekend of events dedicated to her at her former home; Shibden Hall.

How Might an Understanding of Disability Politics/ Poetics Inform an Approach to Transsexuality? Dr Cath Nichols

This paper discusses four intersections that exist between transsexual experience and disability: social prejudice; medicalization and interpretation; visibility and invisibility; and the possibility of 'phantom' body sensations. In exploring these Cath Nichols will refer to her own poem sequence which questions understandings of sex/gender in part through the narrative of a female-to-male transsexual.

Referentiation and ideology: homophobia in Pentecostal speech

Matheus Odorisi

A paper exploring the construction of homophobic speech in new Pentecostal speech in new Pentecostal minister text.

**The everyday life of troubled pronouns : of hir and hen Dr
Natalia Gerodetti and Mx Taylor Blue**

Much academic work has been written about female masculinities and transgender but in this workshop we want to focus on the everyday practices of transgressing gender and gendered talk by examining the practicalities of negotiating the restricting world of pronouns.