

Biographies of Presenters

Dr Sally Hines

Sally Hines is Director of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies (CIGS), and Associate Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies in the School of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Leeds. Her books include: *TransForming Gender: Transgender Practices of Identity, Intimacy and Care* (Policy Press, 2007); *Gender Diversity, Recognition and Citizenship: Towards a Politics of Difference* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2013.) *Transgender Identities: Towards a Social Analysis of Gender Diversity*, (ed. with Tam Sanger, Routledge, 2009); *Theorizing Intersectionality and Sexuality* (ed. with Yvette Taylor and Mark Casey, Palgrave MacMillan, 2011); *Sexualities: Past Reflections, Future Directions* (ed. with Yvette Taylor Palgrave MacMillan, 2012); She has co-edited special journal editions of *Sociology* (Special Issue on Sexualities) and *Gender, Place and Culture* (Special Issue on Transgender), and has published in a wide range of journals including *Sociology*; *Gender, Place and Culture*; *Sociological Research Online*; *Critical Social Policy*; *Journal of Gender Studies*. Sally has recently completed an ESRC funded knowledge exchange grant 'Recognising Diversity?: Equalities in Principle and Practice' (2012-2013, which drew on her previous ESRC funded project 'Gender Diversity, Recognition and Citizenship' (2008-2010).

Dr Fiona Philip

Fiona Philip is Research Fellow on the AHRC-funded project, *Pararchive: Open Access Community Storytelling and the Digital Archive*, and is based at the Institute of Communications Studies (ICS), University of Leeds. Having also worked as the RA on the ECRC-funded *Communicating Copyright* project, Fiona is particularly interested in the copyright-related dilemmas and opportunities of *Pararchive*. Alongside issues of ownership and participation in the digital age, her research also considers the interwar literary and cinematic output of the neglected British modernist impresario and writer, Bryher (Annie Winifred Ellerman, 1894-1983) and the avant-garde film group, POOL.

Combining original archival research with a queer-feminist theoretical framework, Fiona has sought to reposition Bryher as an important voice in the landscape of modernism and the history of modern sexuality. Additionally, she is co-editor of the 2012 Special Issue: Austere Cultures/ Cultures of Austerity, *Journal of European Popular Culture* 3(1), and is currently collaborating on the Communicating Feminism project with Rape Crisis England & Wales.

Dr Zowie Davy

Zowie Davy PhD is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Health and Social Care, University of Lincoln. Zowie's work centers on quality improvements in healthcare. She currently works on projects looking at curricula content for medical health and social care students, gender based violence on campus, and critically examining sexological expertiseregarding transgender bodily aesthetics and embodiment. Zowie has published a number of articles about transgender embodiment and was the co-editor of *Bound and Unbound: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Genders and Sexualities* published by Cambridge Scholars Press. She recently published a monograph entitled *Recognizing Transsexuals: Personal, Political and Medicolegal Embodiment*, which explores how the bodies of transpeople are figured and reconfigured in socio, politico and medico-legal contexts. The book was awarded the British Sociological Association's Philip Abrams' memorial prize 2012.

Charlotte Mallinson

My name is Charlotte Mallinson and I am a single mother of four, including a 13 year old boy with Asperger's Syndrome. I am also a new and utterly doting grandmother to my six month old grandson, a passionate autism advocate, a staunch intersectionalist, and I am enthused about sex and body positivism. I am currently a first year history Ph.D. student at Huddersfield and the working title of my thesis is, 'Our History, Our Streets, Our Voice, Our Future: Reclaiming the Historiography of the Whitechapel Murders'.

I didn't take the most orthodox route into academia. Indeed owing to the fact I was a child carer for my father and a school-girl mother to my now 24 year old daughter, I didn't even step inside a university until I was 34 years old. Nevertheless, in 2011 I graduated with 1st class honours in Heritage Studies and English Literature at the University of Huddersfield. From this, I immediately completed my Masters in history my component dissertation was entitled, 'Ripped Whores and Heritage Tours: Dehumanisation of the Whitechapel Murder Victims'.

My life is totally chaotic, but I wouldn't have it any other way - I feel blessed for all of the opportunities life has given me and I genuinely see myself as a very lucky woman.

Jamal Gerald

Jamal Gerald aka Fabulash Jones is a poet and a performance artist. 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.

Dr Lee R J Middlehurst

Lee R J Middlehurst is a committee member of the transgender support group 'TransForum Manchester' and a director of the 'Life Cycle Media' organisation.

He recently gained a doctorate, which concerns exploring the diverse aspects of transgenderism in Manchester and presenting proposals that rethink Male-To-Female trans* identities. Within this research, Middlehurst expands multiple investigations of transgenderism that are recognised by the EHRC as being previously incomplete. Since 2010, Middlehurst has regularly assisted training for police, medical and Government organisations.

As part of his work within 'Life Cycle Media', Lee R J Middlehurst has been recognised by the Arts Council as an 'emerging artist'. Since April 2009, he has had 12 art exhibitions and several of his art pieces are defined as iconic. His postmodern artwork consists of fragments of waste CDs and DVDs to create visually notable representations that promote environmental issues as well as championing Diversity awareness.

His present work focuses upon expanding businesses' enthusiasm for expressing environmental awareness and Diversity support for vulnerable children and adults.

Agnieszka Weseli

I am an independent Polish historian, specializing in history of sexuality and gender. I pioneered research on such topics as sexual education of children and youth, sexual life of XIX century youth, prostitution and prostitutes in Poland in XIX/XX centuries. I am collecting materials for a vast project on changing norms and models of male and female sexuality from the first half of XIXth century till II world war. I did first Polish research on gender/totalitarianism topics: brothel set up in Auschwitz camp by Nazis and homosexuals in Auschwitz concentration camp.

My other field of interest are LGBTQ and non-heteronormative topics. I co-created the first calendar of LGBTQ presence in Polish history and started independent Queerstoria project (workshops, archive, testimonies) on its basis. I also prepared the report on situation on non-heterosexual women in Poland (1989-2009) for 1st Women's Congress. I carried out research on the presence of transsexual/transgender people in Polish society (partly on the example of public toilets), on lesbian sexuality (sadoomasochism), recently I started research in non-heteronormative relations, such as polyamory. My new project, "The scientific construction and popular representations of a lesbian in Poland since ca. 1870 till 1939 and individual biographies of non-heteronormative women", is based on sources rarely or never used before by Polish academics.

I also carry out research and educational projects in queer sexuality, sexual health, conscious relationships (I was co-author and editor of *When a Woman Loves a Woman* – first polish LBT sex and intimacy handbook; I carry out workshops; I've edited polish translation of *Ethical Slut* by Dossie Easton and Catherine A. Liszt and translated *Polyamory in XXI Century* by Deborah Anapol). In 2014 I will receive diploma in sexology.

I am also active in feminist and queer movement (among others as co-organizer of Warsaw feminist demonstrations *Manifas* since 2004; co-founder of *Lesbian Coalition LBT* – first Polish informal group standing for visibility of lesbians; co-organizer of first *FAQ! Queerotic Festival* in 2007, first *Pussy Days* 2010-2012, independent queer culture festival *POMADA* 2010-2014). I am also co-founder and collective member of *UFA*, first and only open independent queer sociocultural space in Poland.

In my artwork (photos, installations, screenplays, graphic novel scripts, short stories and a novel to be published soon) I focus on women and gender issues. I'm also a part of performative projects (co-founder of first polish lesbian cabaret "*Barbie Girls*" and member of "*Orlando. The Trap? A Dream*" team). www.weseli.info

Dr Susan Clayton

I have studied and written about female masculinities for several years: amongst my publications, two are directly relevant:

"Can two and a half centuries of female husbands inform transgender history?", which appeared in the *Journal of Lesbian Studies* in 2010 and "*Britomart quests anew*", which appeared in the journal of the SFEVE (*Société Française des Etudes Victoriennes et Edouardiennes*) in 2010.

I retired from the University of Paris Diderot in 2012 after more than thirty years as a researcher and lecturer.

Ryan Thompson

Contemporary Artist Ryan Thompson is based in Leeds, but is working throughout the country. His work transverses several mediums including film and performance, more recently leaning towards live and participatory art forms. The focus of his practice is based around folklore, legends, myths and storytelling. Appropriating these into his artistic universe helps to develop an understanding of their use in forms of escapism and how the integrity of such narratives and illusions can be challenged.

Emily Towler

Emily's work takes a playful, tongue-in-cheek look at identity and place from the point of view of gender, class and sexuality; exposing and deconstructing the dominant myths in society through performance, drawing and sculpture.

Website: <http://emilytowler.atspace.com/>

Michela Baldo

Dr. Michela Baldo is a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Contemporary Women's Writing at the Institute of Modern Language Research (IMLR) at the University of London where she works on the translation of Italian-Canadian and Italian-American women writers in Italy. She is also pursuing research of 'queer' diasporas, and the migration/translation of queer into the Italian cultural sphere, focusing on queer femininities and female masculinities. She has published articles on the subject, including the co-authored/co-edited book on drag kings in Italy (Il Re Nudo. Per un archivio drag king in Italia) which she will present at this event in Leeds. Last year she was involved with the queer group 'Eyes Wild Drag' in the organization of the first Fem conference in Italy, held in Rome on 2nd June 2013.

Andria Christofidou

Andria Christofidou is a PhD candidate in Sociology at the University of Glasgow. Her doctoral research employs ethnographic research methods to investigate gender and masculinity performances in the female-concentrated field of dance in Scotland. She has a BA in Sociology (University of Crete, 2011) and an MSc in Cultural Sociology (University of Aberdeen, 2012). Andria is mostly interested in social theory, gender studies, masculinities/femininities, queer theory, cultural and dance sociology'

Alexa Athelstan

Alexa Athelstan is a final year University of Leeds Research Scholarship PhD student at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies, supervised by Dr. Shirley Anne Tate and Professor Ian Law from the Centre for Ethnicity and Racism Studies, School of Sociology and Social Policy, Leeds University. Her current research project theorises queer feminine disidentificatory orientations, with a particular focus on positioned intersectional dynamics of inclusion and exclusion. Additionally, Alexa has worked as one of the Editors in Chief for the Graduate Journal of Social Science with Rosemary Deller. Alexa Athelstan is also editing two collaborative books. *Queer Feminine Affinities*, edited with Vikki Chalklin, aims to collect fresh perspective, reflections and visual art on femme and queer feminine identities and communities situated in the UK. *Tensions of Rhetorics and Realities in Critical Diversities* is a collection of essays edited in collaboration with Nichole Edwards & Mercedes Pöll. She has presented on femme and queer femininities at various conferences including: The 8th European Feminist Research Conference, Budapest, Lesbian Lives, Brighton, GendErotica & the 1st Italian Femme Conference, Rome. Her chapter 'Occupying Normality Abnormally: Queer(ing) Heterosexual Fem(me)inities' will be published in the forthcoming book edited by Sita Balani entitled *Queers Talk Lesbian Notions*.

Dr Lucy Howarth

Lucy Howarth is an independent art historian who wrote her PhD thesis on Marlow Moss and is currently preparing a monograph on the artist. She co-curated the Marlow Moss display, which has toured from Tate St Ives, and is now at Leeds Art Gallery. Lucy has taught at the universities of Plymouth and York, and has worked in the Tate Research Department. Her article 'Art School Building', developed from research on British art school education, appears in this month's iJADE.

Dr Nina Kane

Dr Nina Kane is Artistic Director of Cast-Off Drama, a theatre company of life-models, street-performers, clowns and itinerant artists - <http://www.castoffdrama.blogspot.com/>. She has enjoyed a 13-year working relationship with Leeds Art Gallery, developing projects such as The Art of the Life-Model and the Elements project, and is currently co-facilitating the Queer Eye workshops with the Assistant Community Curator. She has also performed work at York Art Gallery and Dartington College Devon, and participated in the Gendered Intelligence Anatomy Project, London in 2013. She has a long history of community and public arts practice, development and teaching and is an independent researcher with a particular interest in Irigarayan philosophies of sexuate difference and Transgender politics. She runs a feminist creative development and advocacy project for life-models that offers Trans*-friendly workshops for people to explore life-modelling as a practice and profession. In 2013, Dr Kane was awarded a PhD from the University of Huddersfield with a thesis entitled: ' "F-F-Felt it": Breathing Feminist, Queer and Clown Thinking into the Practice and Study of Sarah Kane's Cleansed and Blasted' - <http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/19287/>. She holds a Masters with Distinction in Writing for Performance, a PGCE in Lifelong Learning and a BA Hons in English from King's College, Cambridge. Dr Kane is a feminist and queer activist, committed to community, arts and academic education, with a strong personal interest in Trans* issues, experience and politics.

David Annwn Jones

I teach for the Open University in Leeds and Manchester.

My translation of Claude Cahun's poem & my poem in tribute to her work can be found at:

http://www.eratiopostmodernpoetry.com/issue11_Annwn.html

In 2011 I co-devised and ran a performance celebration of Dada women artist's work with Christine Kennedy. I also presented my own 'Round Song' re. bisexuality in Hannah Höch's collages.

I challenge Modernist canons and treatment of slavery and witches in 'Silences inside the Word'

<http://www.flashpointmag.com/annwnsilences.htm>

I write about postmodern gay poet Jonathan Williams's work:

<http://jacketmagazine.com/38/jwb06-annwn-d.shtml>

I've written about my poetry/calligraphy with Thomas Ingmire at

<http://glasfrynproject.org.uk/w/1768/david-annwn-flying-through-poetry-collaborations-with/>

My book Sexuality and the Gothic Magic Lantern has appeared from Smith/Palgrave this week.

Stirling University asked me this year to write on their blog about 19th century comic strip art:

<http://www.gothic.stir.ac.uk/uncategorized/dark-successions-gothic-sequential-art-and-the-19th-century-comic-strip/>

Swansea University have asked me to read poetry and talk about the innovative film-maker, Maya Deren, and Dylan Thomas at their September conference.

Ebony Rose Dark aka Mickel Smithen

Mickel Smithen, performance artist, diverse portfolio of works. Dance Theatre, Sites Specifics, Music, Photography. Building a successful teaching practice.

And his latest creation Ebony Rose Dark a feisty Birmingham las. Ebony Rose Dark loves a party. With big red lips and snaking hips, she's a diva and a half but with a heart of Gold.

Adam Lowe

Adam Lowe is a writer, performer and creative producer resident in Manchester. His 2012 collection, *Precocious*, was a reader nomination for the Guardian First Book Prize. His 2009 novella, *Troglodyte Rose*, was a finalist in the Transgender category at the Lambda Literary Awards. Adam was 2013 LGBT History Month Poet Laureate and 2012 Poet for Yorkshire. In 2014, he has been commissioned to write A Poem for Manchester for Manchester Library Services. He is one of 10 Black and Asian poets selected for the advanced mentoring programme, The Complete Works II, where he was mentored by Patience Agbabi. He has had commissions from BBC Writersroom, Channel 4, Freedom Studios, the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, The National Lottery and Olympics 2012. My work has been performed at Contact, the Southbank, Theatre in the Mill, West Yorkshire Playhouse, The Forge and the Royal Exchange.

Richard McClenaghan

Having focused his work on the heritage sites of minority groups and spaces associated with difficult or painful heritage, Richard McClenaghan gained an MA in Cultural Heritage Management from the University of York in 2012. He currently works as a Project Officer for Calderdale Museum Service. Richard is the organiser of 'The Inaugural Anne Lister Conference; women, gender and sexuality in the 19th Century' which will take place on the 28th June 2014 at Shibden Hall, the former home of the eponymous Anne Lister who is often referred to as "the first modern lesbian".

Dr Cath Nichols

Cath Nichols worked with survivors in the early 1990s and as a queer journalist for print and radio in the late 90s writing for *Gay Times*, *Diva*, *The Pink Paper*, etc. She was commissioned to write a non-fiction book for *The Women's Press*, who alas disbanded prior to its publication. She started writing poetry in 2000, mainly for performance and won various slams as a drag queen. In the noughties she ran a poetry organisation in Liverpool, later obtaining a PhD in Creative Writing from Lancaster University that focussed on 'Negotiations Between the Eye and Ear: Solo Performance, Stage and Radio Works by Poets'. Her poetry publications include *Tales of Boy Nancy* (Driftwood, 2005), which introduced a drag king persona to her repertoire, *My Glamorous Assistant* (Headland, 2010) and *Distance* (erbacce, 2012). She has had CFS and hearing problems in the past and lives with anxiety. Her research interests are cultural/ literary trans and disability studies and pedagogy within creative writing (bringing theory to bear beyond craft technique). She currently teaches creative writing at Leeds University and regularly attends the Literary Disability Studies seminar programme at Liverpool Hope University (at which she has presented research).

She will be co-hosting *Trans/literate* an 'open floor' book and poem share event later this summer in Leeds Gallery.

Matheus Odorisi Marques

Matheus Odorisi Marques has 27 years and he is a PhD linguistics student and researcher in the Brazilian university Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro. He's also associated with Universitat Pompeu Fabra, in Barcelona, Spain, where he studies Discourse Analysis. He worked as a teacher in Univesidade Federal Fluminense and also in highschool, both of them in Rio de Janeiro. His academic interest is directly connected with the Brazilian religious discourse in Homophobia, specifically the Neopentecostal Discourse. Besides that, he also has a couple of publications talking about Metaphor in the Discourse Analysis, and Embodied Language relations with the Meaning Construction. His present Project deals with concepts of Social Psychology and Sociology,

besides the linguistics part. He acts in study groups about homophobia too.

Natalia Gerodetti

Natalia Gerodetti is a Senior Lecturer at Leeds Metropolitan University where she teaches within sociology. Her research has centred around gender and sexuality and she has published across socio-historical areas of sexuality and its regulation. Her books have included *Modernising Sexualities: Towards a Socio-Historical Understanding of Sexualities in the Swiss Nation* (Peter Lang, 2005) and she was a co-editor of *Bound and Unbound: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Genders and Sexualities* (Cambridge Scholars Press, 2008). Other publications include a special Issue on the "Feminist Politics of Reproduction" in *Feminist Theory* (2009) and research on eugenics as well as women's contested mobilities and the regulation of sexuality.