

CALL FOR PAPERS



QUEER KINSHIP AND RELATIONSHIPS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, 8-11 JUNE 2015, ZALESIE, MASURIA, POLAND

Call For Papers

Studies of non-heterosexual kinship in modern societies are well established in the Anglophone countries, dating back to such "classical" text as Esther Newton's *Mother Camp* (1972) and especially Kath Weston's *Families We Choose* (1991). The once original body of work has now become "canonical" and a mandatory point of reference for subsequent researchers. Canonization, however, presents us with the obvious perils of hegemonization and domination of theories that perhaps do not necessarily fit into the diverse (i.e. non-Western) social and cultural realities. At the same time, it is hard to escape the existing theoretical vocabulary since scholars from various localities researching non-heterosexual families use them as the only pre-existing point of reference, and an inspiration for their own terminology and conceptualizations. Consequently, although studying "their own" localities, they apparently have no choice but to use "not their" language and concepts to capture developments and local narrations of queer families/kinship.

During the conference we want to concentrate on different understandings of queer kinships/relationships, and present more insights into the dynamics of non-normative kinship configurations in various geo-temporal contexts. Consequently, we seek to address such questions as the following:

1. How do non-heterosexual people define their relationships? What concepts are used to think through, understand, and describe non-normative kinship practices?
2. How are "queer families" socially framed and understood in various localities with different political significance of "traditional family" ?
3. Does "queer kinship/family" have the potential to become a (new) reference point for the LGBTQ activism, in the place or in conjunction with "marriage equality" or "rights politics"?
4. How do specific local contexts influence the debates on sexual politics in diverse locations?

We seek contributions concerning various configurations and aspects of relationships spanning across the following:

- daily practices of queer kin-work, making queer families, defining queer relationships,
- gender roles/identity in homemaking and household labour,
- queer and LGBT parenting,
- changing patterns of household formation (e.g. LATs, communal/collective living, single living, cohabitation),
- friendships, strategic partnerships, neighbouring, and other forms of relating,
- relations with animals and pets,
- using "familial" concepts in sexual rights' activism,
- queer and LGBT intimate citizenship, political dimensions of intimate life,
- migration/ borders/ transnational queer families/kinship,
- state and public discourses and recognition, public (hetero)normativity, policing intimate lives, seeking recognition through legislation,
- consumerism/consumption in queer families,
- home violence in queer relationships,
- queer family/kinship failures, queer breakups and divorces,
- non-monogamy and polyamory,
- queer families vs. outer world/families of origin, coming out as families,
- intersectional perspectives on non-normative intimacies.

We keep the CFP purposefully open to accommodate a diversity of proposals from all those who share an interest in exploring queer forms of relationships.

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Invited Contributors

We are pleased to announce that the following speakers have accepted our invitation to participate in the conference:

- Prof. Judith Butler (University of California, USA),
- Dr Ulrika Dahl (Södertörn University, Sweden),
- Dr Jacqui Gabb (Open University, United Kingdom),
- Dr Ruth Preser (ICI-Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry, Germany),
- Dr Ana Cristina Santos (Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal).

Conference venue and the idea of the conference

The idea of the conference is to meet in a relaxed and more intimate atmosphere away from the busy metropolis. This way we hope to inspire a more personal and individual exchange of opinions between participants. Therefore, we have decided to organize the conference in Masuria – the beautiful lake district of Poland. The conference will take place in Zalesie Mazury, a conference centre situated on a lake in Zalesie near Olsztyn. We shall provide transport to/from Warsaw, the conference fee also includes participation, accommodation, and meals.

Deadlines & Submission

- 15 September 2014 - submission of abstracts and bio notes
- 30 October 2014 - information about selection outcomes
- 1 January 2015 - 30 April 2015 - online registration open
- 8-11 June 2015 - conference takes place
- Submitted documents should include: 250-300 word abstract, 6 keywords, short bio note (all in one document).
- To submit an abstract, please follow this link. <http://queerkinship.systemcoffee.pl/> or visit <http://familiesofchoice.pl/>

Conference Fee & Registration

- Conference fee is 200 Euro and it includes conference materials, accommodation, and meals.
- We will also provide free transport to/from Warsaw to the conference venue.
- Registration will open in January 2015 and will be facilitated by an online payment system.
- To facilitate the exchange with scholars from the geo-politically disadvantaged regions, we will offer a number of fee-waivers and travel bursaries for: PhD students, independent and untenured researchers, and junior tenured academics. The primary recipients will be people from 'Global South/East', however, students and freelancing academics in hardship from the 'Global North/West' should feel encouraged to apply as well.
- To apply for the fee-waiver/bursary, please indicate that in your submission, explaining your reasons.
- We encourage scholars from beyond the 'West', as well as those working on 'non-Western' contexts to apply.
- EU Schengen visa requirements - please get in touch, and we will assist you individually.

Organizing committee

The conference is organized as a part of the research project *Families of Choice in Poland* (2013-2015) (<http://familiesofchoice.pl/>), Institute of Psychology, Polish Academy of Sciences, by the following team:

Prof. Joanna Mizielińska, PI on the project,

Robert Kulpa Ph.D.,

Sylwia Urbańska Ph.D.,

Ms Agata Stasińska,

Mr Aleksander Wasiak-Radoszewski.

All questions should be sent to: familiesofchoice@psych.pan.pl

For Facebook users - please join and share the event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1391436401078918/>