

Queer Safe Spaces - Call for Papers

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'Safe space' is usually understood as a deconstruction of hegemonic discourses, as well as a relational production of alternative spaces constitutive of known logic and rules (Evans & Boyte 1992; Gamson 1996; Polletta 1999; The Roestone Collective 2014). Safety has long been a formative subject within queer communities. In feminist, LGBT and queer discourses, a 'safe space' is usually a physical/virtual space, either temporary or permanent in time and space, which is defined as an open and accepting environment, designated to allow its attendants a feeling of self-safety, and a space for full self-expression without the threat of violence.

Consequently, the concept of 'safe space' is an ever-changing, fluid, and flexible concept - dependent on time, place, participants, spatiality, temporality, environment and more. Moreover, since 'safe space' is rooted in a discourse of cultural diversity, it provides tools for dealing with the violent and oppressive sanctions used to discipline queer individuals in public space. Altogether, these different features lead us to a definition of 'safe space' as essentially a refuge place; a space intended to offer a solution, even if only a temporary and partial one, to an everyday lacking security.

This session will explore the politics of "safe space" in various scales, contexts, places and spaces.

We seek submissions that critically investigate, but are not limited to:

- Paradoxes in the practice or discourses around 'safe space'
- The operation of discourses and actions within 'safe spaces'
- The politics of "safe space" in virtual contexts
- Sex, intimacy, and emotional work in 'safe spaces'
- The boundary work and policing work around 'safe spaces'
- The ways in which queer 'safe space' is framed, produced and negotiated within social movements and grassroots activism groups
- Bisexual and transgender identities and 'safe spaces'
- Race, class and sexuality intersections and 'safe space'
- The academia's place as a 'safe space' for queer scholars/queer scholarship
- Intersections between queer tourism, 'safe spaces' and virtual encounters
- Schools as location of 'safe spaces'
- 'Safe spaces' in view of the rural and urban.
- 'Safe spaces' in spaces of disability
- Religious or spiritual 'safe spaces'
- 'Safe space' and diaspora

Please submit abstracts (200 words maximum) to queersafespaces@gmail.com by April 15, 2015. Questions or comments about the session are also welcomed.

References

- Collective, T.R., 2014. Safe space: Towards a reconceptualization. *Antipode*, 46(5), pp.1346–1365.
- Evans, S.M. & Boyte, H.C., 1992. *Free spaces: The sources of democratic change in America*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Gamson, W.A., 1996. Safe spaces and social movements. *Perspectives on social problems*, 8, pp.27–38.
- Polletta, F., 1999. "Free spaces" in collective action. *Theory and Society*, 28(1), pp.1–38.