

Tuesday 2 February 2016 • 12.30pm to 1.30pm

Seminar Room 2, Chrystal Macmillan Building, The University of Edinburgh

Being single in public

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A few years ago the Guardian published Taobao.com, a Chinese website offering 'rent a date', enabling single people to take a pretend boyfriend or girlfriend to their parent's house during the New Year. The need for such a service illustrates the difficulties single people face and strategies used to 'save face'.

Kinneret's paper asks us to reflect more on the temporal aspects of being and appearing alone in various public locations as they are represented in contemporary media texts.

Her analysis shows that at certain times of the day, the week, the month and the year, familial and heteronormative codes are particularly reinforced. This is one reason why many single women report an increased intensity in the regulatory gaze towards them at these times. By implication, these are times when single women become particularly self-reflective.

This paper aims to make a significant contribution to sociological and feminist literature, by exploring the temporal elements of the gendered interactional order.

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are free but not
funded so we
can't provide
refreshments.
You're welcome
to bring your
own lunch
and tea/coffee.