

Feel free to translate & communicate in the language of your choice: <https://translate.google.co.uk/>

EUROPEAN GEOGRAPHIES OF SEXUALITIES CONFERENCE 2024

BRIGHTON, UK – SEPT 2-3

<https://2024.egsconference.com/>

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

GETTING COMFY – CREATING AND EXPERIENCING COMFORTABLE SPACES FOR DIFFERENT SEXUALITIES

Organiser: Dr Nick McGlynn (University of Brighton, UK)

E: n.mcglynn2@brighton.ac.uk

The 'safe space' has become a common concept for evaluating and critiquing the geographies of sexualities, both in and out of the academy (Pascar et al 2018). Safety alludes to freedom from abuse, violence, even death. It is 'obviously' political, in that institutions, organisations and groups at scales from local to national to global engage in policymaking and activism explicitly oriented around the production of safety for sexual minorities. Some scholars studying safe spaces have noted a frequent discursive pairing of 'safety' with 'comfort' (Held 2015; Hartal 2018). Comfort may seem less 'obviously' political than safety - few institutions would prioritise the production of 'comfortable spaces'. It may even be seen as reactionary or an expression of privilege. Yet as Held (2015) and Boulila (2015) have shown, comfort is a crucial way in which inclusion (and exclusion) for multiply-marginalised people is not just felt but is made to happen. Safety itself can often be understood as a feeling of inclusion and mutual acceptance (e.g Formby 2017:69-72; Roestone 2014:1352), so that for a space to be safe it might need to be a comfortable space (e.g. Hartal 2018).

This session invites scholars and researchers to explore a) the creation and b) the experience of 'comfortable spaces' relating to sexualities. 'Comfort' might relate to a variety of emotional, affective and physical responses including relaxation, being at ease, a lack of tension, cosiness, and more. 'Sexualities' is taken in the broadest sense, so that presentations might focus on LGBTQ+ communities, on heterosexualities, on fetish/kink practices, on asexualities and nonsexualities, and more.

Presentations of a variety of types are welcomed, beyond standard presented papers. Presentations may be in any language, but all (particularly those in English) should conform to the [multi-lingual communications guidelines](#) of the conference.

To submit an abstract of ~250 words, please send to n.mcglynn2@brighton.ac.uk before the deadline of March 29th.