

# RAINBOW LACES AND SAFE SPACES!

QUEER EYES ON ABSENCES, ERASURES  
AND DISTORTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

12  
FEBRUARY  
2020

Time:  
13:00-17:00  
Venue:  
FULTON 202

## Agenda.

US

UNIVERSITY  
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<https://adobeconnect.sussex.ac.uk/rainbow>

[www.SUSSEX.AC.UK/CHEER](http://www.SUSSEX.AC.UK/CHEER)

13:00 - 13:15

## Welcome Remarks



### LOUISE Morley

University of Sussex  
Professor of Higher Education  
Director of Centre for Higher Education and Equity Research - CHEER

This event seeks to answer the overarching questions: What do we know so far about queer in academy? What needs to change? It will include panel presentations by academics and social policy practitioners working on LGBTQIA+ inclusion issues and audience discussion, with a view to constructing a Manifesto for Change.

13:15 - 13:40

## Session 1: Researching Beyond Opposition



### KATH Browne

University College Dublin  
Professor, Geography

This presentation will explore key arguments by those who are opposed to sexual and gender equalities and base their activism on centralising heteronormativity (what we have termed heteroactivism). It will firstly show how heteroactivists push back against, and reconfigure accusations of bigotry, homophobia and transphobia. However, rather than seeking vilification or a methodology, perhaps a praxis, of condemnation, this talk will seek to provoke a discussion around engagement beyond opposition.

13:40 - 14:00

## QUESTIONS

14:00 - 14:25

## Session 2: The University Within: The already queer academy (denied)



### PAUL Boyce

University of Sussex  
Senior Lecturer in Anthropology and International Development

This presentation comprises speculative reflections on the experience of our work in universities as queer academics. Queer scholarship and praxis are explored as a kind of 'under-commons', a presence that might surface in some places but which functions otherwise also, as an 'academy within' – oft repudiated even as it takes shape. The presentation considers ways in which different epistemological perspectives may be employed to elucidate the multiplicity of queer experience in the university, including anthropological and 'queer monster' theories. We take up examples from our work in the UK and India, including reflections on the role of queer students in current citizenship activism in Kolkata and Delhi.

14:25 - 14:50

## QUESTIONS

14:50 - 15:00

## COFFEE BREAK

15:00 - 15:25



### SETH Atkins

University and College Union

### Session 3: Policy : Imagining Inclusivity - Exacting Exclusivity

An overview of union action including the trans position statement, focused on the need to expand action for trans and non-binary representation and inclusion.



### TRUDE Sundberg

University of Kent

Lecturer in Social Policy, Director of MA International Social Policy

15:25 - 15:50

### QUESTIONS



15:50 - 16:15

### Session 4: Allying with the university: challenges and prospects?



### SEAN Higgins

University of Sussex

Lecturer in Education

The aim of this panel discussion is to showcase perspectives from academic staff and students on the role of university as LGBTQIA+ ally. The discussion will tackle the over-arching question; what can universities do to foster 'safer' spaces for academic staff and students?



### YASSER Kosbar

University of Sussex

Doctoral Researcher  
Research Fellow at Centre for Higher Education and Equity Research - CHEER

16:15 - 16:30

### QUESTIONS



16:30 - 17:00

### Concluding Remarks and Confirming the Manifesto for Change



### SALLY Munt

University of Sussex

Professor of Cultural/Gender Studies (Media and Film, Sussex Centre for Migration Research; Sussex Centre for Cultural Studies)