

RLI Evaluation Report – ‘Critical Perspectives on the Transgender Tipping Point’, April 13th 2016 in the Moot room, Freeman Building

██████████, PhD Gender Studies

This was an afternoon panel event in which the topic of the Transgender Tipping Point, a media myth that the recent visibility of trans people in popular media means that we have reached ‘the tipping point’ at which are oppressions are supposedly diminishing, was discussed. Originally we planned for 4 panellists and 1 chairperson, but on the day 2 speakers had to drop out. Luckily, experienced facilitator ██████████ stepped in to chair and ██████████ and ██████████ had a lively and thoughtful discussion. After a short break the floor was opened to audience questions which ██████████ put to the panel.

The event was well attended with 55 people in attendance from both within the university and outside. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with attendees enjoying not only the stimulating conversation but also the welcoming and inclusive atmosphere which was helped greatly by ██████████’s fantastic chairing abilities. The chair and panel all reported feeling the event had gone very well as did my fellow organiser ██████████. Attendees left feedback in the Facebook event page saying how good it had been and that they could have talked for far longer and I also received several emails to thank us for putting the event on. Two undergraduate students got in touch who were interested in writing module essays on the subject stating that it had given them a fresh perspective and had been very helpful.

When 2 of our speakers had to drop out I was very worried that the event would be ruined but I have learned that these things do happen in the course of event planning and that you have to think quickly to make sure that you work well with the circumstances you have on the day. I have learned that communicating with a large number of people can be difficult to manage over email and I think I would try to have more telephone and face-to-face contact in the future as it seems like it would be more efficient.

Our expenditure was less than expected due to having less speakers to pay. The expenditure is as follows:

Speakers fee @£100 x 3 = £300

Travel expenses for the 3 speakers: £17.90 + £17.70 + £16.10 = £51.70

Tea/coffee/biscuits for 50 = £110

Total expenditure = £461.70