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Psychology of Women and Equalities Section

Annual Conference

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Contents

Keynote Speakers

Professor Katherine Johnson

RMIT University, Australia

Gender diversity and bilious feminism: in search of hopeful politics for gender equality

In this lecture I draw attention (again) to the problems of polarisation and conceptual and political impasse that can be widely observed in many 'debates' about contemporary gender in times of heightened uncertainty. I will critically review certain conceptual interventions offered by feminists for ethical ways of relating such as the call to the reparative, to love, to care, as well as examining the possibilities and limitations of an energised 'bilious feminism'. I will address these tensions in relation to trans lives, particularly the vexed question of 'woman', despite the increased difficulty in stepping into this discussion in the current UK political landscape. I will also attempt to say something about other geopolitical interventions for promoting gender equality and empowerment of women on the global stage, asking what a politics of hope that includes broader understandings of gender diversity might look like.

Denise McKenna & Sally Zlotowitz

Activist from the Mental Health Resistance Network & Disabled People Against the Cuts. Clinical & Community Psychologist, Co-founder Psychologists for Social Change and Chair of the BPS Community Psychology section.

'Equality is the best therapy' - two activists speak about their experience of campaigning on mental health as a social justice issue

Denise McKenna and Sally Zlotowitz will share their experiences of activism - from feminism in the 70s through to austerity, class privilege and young people's mental health now. Sally will describe the beginnings and activities of 'Psychologists Against Austerity', now campaigning under the banner of 'Psychologists for Social Change'. Denise will share some of her experiences campaigning as a working class woman with the survivor activist group 'Mental Health Resistance Network'. This will include recent struggles against universal credit and welfare reform and future plans to resist the NHS Long Term Plan that states 'work is a health outcome' and embeds the neoliberal agenda of 'getting people into work'

within the NHS system. Sally and Denise will also talk about how their groups are trying to stand in solidarity with each other to build an effective social justice movement within mental health.

Professor Marcia Worrell

University of West London

Children of the Windrush Generation: Music, Sitcoms, History, Cultural Practices and Belonging

In this keynote address I will use a series of personal reflections to provide a launch-pad for a broader theoretical, situated and intersectional analysis of moments associated with the advent of invited immigration practices heralded by the post war re-building of Britain. Currently there has been much attention and scrutiny brought to bear on the profound injustices meted out to people from the commonwealth who were invited to reside and work in Britain in its time of need. While this essential project was being carried out, a number of complex interactions involving gender, racism, sexism and classism were being played out and negotiated in sometimes highly visible but also often in less visible ways. In this presentation, and speaking from the perspective of a child of the Windrush generation growing up in the 1970s and 80s, I will sample from across a range of these moments to examine aspects of unity, tensions and cross-overs taking place at the time. This will draw on musical genres (e.g. SKA, two-tone, reggae and lovers rock), sitcoms and dramas (for example Love Thy Neighbour and Roots) as well as manifold constructions of belonging and identity, which I will argue led to the formation of a set of semi-porous as well as non-permeable boundaries around notions of gender, equalities, sexualities, class, and communities. Participants are advised that active participation will be encouraged!

Prize Winners 2019

POWES Undergraduate Prize Winner 2019

'Feminazis': A Feminist Poststructuralist Discourse Analysis into the Mainstream Media's Representations of Feminist Activism

Danielle Brannan

POWES and Feminism & Psychology Postgraduate Prize Winner 2019

Governing pregnancy in the Global South: An analysis of techniques to reduce maternal mortality in the South African public health system

Ulandi du Plessis

Oral Presentations

The Navratilova Effect: How media hostility to elite trans athletes impacts on everyday sport and recreation for trans people

Abby Barras, University of Brighton

The spaces and places where sport exists are often full of gendered expectations, making them complex, hostile and hard to negotiate for those who do not conform to heteronormative stereotypes. In addition, the increasing and continuing hostile discourses and attitudes in the media towards the inclusion of transgender athletes at elite level is having a negative material impact on the experiences of those individuals participating in everyday sport and exercise. This means that for many trans people there is a genuine fear and hesitation about participating in sport because of concerns about being challenged, welcomed or accepted in these spaces due to such media hostility. Trans people often face barriers to participation in sport compared to the cis-gender population, and these discourses are impacting negatively on their participation. My research focuses on the participatory experiences of trans and non-binary people in everyday sport and exercise in the UK, in order to identity potential barriers. It is a qualitative study which uses a theoretically informed thematic analysis, and draws upon feminist standpoint and queer theory. It is informed by sports sociology, gender studies and sociological discussions about the body, hegemonic masculinity and heteronormativity. I will be discussing my early findings from data gathered from 18 in-depth interviews with trans and non-binary people. I highlight why current debates about everyday participation for trans people needs to be carefully and sympathetically addressed, and advocate that quality, in-depth research is crucial if a better understanding of trans people's experiences is to be achieved.

Using participatory methods to evaluate a peri-natal mental health service in Scotland

Tanya Beetham, University of Stirling; Siân Lucas, University of Stirling

This presentation explores the findings of an evaluation of a peri-natal mental health service in Scotland. It focuses on the use of participatory methods with a study advisory group of women accessing the service. While all women are at risk of developing peri-natal mental health issues, those who experience poverty, migration, extreme stress, violence and lack social support are at greater risk of experiencing difficulties with their mental health. Recent

policy and guidance in Scotland suggests that the needs of women experiencing mental health difficulties in the peri-natal period should be addressed, but there exists a gap between policy and practice, which this project aims to address. We worked with a family centre in Scotland, who deliver a range of services to families. We established a study advisory group made up of women who had accessed the peri-natal mental health service, to work with us to design the research and evaluate the service. A mixed-methods approach was used, including interviews, focus groups and survey-based questionnaires. This presentation focuses on our work with a study advisory group, to develop the methods used, to collect data, and jointly analyse data gathered. Findings highlight the importance of community, relationships and trust for women who experience mental health difficulties in the peri-natal period. Conclusions point towards the value of participatory methods. We explore the opportunities and challenges of using participatory methods and suggest that a reflexive, community-oriented and flexible approach is useful.

The Fairer Sex: A decolonial feminist approach to ethnocentric constructions of sexuality

Natasha Bharj, University of Kansas

The framing of racial differences in sexuality research often follows asymmetric patterns whereby racial minorities are explained in terms of their difference from an implicitly white normative baseline. Black feminist and decolonial feminist theory has documented the ways that women of color are constructed as sexual 'Others' in order to uphold racial and colonial structures. The specific assemblage of economic, political, and historical relations that make up 'whiteness' are rendered as an unmarked, under-articulated category made synonymous with universal humanity. Among these processes, the whiteness of modern conceptions of womanhood is obscured. I will briefly historicize this process by reviewing feminist historical work on the construction of white women as the prototypical representation of femininity, as well as literature on the coloniality of gender discourse more broadly. I will then consider how social cognition models of prototypicality and social norms help unravel the narratives (and silences) surrounding white women's racialized gender. Using the case of reporting of racial differences in sexuality research, I argue that this synthesis of decolonial feminist theory and social cognitive approaches offers a framework with which to uncover and challenge ethnocentrism in our discipline.

Contemporary healthy eating as (gendered) retreat from the dangerous present: social media & the valorisation of an imagined past

Virginia Braun, The University of Auckland; Madhavi Manchi, The University of Auckland

Aims: this paper interrogates key tropes in Instagram 'healthy eating' posts, to examine the ontological work they do related to eating, health, gender and the present/past.

Context: Eating is a complex "individual" practice, deeply socially located and influenced. The idea(l) of healthy eating is not a new concept – indeed, is a key public health concern - but in recent times has become particularised and intensified in "wellness" diets, which promote health optimisation through what and how we consume. They evoke a perfectly in control and health-optimising neoliberal subject. Such diets are often articulated and promoted via social media, such as Instagram, which offer rich sites to explore the ontological, identity and other work related to 'healthy eating'.

Methods: As part of a larger project on contemporary "healthy eating", we collected all Instagram posts (images and comments) by 30 selected popular "healthy eating" users over a one-month period. Analysis consisted of constructionist thematic approach, looking primarily at text, but also at images.

Results/discussion: Our analysis here focuses on how the very nature of food and eating is 'up for grabs' in these posts, which pit the imperfect and dangerous present against an (imagined) perfect past. Ultimate health is framed as both ideal, under threat, and achievable. The hidden gendered politics of representational tropes around a perfect past and responsible, healthy eating, will be explored in relation to privilege and possibility.

Fetal Technogendering: A Genealogy of Fetal Sexing and Gendering Practices During Pregnancy in the US

Emily Breitkopf, The New School for Social Research

This paper presents a Foucauldian study on practices of fetal sexing and gendering during pregnancy, a practice termed by the presenter as "fetal technogendering". Fetal technogendering is the contemporary practice of locating gender assignment in the fetus through technological interfaces in order to construct it as a legible potential cisgender person. Today fetal sex determination (FSD) is a central aspect of obstetric care that is not usually deemed medically necessary but still carried out in the context of an examination room. Over the past decade in the US, FSD has followed the neoliberal shifts in healthcare from patients to consumers, producing an entire market around gender reveal parties and

gender reveal ultrasounds so that pregnant subjects can engage in FSD from the comfort of their homes. The paper looks at these shifts from both a sociological and psychological perspective, drawing from two aspects of a larger dissertation study. Firstly, as a framing, the paper explores a genealogy of fetal sex assignment in the US, connecting its lineages with post-WWII capitalism and the rise of gender as a biopolitical apparatus within the psy-disciplines and medicine. Secondly, the paper presents an analysis of qualitative interviews with twenty US-based pregnant subjects of a variety of genders to explore fetal sexing as a technology of the self and illuminate how this part of the biopolitical apparatus of gender plays out in the context of reproduction. Throughout, the text highlights the role of fetal technogendering in the governance of racial, bodily, and cis norms.

'There is no one way to be a woman': the Red Tent online and the issue of biological essentialism

Madeleine Castro, Leeds Beckett University

Women's circles are currently on the increase, particularly in the West (see for instance, Leidenfrost, 2012 and Longman, 2018). These are spaces where women gather, once a month to be with and support each other, share life experiences and maybe celebrate the divine feminine (Leidenfrost, 2012; Longman, 2018; Starkweather, 2011). One set of circles is The Red Tent (RT) Movement, which also emphasizes the normalization (celebration) of menstruation and body-positivity in honouring womanhood. However, the RT has been criticised for its focus on menstruation and for its perpetuation of the biologically essentialist 'nature' of woman (e.g. Ure, 2016). This paper employs a discursive psychological approach (Edwards & Potter, 1992) to review some of the substance of these difficulties from one online blog (as part of research into the RT online – which aims to understand how the movement represents and communicates itself).Contemporary gender theory upholds that gender is something we do rather than something we are: an anti-essentialist position (e.g. Butler, 1990; De Beauvoir, 1949). However, Rountree (1999) argues that the essentialism debate is an oversimplified hierarchical binary with problematic essentialism at one end and morally superior anti-essentialism at the other. This paper tentatively explores whether it is possible to navigate a nuanced position through these tricky debates, establishing a place for the embodied experiences of all women without divisions. Ultimately I ask if there is room for the reclamation of menstruation and cis bodies and the acceptance of all experiences of womanhood (e.g. trans, cis, intersexed).

Queer and gender diverse young people's adoption of and resistance to the medical model in talking about psychological distress

Lucy Cowie, University of Auckland; Virginia Braun, University of Auckland

Aims: This paper examines how the medical model is utilised and resisted by queer and gender diverse young people when talking about psychological distress.

Context: It is well accepted that queer and gender diverse young people experience increased psychological distress at a population level. Research tends to argue that these disparities exist as queer and gender diverse young people continue to experience marginalisation in society. At the same time, the medical model holds great social power in explaining "mental health" difficulties at an individual level. As such, queer and gender diverse young people have two powerful accounts for what causes psychological distress available to them.

Methods: We interviewed 20 16-18-year-olds who identify as queer or gender diverse. Analysis consisted of a constructionist thematic approach.

Results/ Discussion: Our analysis focuses on the ways that queer and gender diverse young people negotiate different accounts for psychological distress, such as when they rely on the medical model to explain distress, and when they apply more psycho-social accounts.

Unpacking institutional expectations of diversity and inclusion in the psychology curriculum

Charlotte Dann, University of Northampton; Rhiannon Johnston, University of Northampton; Katy Demeter, University of Northampton

Aims: This paper aims to navigate higher education student and academic staff understandings of diversity within the curriculum (in Psychology, but also more broadly), in relation to institutional expectations. This is considered through a feminist lens, using seminal feminist work to unpack these issues.

Design: The project, funded by the University of Northampton Institute for Learning and Teaching Fund, used qualitative research methods to explore themes that are produced from academic staff and student interviews.

Methods: Semi-structured interviews with 10 undergraduate students and 10 academic staff members address questions relating to their thoughts and experiences of diversity and

inclusion within the curriculum, across the University, with some issues specific to Psychology.

Results: Through the use of thematic analysis, three central themes were produced – (1) students 'learning to unlearn', with reflections on the curriculum as a whole; (2) pushing forward and pushing back, exploring how we progress with addressing diversity, and (3) academic staff need for thinking space to explore these issues.

Conclusions: Making sense of diversity and inclusion in the curriculum is a complex area, with the current project highlighting competing narratives in sense-making of these issues from the perspectives of academic staff, students, and the institution. Given the focus that higher education is giving to diversity and inclusion, we need to reflect on how these competing narratives have an impact on the future of the psychology curriculum.

'thinking of you': Relational constructions of children and their (lost) mothers in social media posts on Mother's Day

Charlotte Dann, University of Northampton; Lisa Lazard, The Open University; Abigail Locke, University of Bradford; Sandra Roper, University of Bedfordshire; Rose Capdevila, The Open University

Drawing on work we presented last year on the construction of motherhood in social media posts, this paper looks to explore in more detail postings that relate to loss of mothers, specifically on Mother's Day. Discourses suggest that mothers need to be self-sacrificial and child-centred. Such posts also function as a display of 'good mothering' as mothers 'show off' their children as a marker of success. In this paper, we discuss Mother's Day posts with a focus on constructions of motherhood in the explicit celebration of these women and their roles. We collected data for the 31st of March and 12th of May 2019 in line with the UK date and most frequent date globally (including North America and most of Europe). Data were collected from Twitter and Instagram, using the tags #mothersday, #mothersday2019, and #happymothersday. Content relating to missing and lost mothers was analysed to identify discourses produced. We discuss the data with a focus on constructions of good mothering practices, and the explicit celebration of their lives and roles as a mother. Results provide insight into the influence of the mother and how this is celebrated in online social media spaces.

Mad mothering: learning from the intersections of madness, mothering, gender and disability

Patty Dougals, Brandon University, CA; Katherine Runswick-Cole, The University of Sheffield; Sara Ryan, The University of Oxford; Penny Fogg, The University of Sheffield

This paper brings together the fields of Mad Studies (LeFrancois et al., 2013), Matricentric Feminism (O'Reilly, 2013) and Critical Disability Studies (Goodley, 2013). In doing so, our aim is to help us expose and challenge 'regimes of ruling' (Smith, 2005, p. 79) that both produce and discipline 'mad mothers of disabled children'. First, we begin our analysis by exploring the un/commonalities of the emerging histories of Mad Studies, Matricentric Feminism and Critical Disability Studies. Second, we identify analytical points of intersection between the three disciplines including: critiques of neoliberalism; questions of the 'norm'; the personal as political; post-colonial thinking; queer theory; the possibilities of affect and activism. Third, we turn to points of divergence and possible tensions between these theoretical approaches as we explore: the absence of mothering in Mad Studies; the absence of disability and the sanism implicit in Matricentric Feminism; the contested place of mothering in Critical Disability Studies. Finally, we consider what can be learned from an intersectional critique of 'good mental health' and 'good mothering' and how this theorization might inform social justice work.

Femininity, subjectivity and beauty practices

María-Alejandra Energici, Universidad Alberto Hurtado

The aim of this presentation is to reflect on beauty actions as subjectifying practices in the Chilean context. The actions undertaken to produce a feminine body have received scant attention in Latin American research. Few studies have examined how this beauty is prescribed and what its political effects are. In this presentation I want to think about these practices not only as disciplinary, but as having an important role in producing a feminine subject.Based on an intensive analysis of 16 print media outlets, advertisements, magazine articles, and television shows, I propose that beauty actions prescribe a type of subjectivation work. We analyzed the images with a new materialisms approach. Inspired in the notion of arts of existence advanced by Michel Foucault, I propose that the prescription of beauty practices involve an ideal body, actions to accomplish this ideal and also a certain aesthetic for these actions. For example, the ideal body, must be thin, which must be obtained by exercising and food monitoring. And these actions must be done in an aesthetic as something that is done effortless, spontaneous and fun. As an effect, the beauty practices

to produce a feminine and thin body should not be experienced as disciplinary or laborious. Analyzing beauty practices not only as disciplinary and moral actions, but also considering that they should be accomplished in a certain fashion, with a certain aesthetics, can allow us to think the preponderant role they have in producing a feminine body and, more importantly, a feminine subject

Unwanted and/or nonconsensual experiences of heterosexual anal sex: preliminary findings

Maria Joao Faustino, University of Auckland

Empirical research suggests an increasing prevalence of heterosexual anal intercourse in recent years, concomitant with the upsurge of representations of anal sex in popular culture and the normalization of anal sex in mainstream pornography. This cultural shift regarding anal sex opens new questions concerning gendered norms and power dynamics. Despite the heterogeneity of the motivations and experiences reported in qualitative studies of heterosexual anal sex, different studies have consistently pointed to gendered patterns of coercion and women's acquiescence to unwanted anal intercourse. In this paper I present initial findings from an ongoing interview-based study conducted in Auckland, Aotearoa/New Zealand about unwanted and/or nonconsensual experiences of heterosexual anal sex. This formulation intended to capture a broad spectrum of different possibilities, including deception, pressure from a partner, physical force, intimidation, threat. This project does not assume that all heterosexual anal sex involves, or is a reflection of, gendered coercion; rather, this project specifically seeks to understand the way coercive dynamics operate when they are at play in heterosexual anal interaction. The recruitment process was intentionally gender-neutral, and so far, 4 men and 15 women have participated. The analysis is rooted in a feminist discourse analysis, looking at discursive patterns around gender and power. The narratives consistently point to the framing of anal sex as an emerging norm in heterosex and to complex dynamics of coercion and consent. These dynamics both replicate and (less commonly) transgress traditional heteronormative patterns of power and agency.

Undoing the 'myth of masculinity' – a new emphasis for sexual violence prevention

Nicola Gavey, School of Psychology, University of Auckland

Drawing on Bergoffen's notion of the 'myth of masculinity', I argue that the dominant Western cultural fantasy of men's invulnerability is a key element of the cultural scaffolding

of rape. While there has been a wider 'turn to men' in gender-based violence prevention, this notion of the myth of masculinity invites some radical rethinking of how we might approach it. Built into this notion of a myth (albeit a constitutive myth), is the idea that there is, theoretically at least, a gap between the cultural fantasy of what it means to be a man and individual men's and boys' attachment to it as human beings. Approaching prevention from this starting point would mean attempting to expose and enlarge that gap and create more breathing space for men to loosen their attachment to the cultural fantasy of what a man should be.I then introduce two collaborative projects designed to address men and boys in ways that open small spaces for starting to undo the myth of masculinity. Key to both projects is, paradoxically it might seem, an invitation to men and boys to recognize themselves as gendered human subjects. In one project we created short videos that demonstrate men talking in ways that show they are not automatically invested in the myth of masculinity. In another project, we ran workshops with over 50 secondary school boys that invited them to begin to see, reflect on and question the constraints of normative masculinity. Both projects show promising potential for facilitating change.

"Even though you know it's just the way they are, ya still devastated": Negotiating mothers' responsibility for children's bodies

Sarah Gillborn, Leeds Beckett University; Bridgette Rickett, Leeds Beckett University; Tom Muskett, Leeds Beckett University; Maxine Woolhouse, Leeds Beckett University

The 'war on obesity' shows no signs of slowing, and many interventions operate at the level of parents in order to bring about change. Mothers, in particular those who are working-class and women of colour, are targeted for research into the 'causes of obesity' and for preventions aimed at making fat children thinner. The National Child Measurement Programme is a government programme in England that annually measures the body mass index of children aged 4-5 and 10-11 in order to identify 'at risk' children and send results and advice to parents. This study involved interviewing mothers of children who had been measured through the programme. Interviews were analysed using feminist relational discourse analysis which aims crucially to centre women's voices in relation to discourses. We aimed to explore the discourses women drew upon in their sense-making and to understand how they are affected by these discourses. Many of the women expressed guilt at the thought that they had damaged their children, framing fatness as personal failure. This contrasts with constructions of fatness as body diversity, with mothers feeling unfairly called upon due to their children having failed to comply with a rigid and unrealistic standard. The women also interrogated the state's failure to take responsibility. The findings hold

implications for 'obesity' interventions that implicate mothers as responsible for their children's pathologised bodies, and offer hope in the presence of resistance to harmful mainstream discourses about fatness and responsibility.

Karen Horney at the New School: 1935-1951

Katrina Hacker, New School for Social Research

From the time of her arrival in New York City in 1935 until shortly before her death in 1952, psychoanalyst Karen Horney was a member of the psychology faculty at the New School for Social Research. This paper uses the New School's archived collection of course catalogs to trace the trajectory of Horney's teaching career and argues that teaching at the school, to borrow a term from attachment theory, provided Horney with a "secure base" to develop her ideas at a time when her other relationships—personal and professional—were in flux. The mission of the university to "advanc[e] the education of both the scholar and the layman" put Horney at the lectern in front of two distinct audiences: future psychoanalysts and atypical adult undergraduate students, many of whom were women. As "The University in Exile," a haven for refugee scholars, the New School also paired Horney as co-professor with anthropologists, sociologists, and psychologists from the behaviorist and Gestalt traditions. The more than 15 different courses that Horney led served as laboratories for her writing; all five of her books, published between 1937 and 1950, developed from her lectures on topics ranging from the role of culture in anxiety and personality, to self-analysis, moral values, and the "problems of everyday life," to the literary works of Henrik Ibsen and Gustave Flaubert. This paper considers Horney's contributions to cultural, interpersonal, humanistic, and feminist thinking in psychology in the context of her unique teaching environment.

Speaking Pictures, Silent Voices: Female Athletes and the Struggle for Selfhood

Hannah Intezar, University of Bradford

'A picture is worth ten thousand words', so denotes an old Chinese proverb. What happens, however, if there are multiple contradictory reactions towards said picture? What potential impact, moreover, does the discrepancy in our, the viewers', responses to the visual representation of a given subject, have on the selfhood and identity of the physical subject? By combining Mikhail Bakhtin's (1990) theoretical position on Architectonics and Erving Goffman's writings on visual content analysis the aim of this paper is to explore how female athletes are caught in a complex matrix of power, post-feminist materialism and self-

presentation. In contrast to their popular culture counterparts, female athletes walk an interesting tightrope, between embracing their strong powerful athletic bodies and displaying cultural ideals of beauty and body shape. The visual images they chose to portray are, therefore, perfect for determining how this particular cohort of women negotiates social discourses around female athletes, femininity and sexuality. It also argues that audiences have fashioned cultural spaces which, simultaneously, romanticise and ostracise powerful aesthetic imagery of the female form. Appropriating the Bakhtin notion of architectonic unity, not only provides an alternative theoretical lens for enquiries concerning the body, identity and selfhood, but also initiates some thought provoking questions around neoliberal feminism and 'new femininity' (Toffoletti and Thorpe, 2018: 28; Crofts and Coffey, 2016; Gill, 2016); questions that are becoming progressively important because of the increasing use of unregulated visual media platforms by younger users.

Constructions of young people in sexual consent campaigns: A Foucauldian discourse analysis

Saskia Jones, Leeds Beckett University; Kate Milnes, Leeds Beckett University; Tamara Turner-Moore, Leeds Beckett University

In this paper, I will explore the wider social messages available to young people to draw upon in order to inform their understandings of sexual consent.

Background: The data in this paper is drawn from research conducted as part of my PhD. Focus groups with young people (13-18) in an earlier study identified campaigns as a source of information used to help them to understand sexual consent, for this reason, sexual consent campaigns were chosen as the data source for this discourse analysis.

Method: In this research, eight sexual consent campaigns were analysed using Foucauldian Discourse Analysis to understand the dominant discursive messages conveyed in the campaigns.

Conclusions: The findings reveal that within sexual consent campaigns, young people and their relationships are constructed in very limited and problematic ways. The campaigns position girls as vulnerable gatekeepers and boys as aggressive initiators, young people as naïve and immature and their sexual relationships as inherently risky. I will discuss these discursive messages in more depth and consider the implications of these with particular emphasis on the restrictive subjectivities available to young people as a result.

The impact of changing policy and static legislation on the policing of prostitution in Scotland.

Laura Jones, University of Dundee

Aims: This paper reflects on tensions between legislation and policy, governing the policing of prostitution in Scotland. Using a gender-based violence framework it highlights the negative impact unclear and contradictory governance has on women involved in prostitution.

Background: Under Scotland's Equally Safe strategy, prostitution is considered a form of Violence against Women. In line with this, Police Scotland policy is that those involved in prostitution should be offered support, and officer focus should be on disrupting those who profit from exploitation.Whilst Police Scotland policy has been updated, related legislation has remained static. Prostituting is legal in Scotland, but those involved are likely to commit peripheral offences such as soliciting, brothel-keeping or anti-social behaviour offences. This paper explores this tension between the policy aim of supporting victims and the legislative power to arrest, and the resultant heightened power imbalance.

Methods: Semi-structured interviews with fifteen Police Scotland officers explored how they see their role in policing prostitution, and whether legislation facilitates or inhibits them in this. A thematic analysis was conducted, drawing on the principles of feminist and grounded theory.

Conclusions: Current policy and legislation leaves officers unclear on their role and many avoid engaging with prostitution altogether. The resulting inconsistent application of policy is a significant barrier to meaningful engagement, and prevents women accessing the support they are entitled to.Suggested improvements include additional training and wider re-education within Police Scotland, and a team tasked with meaningfully applying the policy. Follow-up research is underway with prostituted women at the centre.

Attitude towards honor killings, religious commitment and patriarchal beliefs in young Muslim adults.

Ruhi Khalid, Beaconhouse National University; Farhat Nadeem, Beaconhouse National University

It is observed that honor killing is a scourge of Muslim and patriarchal societies, often perpetrated by young adults, inspite of the fact that Islam condemns homicide. This study investigates the role of religious commitment and patriarchal beliefs in relation to attitudes

towards honor killings in young Muslim adults. It was hypothesized that: 1. There is a positive relationship between attitudes towards honor killings and patriarchal beliefs. 2. There is a negative relationship between attitudes towards honor killings and religious commitment. 3. There are gender differences in attitudes towards honor killings, religious commitments and patriarchal beliefs. The sample consisted of 440 young adults equally divided for gender, enrolled in an undergraduate degree in a public university. The participants completed Attitudes Towards Honor Killing Scale; Religious Commitment Inventory and Patriarchal Beliefs Scale. The correlational analysis showed that there is a significant negative relationship between religious commitment and attitudes towards honor killings and a significant positive relationship between patriarchal beliefs and attitudes towards honor killings. Significant gender differences were observed for patriarchal beliefs and attitudes towards honor killings. However, no gender differences were observed for religious commitment. The results are based on a sample of educated segment of the population; still these results shatter the myth that religious beliefs are associated with honor killings and highlight the role of patriarchal beliefs in honor killings. In view of these results, it is imperative to educate the general public and the policymakers so that they can focus on patriarchal beliefs that promote honor killings.

Policy Versus Reality: Service Providers' Understanding of Immigrant Women Victims of Violence

Jón Kjaran, University of Iceland; Randi Stebbins, University of Iceland

The #metoo movement in Iceland included academics, politicians, artists, actresses, tech workers, and many others. Immigrant women also stepped forward with stories of intimate partner violence (IPV) and employment-based violence (EBV). The stories, published in Kjarninn (an online newspaper in Iceland) with an open letter demanding change, also tell of a sometimes callous lack of understanding on the part of Icelandic society and institutions, including the police, child and family services, and counseling services. The very systems that are meant to support women in times of crisis do not seem capable of responding to the intersectional needs of immigrant women. Instead of receiving help, the women shared stories of being turned away, misinformed, or mocked by various Icelandic social services. In order to better understand this lack of institutional sensitivity, a wide range of public and private service providers and first responders have been contacted regarding their policies on responding to and supporting immigrant victims of IPV and EBV. In this pilot research, any responses will be analyzed using discourse analysis to dig deeper into how institutions understand their roles and responsibilities regarding this unique population. These will be

compared with the narratives from the victims. This is the start of a longer research project, so the results presented will be provisional but are an important step in covering this otherwise neglected topic in Iceland.

Trying to be everything to everyone: The challenges of responding to sexual bullying and sexual harassment within schools

Kate Milnes, Leeds Beckett University; Erika Laredo, Leeds Beckett University; Jon Tan, Leeds Beckett University; Tamara Turner-Moore, Leeds Beckett University

In the context of austerity politics and with huge cuts to spending on youth services over the last decade, schools have increasingly been positioned as the site in which society's responsibilities toward young people should be enacted. School staff are therefore increasingly charged, not only with the education of young people, but also with their personal development and their safety.The 2016 Women and Equalities Committee inquiry into sexual harassment and sexual violence in schools identified tackling these issues as an 'immediate policy priority'. In this paper we will draw upon data from focus groups and interviews with young people and school staff to explore the issues and challenges of addressing sexual bullying and harassment in schools. More specifically, we will argue that the extent to which young people feel able to disclose their experiences of sexual bullying and harassment to school staff and the range of options available to school staff in preventing and responding to disclosures are often severely constrained by the simultaneous positioning of school staff within a range of arguably contradictory roles or identities including moral guardian, disciplinarian, educator, proxy-parent and protector.The paper will draw upon data collected as part of two studies (a large-scale EU Daphne-funded study of sexual bullying among young people across five European countries - the ASBAE project - and a smaller-scale study exploring the barriers to talking about sexual topics and reporting sexual bullying in schools in the North of England - the F-COSTE project) and analysed using thematic analysis.

The psychological and emotional impact on therapists working with Female Genital Mutilation survivors

Dr Farah Nadeem, Roehampton University/NHS/WE ARE HUMAN COUNSELLING LTD

Introduction: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) "FGM is the deliberate mutilation of female genitalia". This is often the removal or cutting of the labia and clitoris. Aim: The proposed

research will explore the experiences of therapists who have worked therapeutically with adult women who have undergone FGM in childhood.

Method: Interpretative phenomenological analysis was conducted. Involving the analysis of seven semi-structured interviews of psychological therapists.

Results: Four superordinate themes (with associated sub-themes) were identified: 1) The psychological impact of working with FGM clients (vicarious traumatisation; parallels with clients' helplessness; identity vs. loss of self; positive growth). 2) The emotional impact of working with FGM (feelings of guilt, sadness and anger). 3) Cultural dynamics in work with FGM clients (cultural embeddedness of the act; language barriers; child abuse vs. context of the act). 4) Therapeutic implications regarding work with FGM survivors (need for supervision; personal therapy; good vs. bad supervision). The findings demonstrated an approach to understanding the clinical ways therapists work with FGM survivors.

Conclusion: This research explicated the significance of understanding the consequences of working with FGM clients, particularly the application to counselling psychology regarding trauma work. These findings demonstrated an understanding of the cultural relativist view to the work, the experience with trauma work was deemed important aspect for therapists to reflect on and the elements essential regarding the trauma of FGM. In addition, the implications of working with FGM clients led to the inference that self-care, in terms of the right clinical supervision, was essential in therapists' meaning-making.

Joining the Dots: Men's (Ab)use of Systems of Justice in the War Against Women

Jo Neale, University of Bedfordshire

This paper pulls together some recent high-profile cases and examples from my own research, on men's increasing (ab)use of the UK's criminal, civil and family courts. Drawing on press coverage of the use of non-disclosure agreements and defamation/libel laws, I illustrate the ways in which some wealthy and powerful men with a history of violence against women use our justice systems to silence the voices of, and continue their control of, their victims. I then discuss this theme in relation to my feminist poststructuralist study of heterosexual women's experiences of domestic violence and abuse.My data are taken from narrative-style interviews with fourteen women who had been in relationships with abusive men. Once women had made the decision to leave the relationship, their partners made frivolous applications for child residency, frequent challenges to court orders and false reports to agencies. I argue that these post-separation behaviours, which involve manipulation of justice, child contact and child protection systems, represent continuing

attempts to control women. They are designed to force women to return to the relationship and/or to punish them for leaving.In the absence of discourses with which to construct such behaviours as manipulation borne of a sense of male entitlement, they are seen as rational responses to a perceived reputational attack and/or a fight to maintain relationships with children. However, if we think in terms of a 'backlash' against women's struggle to hold men accountable for, and live free from, male abuse, a very different picture comes into focus.

Pathways and Penalties – Exploring the Intersectional Experiences of Agency among Incarcerated Women in South Africa

Bianca Parry

Globally there has been a rise in the population of incarcerated women over recent decades. Yet, despite this increase, female offenders only represent about 5% of the total incarcerated population. South Africa is no different – female offenders on average total less than 3% of the incarcerated population in South Africa, one of the ten largest correctional systems in the world. This small representation of women in the correctional system often leads to the interpretation that their pathways to offending and experiences of incarceration are the same as those of male offenders, delegitimising any role that gender may play in offending behaviour. By utilising a feminist pathways research approach, the unlawful actions of seventeen women incarcerated in the Johannesburg Female Correctional Centre are contextualised in this psychological study, to reveal conduits to women's incarceration that primarily involve victimisation and socially constructed gendered vulnerabilities that are indissolubly interconnected with poverty and oppression. As seen through their life history narratives, this confluence of factors, coupled with pathways of narrowing options, contribute to female offending. Ultimately the research allows for an intersectional understanding of the unique choices and challenges incarcerated women in South Africa face, and the role agency and patriarchy has played in their pathways taken.

Beauty turned beast? Men's constructions of 'arrogant' women and 'innocent' men in a #MeToo context

Chelsea Pickens, The University of Auckland; Virginia Braun, The University of Auckland

Purpose: To explore men's talk around the #MeToo movement and recent societal discussions about sexual violence.Background: Feminists have long theorised and challenged heterosexual gendered power relations. In the 2017 and 2018 (Western) context,

large numbers of celebrities/high-profile personalities were accused (and found guilty) of variations of sexual violence/sexually inappropriate behaviour. This allowed for widespread societal discussions about sexual violence as a common and culturally supported phenomenon, particularly against women, and debate over the '#MeToo' movement. What was seen as acceptable/unacceptable in hetero-relating was increasingly in the public spotlight.

Methods: I conducted 31 semi-structured interviews with single heterosexual men aged between 23-68 in Aotearoa/New Zealand, shortly after #MeToo gained public prominence. Interview questions included topics around masculinity, singleness and hetero-dating. #MeToo was spoken about unprompted, yet consistently, throughout the interviews. My analysis here explores men's constructions of women and men, from a critical discursive approach.

Findings & Conclusions: Three discursive themes or interpretive repertoires dominated men's talk around the #MeToo movement and sexual violence: 1) men as 'misunderstood' by women; 2) men as logical, women as 'going too far'; and 3) sexual violence as always questioned. I argue that these common ways of talking about sexual violence act to reinforce misogynist and harmful constructions about women/victims, by excusing men as simply relationally incompetent/unaware and positioning women as 'over-sensitive', 'dramatic', or even manipulative in their 'power' to accuse men. This analysis contributes to a growing body of research around 'new' contemporary masculinity, and gendered responses to, and constructions of, sexual violence.

Scientific sexism and shifting political landscapes: a brief genealogy of three pubescent girl figures

Pedro Pinto, Rhodes University

'Normal' pubertal development is one of the most successful technologies of power in the history of modern medicine, particularly where the gendered and sexual regulation of young people is concerned. Considering today's populist return of sexist rhetoric and increasing calls for regressive sexual politics worldwide, I argue that the scientific construction of puberty has left us important counter-knowledges which can be useful in feminist critiques of our present. Drawing on my recently published research, A Genealogy of Puberty Science, I illustrate my point by taking up three pubertal figures from the 1800s whose discursive legacies keep resurfacing in problematisations concerning child and adolescent health: the pubertal child monster, the precociously sexualised girl, and the developing girl 'in crisis'.

Firstly, looking into early clinical encounters with 'premature puberty', I show how it made room for a type of scientific sexism based on a perceived instinctual manifestation of gender roles in 'normal' child behaviour. Secondly, talking to some of the first statisticians of pubertal timing, I elaborate on their concerns over young women's education and employment: worse than factory work, it was suggested, early exposure to 'inappropriate' imageries was hastening female pubescence – the problematic currently known as 'the sexualisation of young girls' was born. Finally, I introduce the notion of pubertal 'crisis' as theorised around the mid-1800s, tracing its reformulation in gendered views of 'pubertal morbidity'. Towards the end of that century, such views lent scientific support to a patriarchal backlash against girls' schooling and co-education.

Becoming Social: Navigating "Fertility, Inc." in the Age of Social Media

Lisa Rubin, New School for Social Research; Margaux Genoff, New School for Social Research; Deniz Kocas, New School for Social Research; Samantha Klein, New School for Social Research; Shama Subramony, New School for Social Research

Despite growing awareness of benefits, and drawbacks, of internet resources for health-related matters, there are no in-depth studies of how individuals utilize social media in the context of IVF and preimplantation genetic screening (PGS). We explored how individuals engage social media to navigate psychological, medical, and financial aspects of infertility treatment in the U.S., a highly commercialized context dubbed Fertility, Inc. Eleven cisgender women and 4 cisgender men undergoing IVF and considering PGS participated in interviews, analyzed through thematic analysis. The internet, and particularly social media, were viewed as important resources for participants, especially women. Women (91%, vs. 25% of men) described broad involvement, including on-line support networks; Facebook groups; and following and/or creating podcasts, blogs, and Instagram accounts documenting their experience. Participants utilized social media resources primarily to: (1) Identify both informational "fact-based" resources and personal narratives to navigate unclear or evolving medical information (2) Exchange support with peers who "get it"; (3) Relieve the burden of individually sharing their infertility treatment status; and (4) De-stigmatize infertility through openness and visibility. Individuals with infertility are informed and interconnected through social media, using it to seek information, support and understanding from others who share their experience. Participants engaged in these platforms, while also expressing ambivalence, including concerns about gathering biased information, and privacy matters. Social media provides a forum for support, but also can increase the already highly

gendered labor involved in infertility treatment which, regardless of the source of infertility, is typically carried out by women.

The Scholar, The Cheat, Their Father & Their Lover – An analysis of women and power in the ITV 1 psychological thriller: Cheat.

Sergio A. Silverio, King's College London & University College London; Catherine Wilkinson, Liverpool John Moores University; Samantha Wilkinson, Manchester Metropolitan University

Purpose: The ITV 1 psychological thriller, Cheat, centred on two female characters: Dr. Leah Dale (a Sociology lecturer on a fixed-term contract) and Rose Vaughan (her student) at the fictional St. Helen's College. In undertaking this analysis, we considered the complexity of the relationships these female academic characters created and maintained, and the blurring of private, public, and professional lives.

Background: Higher education is rarely portrayed in film or television. Not since Educating Rita (1983) have female characters taken a central role in a British university-based drama. Female-female relationships have long been documented on screen, with the bonds they share with family, friends, and/or colleagues being central to plotlines. Across a four-episode primetime series which aired on consecutive evenings, Cheat meticulously documented the sudden intertwining of Leah and Rose's lives.

Methods: A grounded theory analysis of the dialogue across the entire series, was carried out. The characters' performances, dialogue, and interactions were analysed using each episode as a de facto transcript to understand the female characters' relationships with power. Three analysts agreed saturation on the analytical themes generated, which covered: the body as power, the academic institution, mind games and mental health, and the blurring of public and private lives.

Conclusion: This analysis unpacks female (academic) relationships and how their public and private lives become complicatedly and dangerously intertwined. We elucidate how power is constructed, used, and abused between the central female characters. It enables us to theorise about extant power struggles between both academic and female-female relationships in real-life.

Bordering processes for youth with non-binary genders - a feminist relational discourse analysis

Luke Ward, University of Northampton

The aim of this paper was to explore the forms of regulation that youth with non-binary gender identities experience. Non-binary gender identities are becoming more of a focus within the U.K., with reforms to legislation, such as the Gender Recognition Act (2004). This research will provide a critical perspective using feminist and queer theoretical frameworks to explore how normative frameworks of understanding are often used when considering gender and youth. This exploration will use border theory (Callis, 2014; Newman, 2003) as a way of considering identities outside of dominant cultural norms, such as non-binary genders. Border theory is also interested in how these identities develop cultural spaces whilst resisting the (cis and hetero)normative society in which they exist. An early analysis of participants who identified as non-binary, from ongoing recruitment, were interviewed individually. A Feminist Relational Discourse Analysis (FRDA) (Thompson et al., 2018) was used to capture both the personal aspects of gender regulation alongside the wider discourses of identity politics. Conclusions from the analysis highlight how youth navigate multiple forms of identity regulation in areas such as social, political and cultural. The FRDA captures the youth's attempts to be political and non-conforming within their gender identities alongside discourses of 'being' non-binary. Wider discourses from the data were around binary conceptualisations of genders and the inherent cisnormativity within everyday experiences. Applied implications from the data include informing services and institutions that work with youth about the cisnormative regulations that non-binary youth face.

Constructing & negotiating bromantic masculinity in modern reality television: Focusing the male gaze on Love Island's "male gays"

Catherine Wilkinson, Liverpool John Moores University; Sergio A. Silverio, King's College London & University College London; Samantha Wilkinson, Manchester Metropolitan University

Purpose: The fourth series of Love Island sparked controversy in 2018 regarding the heteronormativity of the relationships which are formed and go onto win the show. We undertook a textual analysis of the series to understand notions of gender performativity and explore how hegemonic and threatened masculinity were performed by the characters. In doing so, we considered how audiences reacted to both romantic and bromantic relationships throughout the series.

Background: With reality television becoming ever-more prominent in Western culture, the question of gender identity is once again surfacing, with many returning to a Butlerian view of gender performativity. Simultaneously, the media has assisted in softening hegemonic male heterosexuality, and emotionally intense, but non-sexual homosocial relationships ('bromances') are now more frequently depicted in film and television.

Methods: A textual analysis of the entire series, using a coding matrix based upon David and Brannon's four masculinities. The characters' performances and romantic interactions were methodologically lensed using Mulvey's 'Male Gaze' conceptualisation. We documented visual and verbatim verbal data, taking note of the time and episode number for each key moment. Each episode was treated as the unit of analysis and two analysts provided inter-rater reliability.

Conclusion: With this novel analysis we hope to elucidate how bromantic relationships are constructed by reality television characters and are received by viewing audiences. We also strive to challenge the coding of the term 'bromance' as anything other than 'straight' male behaviour, whilst contributing to a small, but growing literature-base on male love stories in film and television.

Symposia

<u>Masculinities and Shifting Political Landscapes</u>

Rosemary Lobban, University of Greenwich

This interdisciplinary symposium brings together a variety of work that is united in its focus on the theme of 'Masculinities and Shifting Political Landscapes'. To begin with, Glen Jankowski will critique current approaches to men's studies. Next, Alexia Wood will consider how men make sense of their mental health online in terms of gendered political themes. Rosemary Lobban and Sam Martin will then summarise key notions raised by social psychologists in a recent round table discussion concerned with accounting for support for right-wing populism amongst women and sexual minorities. Finally, Esther McIntosh will offer a fresh perspective, focussing on the often-overlooked role that religious patriarchy plays in populist political campaigns. All will contemplate the implications of their conclusions for wider feminist theory and activism. The audience will then be invited to engage in a general discussion of individual contributions, overlapping themes, and points of difference within the symposium, with the aim of reaching broader and deeper understanding of the issues raised.

(1) Reflecting on the Political Implications of Men's Research

Glen Jankowski, Leeds Beckett University

In this presentation, I will reflect upon my experience as a researcher situated in men's studies since 2011. I will explore the political implications of researching men, most notably crystallised to me by the ratification of The BPS' Male Psychology Section in 2018. This section focuses on a select group of men and largely depicts them as victims of various harms in particular to other's violence. This follows a wider trend including in psychology of men curriculums in the US and research in male body image. Masculinities research in general tends to be neoliberal with little theoretical framing. Specifically, feminist work on violence, socialisation and on masculinity, is rarely consulted despite its' significant relevance. Instead, researchers typically explore individual experiences of masculinity building support for the existence of nebulous 'masculinities'. The political implications of such work shall be discussed including the lack of any concrete actions that might genuinely help vulnerable men.

(2) Gays for Trump and #WomenWhoVoteTrump: Right-Wing Populism and Safe Identities?

Rosemary Lobban, University of Greenwich; Sam Martin, Anglia Ruskin University; Russell Luyt, University of Greenwich; Ashley Brooks, Anglia Ruskin University; Daragh McDermott, Anglia Ruskin University; Magdalena Zawisza, Anglia Ruskin University

Recent political events including the last US presidential campaign have polarised public opinion regarding support for exemplars of 'populist' masculinities, such as Donald Trump, and the seemingly non-egalitarian ideologies that they promote. One might anticipate that disempowered social groups, for instance women or sexual minorities, would reject 'right-wing populism' as it rarely appears to advocate their interests or facilitate their empowerment. Yet the existence of movements like 'Gays for Trump' and '#WomenWhoVoteTrump' indicate more complex patterns of support. How might we understand this from gender and/or sexualities perspectives? This paper summarises key points made during a round table discussion at the 'Political Masculinities and Populism' conference, Landau, Germany, in December 2017. Our contributors are members of a cross-institutional social psychological Gender and Sexualities Research Group. Each presented a five-minute interpretation of the phenomenon, drawing differentially upon social psychological theory. A chaired debate between contributors provided the basis for general discussion including the audience. The aim was to air different perspectives on the phenomenon in order to reach a broader and deeper understanding of it. For the purposes of this paper, thematic analysis was used to identify core themes emerging from panel contributions and subsequent discussion. An overarching theme of 'safe identities' emerged, comprising three subthemes: 'threatening identities', 'safety through the status quo' and 'safe academic identities'. These themes, described here with reference to selected extracts from the round table, are potentially helpful in understanding how the phenomenon surfaced. The implications of these themes for practice and theory are considered.

(3) Christian Patriarchy, Trump and Brexit

Esther McIntosh, York St. John University

In 2016, two unexpected election results shook the US and the UK: the successful presidential campaign of Donald Trump and the victory of leave campaigners in Britain. Media and political commentary on both events highlighted the anti-immigration rhetoric and the rise of populism: the kind of populism that seeks to mobilize the 'common' people against the privileged elites and those deemed to be unwanted outsiders. What was missing from the majority of pre- and post-election coverage was feminist analysis of the patriarchal nature of the campaigns and their impact on women, especially religious women. By drawing

on available reports of both election campaigns and views expressed by mainstream and fringe Christian leaders, this paper explores the underlying misogyny that led to large numbers of white evangelical women voting for President Trump, despite his openly sexist and racist behaviour, and against the growth of the hashtag #whitechurchquiet. Likewise, male voices in political and Christian circles dominated in the lead up to the UK's referendum on EU membership; yet, women are more likely to suffer from the impacts of post-Brexit austerity and the rise in religious hate crime. Hence, this paper considers the gendered implications of Christian-rhetoric in Britain and its impact on Muslim women, in particular.

Posters

From Academia to Parliament; from Research to Policy

Lois Donnelly, University of Worcester

Between March and June 2019, I paused my PhD on domestic abuse to be a BPS/POST Fellow. The three-month Fellowship, funded by the British Psychological Society, allows the recipient to work at the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST) – "Parliament's in-house source of independent, balanced and accessible analysis of public-policy issues related to science and technology". The aim of the Fellowship is to give PhD students experience of applying research in a practical and policy-based way, as well as learning how to present that research in a comprehensive impartial briefing that will be easy for MPs and Peers to read and understand. I chose to be seconded to the House of Lords Library in the Palace of Westminster, where I undertook research in response to enquiries from Peers, and wrote briefings on topical issues for them. This work was not necessarily on my home turf of social psychology – for instance, I dealt with an enquiry about the Countryside Act 1949, and wrote a briefing about World Intellectual Property Day. This poster gives an overview of the Fellowship, looking at the application process, the work I completed there, and the experiences I had. I will reflect on what I gained from the Fellowship, and the differences between work there and academic research. Lastly, I will outline some key points that may be important for academics attempting to engage Parliament or ensure that their research impacts policy.

Gender and mental health: A feminist embodied-artistic investigation

Fabienne Formosa, University of Roehampton

For my PhD I am performing interdisciplinary feminist research to investigate body politics in mental health. Drawing from Dance Movement Psychotherapy and dance movement improvisation practice, I understand gender as a confluence of biological, psychological and social processes. I am locating my research in mental health services working with psychosocial interventions and taking a feminist embodied methodological approach to understand mental health as a gendered reality with inherent power relations. I situate my research in a feminist theoretical framework for its potential to offer performative and intersectional and therefore, politically more complex ways, of finding creative and progressive ways forward that are not only reliant on pharmacological interventions, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and talking therapies. A feminist framework offers an

alternative to the Cartesian ontological framework structuring the hierarchies of objective and subjective binaries that dominate mental health discourses and practices today. I focus on gender and mental health to investigate the impact patriarchal and dominant binary discourses have on the embodied experience of the person. My hypothesis is that by starting to deconstruct the inherent power relations of mental health services and dominant binary understandings of gender and mental health, my research can serve to raise awareness about the body politics of gender and mental health. I further hypothesise that by deconstructing heteronormative values, that inevitably reinforce a debilitating relationship between gender and mental health, it may be possible to move toward co-creating (and implementing) more inclusive, heterogeneous, embodied and therefore more feminist approaches to mental health.

Engaging young women from a deprived area to explore their social identities

Melanie Haughton, Lancaster University

The primary objective of the paper is to explore how young women living in a deprived seaside town mediate social identities in light of multiple-deprivation and negative media impact relating to the town they live. As there are a number of issues which potentially affect young women's current social identity and perception of their future selves, a number of theories relating to social identity and identity development were drawn upon to explore their sense of self in relation to social groups, esteem, autonomy, and efficacy. The main concern was how to engage the young women in the research process as many potential participants felt disaffected. To overcome this, the method was chosen to ensure that they had a sense of autonomy and engagement in the research process. This included a systematic sampling approach. Also participants were given the opportunity to collect images relating to 'who they are' and 'who they may become'. Once these images were selected, participants were given materials to design posters based on these images. These posters will not only be analysed using content analysis but also used as the 'interview schedule' so that participants had autonomy over the direction and focus of the individual semi-structured interviews. Due to the complexity of themes that emerged, based on the social position of young women based on their town of residence, but also their socio-economic position within the town, their emerging gender identity, and threats relating to gender, Foucauldian Discourse Analysis is being used to analyse the semi-structured interviews.

'I wish they would have brought it up!': Towards meaningful conversations about size in psychotherapy.

Michelle Oldale, Open University

This study explored experiences of clients of size in relational psychotherapy. Minimal attention is paid to weight stigma in the psychotherapeutic literature. Some quantitative evidence suggests implicit weight bias impacts negatively on perceptions of clients and therapeutic process. A small, but growing number of authors highlight the importance of a critical stance, challenging key assumptions such as responsibility (for size), and taken for granted links between size and ill health. Left unchecked, these have the potential to lead to stigmatising responses to clients of size. An online questionnaire gained 35 qualitative responses from clients of size. Questions related to participants' own and therapists' responses to size, and usefulness/otherwise of interventions. This was supplemented with demographic detail to allow for exploration of intersectional factors. Data was analysed thematically with a phenomenological focus. Findings revealed a number of clients who wished to, or felt able to talk to their therapist about size and the impact of external and internalised weight stigma. Factors influencing meaningful conversation included actual and perceived therapist attitudes towards size, and therapist mindfulness of client consent and power in relation to the topic. Analysis is ongoing. In the next stage, detailed interview data will be gathered from clients and therapists working from a size affirmative model, with the aim of supporting production of best practice guidelines for therapists working with clients of size. Advertising for the next stage will seek to recruit an increased number of people of colour - a key limitation of this stage.

'It's about dismantling power': Personal reflections on co-hosting a feminist pedagogy workshop

Madeleine Pownall, University of Leeds

In essence, feminism is the pursuit of equality. This involves deconstruction and redistribution of power within previously rigid patriarchal hierarchies. It aims to disrupt and challenge – offering more inclusive, intersectional, and accessible ways of thinking and acting. Indeed, scholars have noted that feminism and some pedagogic approaches to teaching and learning in Higher Education have strikingly similar aims. They both attempt to reallocate power dynamics, positioning teacher and learner as partners or co-creators. Student-as-partner initiatives can foster a wider sense of academic community, nurturing professional and personal development. Feminist pedagogy, therefore, is rapidly emerging

as a key tool to combat inequality, inaccessibility, and other important barriers in the academy. This poster will offer personal reflections on running a one-day interdisciplinary workshop focussed on discussing, defining, and exploring the concept of Feminist Pedagogy. The poster will start by highlighting some of the key benefits of feminist approaches to teaching and learning, exploring how this approach may improve student engagement, staff wellbeing, and personal development. This poster will focus on personal reflections and lessons learned, including a critical appraisal of how collective sharing of experiences through a lens of feminist pedagogy may foster equality and aid the dismantling power in the academy. Future feminist-informed directions, of both a personal and wider pedagogic nature, will also be shared.

Experiences of miscarriage in the workplace: the final taboo?

Katy Schnitzler, The Open University

One in four pregnancies end in miscarriage. Despite its commonality, the impact and severity of miscarriage is often minimised, or even ignored in society generally. It is often treated as a taboo, which ultimately leaks into other avenues, including the world of work. This results in many women and their partners experiencing disenfranchised grief, adding to their poor mental and physical health. The primary aims and objectives of the current research is to investigate workplace behaviours towards women and their partners who have suffered pregnancy loss, the barriers which may prevent bereaved parents from returning to work, strategies workplaces could adopt to better support couples and finally, how miscarriage impacts on careers. The poster aims to showcase the existing literature on the topic, including some of the key theoretical positions on miscarriage, such as feminist standpoints, sociological perspectives of motherhood, grief and toxic masculinity, and other broader literature, such as pregnancy and body work. The work anticipates significant practical application. Currently, miscarriage commonly falls under general sickness and/or compassionate leave policies which contributes to the silence. The poster provides justification for a considerable gap within the academic literature, paving way for up-to-date empirical studies which considers both women's and men's experiences of miscarriage within the workplace. This project aims to conduct interviews in addition to an autoethnography, a method seldom utilised and heavily supported by the feminist position. The work complements several themes of the POWES conference this year, including, mental health, health, work, parenting, social justice and qualitative methodologies.

Workshops

F&P/POWER Workshop on Publishing Feminist Work in Psychology

Rose Capdevila, The Open University; Lisa Lazard, The Open University

This is an interactive round table discussion aimed at demystifying the process of publishing in scholarly journals by taking a behind-the-scenes peek at the process. It will cover the processes around submission, review, feedback and revision, including some strategies for writing publishable manuscripts. The workshop will be facilitated by experienced editors from Feminism & Psychology and Psychology of Women & Equalities Section Review, however the session will be organized around participants' questions and concerns. The workshop is primarily aimed at those new to and interested in learning more about the process of publishing and, particularly, publishing in feminist journals, however, any one at any stage of their career is welcome.

'Create Your Own Adventure' Feminist Scarf

Charlotte Dann, University of Northampton

Purpose/ Background: The aim of this workshop is to provide a space to engage with craft in a creative way, that is personal to each attendee, whilst encouraging community. After an initial overview of how these scarves have been used as feminist tools in craftivism, participants will be invited to start creating their own scarf.

Expected outcomes: the scarf you start is yours to take away, and add to (even finish!) over the next year. The workshop itself will provide inspiration for your own 'adventure' you'd like to follow through with the scarf, bringing visibility to your chosen area, and give space for discussion of this within the feminist community.

Key points: the context for the workshop is based on previous examples of scarves that bring visibility to issues such as rail delays, PhD progress, and mood. Drawing on research from Singleton, and Clarke, who have discussed and explored the power of craftivism, the workshop will:

- Provide the necessary tools to get started on your project
- Allow time for discussion and the creation of a scarf, based on an issue of choice for each participant

- Give visibility to such issues in a powerfully visual way

Conclusions: this workshop will act as a starting point for participants to explore an issue of their choice through their scarf, and raise awareness of this issue through visual means. In drawing on the principals of craftivism, the participants will consider how their scarf could be used to create a better world, stitch by stitch!

Body mapping lived experience

Hannah Frith, University of Brighton

Body mapping is a creative arts-based method typically used to explore social, emotional and physical aspects of lived experience. Developed as a method to empower and educate about the experience of living with HIV, the technique has since been used with diverse populations to explore a range of different health conditions and experiences of marginalization.

Activities: following an introduction to the method, attendees will create life-sized body maps by tracing around themselves (or an alternative) and decorate these maps to represent their experiences. Using a wide variety of prompts will enable diverse attendees to engage in a comfortable/safe, but meaningful way (e.g. representing hypothetical experiences; producing group body maps). Process reflection will enable attendees to decide what (if anything) to disclose about the content of their maps and potential uses in their own practice.

The aims are to: a) introduce participants to body mapping as a creative method for exploring lived experience, b) give participants an understanding of how body mapping has been used in research/practice.

The expected outcomes are: i) to gain hands-on experience of creating a body map, ii) to gain knowledge and understanding of how body mapping can be used to explore lived experience, and iii) to identify 3-5 ways in which body mapping could be used in their own research/practice.

Participants will leave the workshop with i) information about how body mapping has been used in different contexts, ii) tools to conduct body mapping, and, iii) a set of further resources about body mapping.

Queer Ink Workshop: pathologisation, lesbian activism and screen printing

Katherine Hubbard, University of Surrey

Inkblots have a fascinating queer feminist history which extends from the pathologisation of 'homosexuality' to its use in lesbian affirmative research and magazines. This demonstrates how, just like an actual ink blot, the borders between queer feminist activism and the social sciences is often rather blurred and messy. This workshop aims to demonstrate this in two ways, first through a presentation which provides historical analysis, and second via practical screen printing activities.

Within the first 30 minutes I will provide arguments and findings from Queer Ink: A Blotted History Towards Liberation (in press) and detail several key historical moments from within this history. This includes: the use of inkblots in detecting 'homosexuality' as a mental illness; the psychological research which utilised ink blots to show lesbians were not pathological; and the use of ink blots on the cover of Arena Three, Britain's first lesbian magazine. In doing so I will reflect on the key themes of the conference concerning women, equalities and the shifting political landscapes of the 1950s-1970s.

For the remainder of the workshop, the audience will be invited to be more creative. Following instructions on how to screen print and design their own ink blots, everyone will be given the opportunity to use the ink and materials to create an ink blot tote bag, poster or tea towel. In doing so participants will not only be able to create and keep their own inkblot but also embody the blending of academic activism evident in this history.

Living Life to the Fullest: Politicising co-production in disability inquiry with disabled young women

Kirsty Liddiard, University of Sheffield; Katherine Runswick-Cole, University of Sheffield; Sally Whitney, University of Sheffield; Emma Vogelmann, University of Sheffield; Katy Evans, University of Sheffield

In this workshop, through a film-screening, discussion and small group activities, we detail some of the politics and practicalities of co-produced disability research with disabled young people living with 'life-limiting' or 'life-threatening' impairments (hereby LL/LTIs). We detail these as we are encountering them in our ESRC-funded arts-informed project, Living Life to the Fullest (livinglifetothefullest.org/), which seeks to forge new understandings of the lives, hopes, desires and contributions of children and young people with LL/LTIs) and their families. Significantly, Living Life to the Fullest has established a Co-Researcher Collective

of disabled young people — currently all disabled young women aged between 19 and 30 years who identify as living with LL/LTIs. Through virtual research environments, the Co-Researcher Collective is actively and meaningfully co-leading inquiry. Through discussing our experiences, we centre accessible virtual research environments and online spaces as that which has enabled us to welcome diverse embodiments, levels of skills and knowledge, and enable meaningful leadership on the part of disabled young women co-researchers – who are often shut out of leadership (Liddiard, 2018). Our workshop will be co-led and presented by members of the Co-Researcher Collective.

Workshop Aims and Outcomes; attendees will:

- Leave with better knowledge/understanding of the politics of co-production with disabled and/or marginalised young people.
- Be shown the "nuts and bolts" of our innovative methods of co-production (Liddiard et al. 2018).
- Be exposed to the politics of accessibility within research with disabled young people, the value of virtual methodologies and creative forms of public engagement and knowledge translation.

Doing Reflexivity in Feminist Research: affectivity, emotional labour and professional risk

Jean McAvoy, Open University; Lisa Lazard, Open University

Background: Building on our previous work exploring the practical challenges of doing reflexivity in qualitative research (Lazard & McAvoy, 2017), this workshop extends our inquiry to the issue of understanding and managing affectivity as part of the reflexive process. As we have noted previously: reflexivity is a fundamental expectation of qualitative work in psychological and feminist methodologies. However, what reflexivity looks like, and how we do it productively and meaningfully, is frequently ambiguous and implicit. This makes doing reflexivity a challenge, particularly for those new to using qualitative methodologies. When we try to manage the affective flows and emotional labour often inherent in the research process, the task becomes yet more complicated, and the researcher potentially more exposed both professionally and personally.

Aims: Drawing on diverse examples from psychological research this workshop will explore some of the ways that different epistemological positions and methodologies offer different affordances and constraints for working reflexively. These illustrations will form the basis of

discussion in which workshop participants will be invited to explore their own understandings and experiences of researcher affectivity and reflexive practice.

Outcomes: We will provide an outline of our argument that reflexivity requires the researcher to take a position on affectivity, its affordances, limitations, and management; and that this requires the unpacking of the perspectives, assumptions and intellectual commitments we bring to the research. The workshop will also offer participants a range of ways of working reflexively within different epistemological frameworks.

Understanding Girls on the Autistic Spectrum

Kate Nicolson, Garratt Park Advisory Service, LB of Wandsworth; Paula Nicolson, GPAS

The workshop is intended to be interactive anticipating discussion and sharing of experiences among the participants and is intended for educational, clinical and research psychologists and people with everyday personal experience of young people with ASD. The following issues will be discussed: 1. Why we are only just beginning to recognise and understand girls on the autism spectrum? 2. Why do these girls appear to have high levels of anxiety? To recognize that girls with ASD (in direct contrast to boys) often demonstrate a high level of empathy – or a 'sixth sense'. 4. To identify how psychologists and specialist teachers might work together to support these girls and families better. The workshop is based on the presenter's research on girls, autism and anxiety. The study suggested that girls may be able to mask symptoms more effectively than boys. The reasons they are able to mask their symptoms are related to gender stereotypes and beliefs about what is 'normal' in a girl (c.f. a boy) including:

- Good language skills.
- Awareness and desire to interact socially.
- Remaining on the periphery of social activities – often observing others
- They have mastered appropriate eye contact, gestures and facial expressions so that they appear to be at ease.
- Girls are consequently more likely to experience poor mental health outcomes than boys including anxiety, meltdowns, misjudging and misinterpreting social situations and relationships.

The theory of mind and the concept of the 'sixth sense' will then be discussed.

Mapping the ethical dilemmas in your research and collectively reflecting on pathways to responsive ethics

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This advanced workshop is based on insights garnered in co-producing The Palgrave Handbook of Ethics in Critical Research, which was edited by the facilitator as well as Catriona Macleod and Phindezwa Mnyaka. Participants will engage in interactive discussions about the ethical dilemmas of your research and develop critical insights into responsive ethics for handling dilemmas that arise beyond the ethics approval process. The workshop is suitable for researchers at any stage in the research process from planning to disseminating a particular study. The central learning aim of the workshop is for participants to develop an enhanced understanding of the ethical challenges you may face, or have faced, in relation to four core issues: 1) when encountering systems that govern research or structure the context of your research; 2) when boundaries become porous in research relationships; 3) when anonymity is not possible or is actively resisted by participants; and 4) when power relations are evident within research. After a brief presentation of key concepts underpinning these four core issues, participants will engage in the following activities: a) an individual exercise completing a spider diagram to outline the key features of your research and map the associated ethical dilemmas and potential pathways to handle these dilemmas; b) a small group task sharing your spider diagrams for clarification and consolidation; c) large group feedback discussing commonalities in ethical dilemmas and collectively reflecting on pathways to responsive ethics.