

CONTRIBUTORS

Alexa Athelstan is a University of Leeds Research Scholarship funded second year PhD student at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies. Her PhD thesis theorises queer, alternative and subversive modes of feminine embodiment and subjectivity in everyday life. Further research interests include the intersection between age and sexuality, alternative sexual practices and cultures, polyamory and queer kinship, free expressive dance, visual methodologies, as well as more broadly feminist, gender and queer theory, theories of the body and discourses surrounding age. Alexa received her MA in Gender Studies from Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, and her BA in English Literature with Gender from Swansea University, Wales, UK. Previously she has conducted research on the fiction of Sarah Waters. Currently, she is a Teaching Assistant in Gender and Sociology at Leeds University. She is excited about editing the *Graduate Journal of Social Sciences* from October 2011, with Rosemary Deller (Manchester University).

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Leela Bakshi was a trustee with Spectrum Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans forum in Brighton and Hove from 2005-2009 and has volunteered with the Count Me In Too project since 2006 as an activist researcher. She has co-authored publications on LGBT safety, leisure and is currently working on the Count Me In Too book. Leela works as a specialist speech and language therapist with people with learning disabilities.

Kath Browne is a principal lecturer in Human Geography at the University of Brighton. Her research interests encompass the areas of sexualities, gender, feminisms, queer, spiritualities and everyday lives. She theorises everyday experiences of sexual identities, marginalisations and equalities, and of gendered lives and sexed bodies. She has published widely in these areas, including co-authoring the book *Queer Spiritual Spaces* and co-editing *Queer Methods and Methodologies and Geographies of Sexualities*. Since 2005 she has worked on the Count Me In Too research a participatory project where Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans people worked with service

providers and others to create evidence and work towards positive social change for LGBT people.

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Stefanie C. Boulila is a first year PhD student in gender and dance studies at the University of Leeds. Her research focuses on queer salsa dance practices and the queering of dance spaces. Stefanie completed her MA in Global Genders at Leeds in 2011 and holds a BA in mass media & communication research, theatre & dance studies and political science from the Universities of Berne and Fribourg (Switzerland). Her general research interests include feminist and queer politics, postcolonial theory, intersectionality, queer dance, gender & electronic music cultures.

Say Burgin is a PhD student in the School of History at the University of Leeds. Her doctoral research explores the anti-racism, or 'unlearning racism', workshops that activists from various US social movements developed from the late 1960s onward. Her interest in these workshops is rooted in personal experiences with them. She participated in a number of them before she moved to the UK from the US and co-led a series of workshops (free school-style) on racism/racial justice for white activists. She is interested in the development of feminist, critical race pedagogies both in and out of academic settings. Email: hy08snb@leeds.ac.uk

Daniela Cherubini has a doctoral degree in Applied sociology and methodology for social research from the University of Milan – Bicocca (Italy), and in Women and gender studies from the University of Granada (Spain). She is currently a post-doctoral researcher at the Department of Sociology and social research (University of Milan – Bicocca). She is also part of the research group "Otras. Perspectivas feministas en investigación social" (University of Granada).

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Sarah Harper studied Sociology at the University of Hull and will be starting a Masters in research methods followed by PhD at the University of York this autumn. Her PhD will involve speaking to women working in lap dancing venues. Email: skiffle.harper@gmail.com

Dr. Julia Horncastle is an academic, poet, and writer. Her scholarly work draws on existential phenomenology, queer theory and feminist philosophy. Her current book project is on the ethics of selfhood and care. Her prose work tackles the discomfiting knowledges of human existence, especially

those that are non-normative and paradoxical.

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Liam Hilton has a 1st Class Honours in B.A. Sociology and Gender Studies from Sussex University and has also received a MSc in Gender, Development & Globalisation from the London School of Economics & Political Science. He has conducted various research such as: Out & Proud! A look at the public announcement of individual's alternative sexuality as an expression of self-identification, "Through the Looking-Glass": An Investigation into the Social Networking of the Transgendered Body in Contemporary Brighton and the Elucidation of the Performative Nature of Sex, Gender and Identity, Peripherality: Porous Bodies; Porous Borders. The "Crisis" of Humanity in a Borderland of Lost Ghosts.

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Flávia Kremer is a PhD candidate at the Granada Centre for Visual Anthropology, University of Manchester. She holds an MSc in Gender, Development and Globalisation from the London School of Economics.

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Cassandra McLuckie is entering the first year of her PhD at the University of Leeds (ESRC funded), having previously completed my MA in Gender Studies and a BA in Women's Studies at Lancaster University. She is interested in how intimacies are constructed through class - more specifically my research focuses on understanding different meanings of "pleasure" in heterosexual intimacies and how this is variously constricted and enabled through class. Cassandra is also working on a piece of research on young women at a local Leeds charity (HEIF funded).

Liz Mills has just completed her Master's in English Literature at the University of Leeds, where she focused specifically on utopian fiction within the Victorian period. Her dissertation discussed the genre and analysed whether such a subjective genre can truly exist. She is currently researching the theme of time within William Makepeace Thackeray's *Vanity Fair* where she is examining the lack of temporality throughout the narrative. Her future plans include an analysis of the relationship between women and guns in the context of nineteenth century literature.

Angelica Pesarini is a doctoral researcher enrolled at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies, Leeds University. Angelica received her Master

degree in Ethno- Anthropological Disciplines from the University of Rome La Sapienza and her MSc in Gender, Development and Globalisation at the London School of Economics. Her research focuses on the construction of the female 'other' in colonial and post-colonial Italy through the analysis of representational practices. Her main research interests are located in debates investigating the intersections of race, sex, and class with particular regards to colonial and post-colonial contexts but she is also interested in the institutionalisation of torture and the phenomenology around the idea of 'camp'. She conducted longitudinal research on gender identity and the development of economic activities with regards to Roma women in Italy. Angelica has also investigated strategies of survival, risks and opportunities associated with male prostitution.

Mercedes Pöll is based in the Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies at the University of Leeds where she is in the process of starting her PhD research. Her thesis will follow up on her MA project, which focused on a queer-sociological investigation of two case studies of asexual individuals and their experiences with intimacy. In her doctoral research, she will approach the scope of asexuality in its various impacts and interpretations concerning personal lives and intimate citizenship. Mercedes has done additional work on asexuality and its potential for legal transformation of relationship recognition, as well as on queer perspectives on childfree-by-choice lifestyles. All of her research encompasses her interests in (re-) conceptualisations of intimacies, queer sexualities and genders, and alternatives to pathologising narratives of non-normative subjectivities. Concurrently, Mercedes is active in asexuality visibility and education endeavours and works as a teaching assistant in Sociology and Social Policy at Leeds. Email: gs10lvp@leeds.ac.uk

Carin Tunåker is currently a PhD Candidate at the School of Anthropology and Conservation at the University of Kent. Her research concentrates on contemporary expressions of gender and religion in Cuba. Her Masters Thesis in Social Anthropology was completed at the same institution in 2009, focussing on Cuban culture in relation to dance and music. Having researched gender relations and religion in Cuba for a year, she is now about to embark on a subsequent year of fieldwork in Cuba, examining the relation between these two spheres. Email: C.B.S.Tunaker@kent.ac.uk

Roland Weißegger studied Transcultural Communication and Gender Studies at the University of Vienna and the Open University and was a

member of a working group for a new curriculum for Transcultural Communication at the University of Vienna aiming at making students more aware of their status as non-neutral participants in communication. 'Oq' is currently working on an MSc in Gender, Sexuality and Society at Birkbeck College, University of London.

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