Intimate lives? Autism, Gender, Sex/uality and Identity

May 18th, 2018

Room G39, School of Education, University of Birmingham

The conference day is fast approaching, and we are looking forward to welcoming you all to Birmingham on Friday 18th of May 2018 for the first “Intimate lives? Autism, Gender, Sex/uality and Identity” conference.
Attached you will find:

1 - The day’s schedule, including the names of panels and presenters;

2 - Details of how to get to the venue, including a Google maps link and photographs of the route from the train station to the conference building on campus;

3 - Photographs of the venue itself. This includes the building in which the conference is taking place, the conference room, the hall where lunch and tea breaks are happening, and the quiet room which will be available;

4 – An information sheet, ‘On the Day’, giving some information that will give a clearer idea of what to expect on the day.

You will also receive a delegate pack at the conference, with further details of the day’s proceedings. We are now fully booked. If any of you find that you are unable to attend on the day, please cancel your registration as soon as possible so your place can be taken by someone else. This can be done by emailing BSAEventsTeam@britsoc.org.uk.
Schedule

09:30 – 10:00
Registrations – Coffee and tea

10:00 - 10:15
Introductions

10:15 - 11:15: Panel 1
Title: What did you expect? Autistic lives queering perceptions
10:30 – 10:45: Not doing it properly: Tracking assumptions of healthy couple intimacy through an exploration of narratives of “non-sociable” autistic sexualities – Hanna Bertilsdotter-Rosqvist and David Jackson-Perry Presenter: Hanna Bertilsdotter-Rosqvist
10:45 – 11:00: Walking through Treacle: The lived experiences of autistic students in FE and HE – Deborah Philip
11:00 – 11:15: Questions

11:15 - 12:30: Panel 2
Title: Don’t tell me how to feel! Negotiating the normative gaze
11:15 – 11:30: As good or better: autistic relationships outside the gender binary – Felicity Sedgewick
11:30 – 11:45: Obsessive behaviour and fixations on people that is experienced by people on the autistic spectrum – Holly Maby
11:45 – 12:00: Winning at Sexuality: A personal reflection of passing in a hypersexualised world – Lexi Orchard
12:00 – 12:15: Neurodivergence and the Gaslighting of Rape and Sexual Assault – Susy Ridout
12:15 – 12:30: Questions

12:30 – 13:30: Lunch - A video presentation by Sonja Zelic titled: “Intimate lives? (originally Blue Movie)” will be shown in the main room during lunch time.

13:30 - 14:45: Panel 3
Title: Whose gender is it anyway? Services, access and identity
13:30 – 13:45: Narrating Autistic and Transgender: Implications for the Gender Clinic – Jake Pyne
13:45 – 14:00: Gender Identification in Autistic Adults: Does Age Matter? Laura Hull
14:00 – 14:15: Experiences of Autistic Adults: gender identity, mental health and access to psychological services Kate Whitaker
14:15 – 14:30: Transitioning in a neurotypical world: A critical autistic analysis on gender identity services Olivia Astrid Pountney
14:30 – 14:45: Questions
14:45 – 15:00: Short break

15:00 - 16:00: Panel 4

Title: **Touchy feely? Contextualising sensory sensitivities**

15:00 – 15:15: Spanking my sensory needs? An understanding of myself as a human, a sexual being and an Autistic – Jennifer Layton

15:15 – 15:30: On sensory issues colliding with gendered school dress rules, including the lived pain and present issues for those of us in the generations who missed having any gender rights at school – Maurice Frank

15:30 – 15:45: To Hug or not to Hug: physical affection at the intersection of autism, culture and gender – Sonny Hallett

15:45 – 16:00: Questions

16:00 - 17:00: Panel 5

Title: **Feministic? Autistic feminist perspectives**

16:00 – 16:15: Autism and Gender: Reading Women’s Online Autobiographical Writing as a Feminist Resistance to the Dominant Discourse of Autism – Emily Maddox

16:15 – 16:30: - Jigsaw Identity – Gill Loomes

16:30 – 16:45: Questions

16:45 - 17:15: Closing remarks

*A quiet room (room G59) will also be available on site.*
How to get to the venue

The School of Education is number 19 on the campus map (see attached). Here’s a Google maps link: https://goo.gl/maps/dGAdfXGWhaz

If you are coming by train, you need to get off at the stop called University. Below you can find instructions on how to find the building from the train station:

**Directions from the train station**

1. Turn left and head towards the learning centre

2. Pass in front of the learning centre and continue straight through campus.

3. After walking for about 10 minutes, you will see the Barber Institute of Fine Arts on your left hand side.

4. Turn left and keep walking for about a minute and the School of Education will be in front of you.

And here is a bigger picture of the building so you know exactly what you are looking for:
If you are coming from the city centre by bus from the city centre, you need to take the 98 or x64 and come off at the stop "School of Education". The building's back entrance is just behind the stop.

If you are driving to the meeting, here is some useful information about parking at the University: [https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/has/sustainable-travel/car-parking.aspx](https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/has/sustainable-travel/car-parking.aspx).
Photographs of the venue

The room for the day is room G39. It is on the ground floor of the building and fairly easy to find. Its location will be signposted on the day. Here’s how it looks (it might look slightly different on the day):

![Room G39](image1)

The quiet room for the day will be G59, which is also on the ground floor. Its location will be signposted on the day. Here’s how it looks:

![Quiet room G59](image2)

Lunch and tea breaks will take place in the lobby, right outside the conference room. Here’s how the lobby looks:

![Lobby](image3)

The location of the male, female and gender-neutral toilets will also be signposted on the day.
On the Day

All the points below will be clarified at the beginning of the conference.

Food and Drink

There will be short breaks in the morning and afternoon, and a longer break for lunch. The exact times of these breaks is on the attached schedule. Tea and biscuits and a finger-food lunch will be offered in the hall (just outside the conference room – please see photos) to all delegates at no extra charge. Dietary considerations as specified when you booked have been taken into account.

In the evening we plan to go out for a drink and something to eat at The Wellington directly after the conference. We will give you more details of this on the day.

Accessibility and Bathroom Facilities

Birmingham University has generously offered us the conference venue free of charge. However, the School of Education is currently undergoing building work, and this has had an impact on facilities. We had to choose between a room on the 5th floor without a lift or a room on the ground floor with a temporary wheelchair-accessible bathroom just outside the main doors. We chose the latter; while being aware that it is not ideal we felt it was the option that made the conference the most accessible to the largest number of delegates.

There will be male, female, and gender-neutral bathrooms available, and these will be clearly indicated on the day.

If anyone has any questions or comments regarding accessibility, please feel free to contact us on autgensex@contacts.bham.ac.uk or by phone at 07740486373.

Applause

In line with other events of this nature, we ask delegates not to clap but to wave (‘sign-language applause’).

Quiet room

A quiet room is available close to the conference room (see above). It will be available throughout the conference, please feel free to make use of it at any point during the day.

And finally...

We are going to be exploring some exciting and sometimes difficult questions throughout the day, about which there may be disagreement and which people have strong feelings about. We would ask everyone to bear this in mind and to express themselves respectfully to all!

It is also possible that some of the topics discussed on the day may be distressing to some delegates, so, if appropriate, trigger warnings will be provided. If you feel the need, please feel free to leave until the presentation is over. The quiet room will be available throughout the day. The four organisers will be introduced at the beginning of the day and are of course available if anyone needs anything!

We hope you are as excited as we are about this conference, and we look forward to meeting you all on the day!