November Newsletter

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Staff Pride Network for LGBT+ colleagues & allies

Welcome to the November 2017 edition of the Staff Pride Network newsletter!

Dear LGBT+ Colleagues and Allies,

My name is Judith Rauhofer and I am delighted to take over the reins from Sharon as the new Co-Chair. I am a lecturer in IT Law at the School of Law, with a distant past as a researcher on legal aspects of queer and gender issues in the 90s. My interest in the Staff Pride Network came from the motivation to ensure that the voices of queer people were involved in LGBT+ work again. Working with Jonathan, providing diversity as both a woman and an academic co-chair, I see my particular interests in this role in promoting both of those aspects of the Network's work: encouraging and bringing together queer/LGBT+ scholarship at the University, and establishing an LGBT+ specific element of pastoral care for students at all levels, maybe through the development of a specific "personal tutor" for LGBT+ queries. I have met some of you already at the Friday evening socials, and look forward to meeting more of you at future events.

Best wishes,

Judith

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SPN pens now available!

We are excited to provide members with Staff Pride Network black biro pens, made with recycled cardboard. Although we had to sacrifice our beautiful, colourful logo for a simple black pen, we felt that it would be a small but meaningful way to help we could have them made on recycled cardboard instead of the usual plastic. If you would like to pick up a pen, please let us know at our office (always good for wonderful and attracting new LGBT+ colleagues and allies to register!) you can pick them up at any of our Coffee & Cake, evening social or special events. We will also have some available at our stall at event on 17th November. Alternatively, let us know in advance and you can pick them up from Jonathan at the Business School PGT Office. We hope you like them!

Appeal for Social & Events Volunteers

We are looking for Social & Events volunteers to join our enthusiastic, fun loving and wonderful team! You'll be involved in developing exciting events, including the Friday evening socials, running, creating advertising, and performing tasks at the events like welcoming people and setting up catering.

We also need an extra SLG committee member to go to meetings, contribute to the discussion, help shape the events strategy and coordinate volunteers.

If you think you'd like to take on any of these roles please contact us at:

staffpridenetwork@ed.ac.uk

Transgender Day of Remembrance

In commemoration of Transgender Day of Remembrance on 17 November, the Staff Pride Network is organising a screening of the trans drama A Fantastic Woman (2017). Following the screening, a post-movie panel of speakers will hold an open discussion on the topic of transphobia.

Directed by Sebastian Lelio and starring trans actress Daniela Vega, A Fantastic Woman tells the story of trans character Marina, whose life undergoes upheaval following the death of her lover. The film has been lauded for its sensitive portrayal of Marina – as she reaction of her partners, Alessing Sand' screenplay at the 2017 Berlin Film Festival, the film is described by The Guardian's Ryan Gilbey as "a timely film, but it is timelessness, as well as its depth of compassion, that quietly lifts it to a great one".

Please welcome Ayesha Sodhe, our new Black & Minority Ethnic Officer!

The Staff Pride Network launched an initiative to appoint a new Black & Minority Ethnic Officer. Ayesha Sodhe, Black & Minority Ethnic Officer, She is particularly interested in doing what she can to help so that no one ever feels the need to hide themselves away in the workplace and fellow students have been in her ear. Her passions are inspiring conversations, the amazing friends she's been blessed with, fashion, art, travel and cooking on things locally trapeze, pole dancing and aerial silks.

"I'm excited to join the Staff Pride Network committee as the BME Officer. As with any new role there's lots of scope to be creative, but there's absolutely no point re-doing that so ignorance of what's gone before is bliss. I'm a big fan of being free to e-mail me about any ideas you have, or have a chat with me at the next social. We would love to see more people of colour in attendance and as a representative of our BME members, which also provide a new and fun experience for other members. I look forward to meeting you personally on the social."

World AIDS Day 2017

With World AIDS DAY on just over a month's time, we will be having a stall on the 17th November as well as World AIDS Day and tributes at our Coffee & Cake events and evening socials.

Digital Marketing Officer Jerrard Dorne will be flying down to London to run 10km in the Red Run, to raise money for the Terrence Higgins Trust.

"I've never done anything like this before (I am a long-established couch potato) so all support is very welcome! The Brighouse Project is one of the only organisations in Bristol and North Somerset which provide support for people living with HIV and those cuts go through, the charity may well disappear, leaving hundreds of vulnerable people without vital support and care. I'm a long-time supporter of this organisation and has seen first hand the immense good it does for the community. I want to raise money to help Brighouse stay on its feet and continue its vital work. Please give anything you can - all donations are gratefully received.

You can donate to this excellent cause at Jerrard's JustGiving page.

Rosie Russell – Transition

Looking back, I guess, like most trans people who grew up in the 70's and 80's, being transgender was always there but has been repressed. Coming to terms with it was a long, hard, painful process over three years ago and it has been a bumpy ride with depression, anxiety, self-doubt (and much worse) and self-hatred. But I'm now at a point where I can (and have first coming) to friends and family, I could write much more on that but I'd like to focus on one thing : The University of Edinburgh is still a great place to work and has been incredibly supportive as we have coming out. Read more...

Callum Ritchie – A Millenial Photographer

As a millenial photographer that works in the corporate world, I hear the phrases "Smile for the camera!", "Darken your lines!" and "Don't photograph us.." followed by something about going to a photo lab or waiting for the negatives to see what the image looks like or having to make sure the film doesn't get exposed to light. I'm not a 90's photoer is making these assumptions "Actually, I run my own darkroom and shoot mostly film". Read more...

Free LGBTQ yoga classes

Come along to this free yoga class on Saturday evenings for LGBTQ+people with a particular focus creating an inclusive safe space where trans and non-binary people can practice and feel comfortable. It welcomes beginners as well as seasoned yoga practitioners. It is a mixed gender class but preferred. You can find out more information on the LGBTQ Yoga Edinburgh Facebook group.

Zoe Robinson – Dissertation: The Invisibility of 'B' in 'LGBTQ'

A PG student from the Business School has been awarded 70 for her dissertation entitled "The Invisibility of 'B' in 'LGBT': Shaping a Supportive Working Environment for Bisexual Employees". Zoe was happy to share the abstract of her and describes her dissertation thus:

"Heteronormative assumptions, together with binary gender and sexuality constructions, mean that bisexuality largely misunderstood and overlooked both within the academic sphere and in an organisational context. My dissertation discusses the invisibility of bisexuality in the workplace by exploring bisexual experiences and perceptions of the organisational supportive practices. In turn, recommendations are made for how firms can lend support and maximise the potential of their bisexual employees.

If you know of any LGB LGBT+ related academic research or dissertations please upload this to the Sharefoint or email the mailbox.

You can read Zoe's full dissertation on the Staff Pride Network Sharefoint.

Events

SPN + BLGSO Lunch

Date: 1 December 2017
Time: 12:00-14:00
Location: Curie Room, King's Buildings Venue

Our first joint event where LGBT+ students can meet LGBT+ colleagues and allies in a relaxed, safe space. BLGSO have told us that they will invite a few senior academic and professional support staff. We have as many staff as possible can join this monthly event.

LGSP Sports Scotland + BLGSO discussion group

Date: 2 December 2017
Time: 16:30-18:00
Location: Room G.08, 50 George Square

The group is intended to enable LGBT+ students and staff to share their thoughts on the topic of LGBT+ inclusion sports within the University, as LGSP are currently developing guidance and key principles for the optimisation of that inclusion within further and higher education settings.

SPN Coffee & Cake - King's Buildings

Date: 5 December 2017
Time: 13:00-14:00
Location: Spectator cafe, Sanar Building

Join us at our regular monthly coffee afternoon. Please drop in any time for a coffee and cake, catch up with your LGBT+ colleagues and ask a committee member those questions you've been dying to have answered!

SPN Coffee & Cake - Central area

Date: 12 December 2017
Time: 13:00-14:00
Location: Tonic Committee Room

Join us at our regular monthly coffee afternoon. Please drop in any time for a coffee and cake, catch up with your LGBT+ colleagues and ask a committee member those questions you've been dying to have answered! Please note, the event runs until 2pm but you are welcome to stay and chat as long as you like.

SPN Transgender Day of Remembrance : Screening of *A Fantastic Woman*

Date: 17 December 2017
Time: 16:00-18:00
Location: Room G.08, 50 George Square

The event both celebrates trans identity and commemorates the victims of transphobic hate crimes. The event will include a screening of the trans movie A Fantastic Woman (2017) with post-panel discussion.

Out in Edinburgh

Date: 20 November 2017
Date: 18 December 2017
Time: 19:30-20:30
Location: The Stockbridge Bar

Some of us will be going to this Out in Edinburgh event "Gay Culture" Stockbridge LGBTQ+ culture? If you'd like to meet there beforehand, email the mailbox.

Full Events Calendar
Useful Information
Staff Pride Network
Help, Support & Advice
Staffpridenetwork@ed.ac.uk