

November Newsletter

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

My name is Judith Rauder and I am delighted to take over the reins from Sharon as the new Co-Chair. I am a lecturer in 27 Law at the School of Law, with a distant past as a researcher on legal aspects of queer and gender issues in the 80s. My interest in the Staff Pride Network comes from the motivation to "go back to my roots" and to become more 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 as promoting both of those aspects of the Network's work: encouraging and bringing together queer/LGBT+ scholarship at the University, and establishing an LGBT+ staff network of pastoral care for students at all levels, made through the designation 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.

Judith

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SPN pens now available!

We are excited to provide members with Staff Pride Network black pens again, made with recycled cardboard. Although we had to sacrifice our beautiful, colourful logo for a simple black design, our logo designer Karl Oakley was happy to help us as we could have then made our recycled cardboard instead of the usual plastic. If you would like some for yourself and make us there at your office (always good for visibility 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 such as our upcoming Transgender Remembrance Day event on 17th November. Alternatively, let us know in advance and you can pick them up from Jonathan at the Business School HR 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! It'll be an incentive to developing event ideas, and helping to organise them by booking rooms, creating advertising, and performing tasks at the events like welcoming people and setting up catering. We also need our active and dedicated members to go to a committee meeting every 6-8 weeks, who will agree the events strategy and coordinate volunteers. If you think you'd like to take on any of these responsibilities, please contact us at staffpridenetwork@ed.ac.uk.

Transgender Day of Remembrance

In commemoration of Transgender Day of Remembrance 17 November, the Staff Pride Network is organising a special screening of the Chilean movie *A Fantastic Woman* (2017). Following the screening, a post-movie panel of members will hold an open discussion on the issues the film raises. Directed by Sebastián Lelio and starring trans actress Daniela Vega, *A Fantastic Woman* tells the story of trans character Marina, whose life is tragically cut short following the death of her lover. The film looks at the reaction of her family as well as the reactions of her employers, winning best screenplay at the 2017 Berlin Film Festival. The film is described by The Guardian's Romy Kilbey as "a timely film, but it is its tenderness, as well as its depth of compassion, that qualify it as a great one."

Please welcome Avesha Sotha, our new Black & Minority Ethnic Officer!

The Staff Pride Network Committee is thrilled to welcome Avesha Sotha as our new Black & Minority Ethnic Officer. She is particularly interested in doing what she can to help to that no-one ever feels alone or challenged because being who they are and fitting into where they come from. Her passions are inspiring conversations, the amazing friends she's been blessed with, travel, art, travel and climbing on things (mainly trampolines, pole or kites). "I'm excited to join the Staff Pride Network committee as the BME Officer. As with any role, there's a lot of scope to be creative, but there's absolutely no point in doing this in ignorance of what the members would like to see. Please feel free to e-mail me about any ideas you have, or have chat with me at the next social. We would love to have a calendar of events and initiatives that are representative of our BME members, which also provide a new and fun experience for other members. I look forward to meeting you personally in due course."

World AIDS Day 2017

With World AIDS Day just over a month's time, we will be providing Marley Carr's lecture ribbon as well as World AIDS Day red ribbons at our Coffee & Cake events and evening socials. Digital Marketing Officer Jerrard Jones will be flying down to London to run talks in the Red Run. "It's really money for the Brighton Project. "I've never done anything like this before (I am a long-established cash potter) so all support is very welcome! The Brighton Project is one of the only organisations in Britain and North Somerset which supports people living with HIV. It provides funding cuts go through, the charity are well supported, leaving hundreds of vulnerable people without vital support services. One of my best friends works for this organisation and has seen first hand the immense good it does for the community. I want to raise money to help Brighton stay on its feet and continue its vital work. Please give anything you can – all donations welcome!" You can donate to this vital life-line cause at Jerrard's fundraising 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 me as I am really only began less than three years ago and it has been a bumpy ride with depression, anxiety, self-doubt (and much worse!) Peering along the way, but to mention the church (and some hurt caused) as 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 of me since coming out. Read more...

Callum Michie – A Millennial Photographer

As a millennial photographer that works in the printing industry, I've often said "You'll not remember". "Notre your time, it's that photography is." followed by something about going to a photo lab or waiting for the machine to use what the image looks like or having to make sure the picture was perfect when you took it. Then I tell whoever is making these assumptions "Actually, I'm my own developer and shoot mostly film". Read more...

Free LGBT+ yoga classes

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

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

A Bc student from the Business School has been awarded 2B for her dissertation entitled 'The Invisibility of 'B' in 'LGBT': Organisational & Supportive Working Environment for Bisexual Employees'. She was happy to share it with SPN members and describes her dissertation thus: "Bisexuality is a complex topic, together with binary attitudes toward sexual orientation however have left bisexuality largely acknowledged and overlooked both within the academic sphere and in an organisational context. My dissertation discusses the invisibility of bisexuality in the workplace by exploring discourses and perception of bisexuality, and organisational supportive practices. In turn, recommendations are made for how firms can best support and maximise the potential of their bisexual employees." If you know of any LGBT-related academic research or dissertations please submit this to the Supervisor or email the mailing. You can read Zoe's full dissertation on the Staff Pride Network Sharepoint!

Events

SPN • BGLSS Lunch

Date: 1 November 2017
Time: 12:30-14:00

Our first joint event where LGBT+ students can meet LGBT+ colleagues and allies in a relaxed, safe space. BGLSS have told us that LGBT+ events are not visible in University academic and professional support staff. We hope as many staff as possible can join this monthly event.

LEAF Sports Scotland – BGLSS discussion group

Date: 2 November 2017
Time: 12:30-20:00

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

SPN Coffee & Cake – King's Buildings

Date: 8 November 2017
Time: 12:30-14:00

Location: Quaternary Café, Science 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 – Geology area

Date: 15 November 2017
Time: 12:30-14:00

Location: Frank Cockle 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 November 2017
Time: 18:00-21:00

Location: Room 6.52, 59 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: 28 November 2017
Time: 18:30-20:30

Location: The Striped Bar

Some of us will be going to this Out in Edinburgh event "Pop Culture" We are hope offering LGBT+ culture? If you'd like to meet there beforehand, email the mailing.

Full Team Calendar
Useful Information
Contact & Committee
Help, Support & Advice
Staffpridenetwork@ed.ac.uk

