Feedback from Network of Network Higher Education LGBT+ event

I had a whirlwind, there-and-back-in-a-day, trip to Milton Keynes for the Network of Network in Higher Education event on the 8th of October. It was brilliant to meet representatives from other HE institutions and learn how their LGBT+ networks operate and are recognised and supported (or not in many cases) by their institutions.

There were talks on trans inclusion in HE, centring around the experience of an academic from Oxford University, highlighting how traditions often result in inequality. We heard from the Birmingham network about their involvement in helping to support LGBT+ staff in the setting up of their Dubai campus, of particular relevance on that date given that it was International Lesbian Visibility Day. I think living in a country that largely has quite progressive attitudes (with much obvious progress still to make) towards LGBT+ identities many of us often forget that there are many parts of the world that are not safe for LGBT+ people.

The day culminated with the Manchester University LGBT+ network sharing how far they have come in the past 10 years, it was brilliant to see the evolution of their network over time. I was left inspired and emboldened that our network here in Edinburgh has much to contribute to the wider community of networks as well as a lot of expertise through our lived experiences that are hugely valuable to the university community.

Katie Nicoll Baines
**LGBT+ Student Campaign**

The LGBT+ Campaign is a space for any and all students who define as LGBT+ or with any other term that describes our community. The campaign aims to advocate for better student experience, provide community and support, and allow people to begin their own projects. Your elected officer (me!) and their (my!) committee is here to support you and ensure that your voice is heard at all levels of the University.

Please join the [Facebook group](#) to meet people with shared experiences, different backgrounds and interests.

You can also email me: [lgbt@eusa.ed.ac.uk](mailto:lgbt@eusa.ed.ac.uk).

Rosie Taylor (EUSA LGBT+ Officer)

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**Growing the Big Grant Club**


Evidence Base formed in 2018 with funding from the EPSRC to promote and execute a systems based approach to understanding issues of equality, diversity and inclusion in STEM.

“Growing the Big Grant Club” aims to research the under representation of women in the big grant club (grant awards of £5m+). Over the past 10 years, of the big grants funded by the EPSRC, less than 5% have gone to women.
Our project is a wide-reaching collaboration involving the University of Edinburgh (Professor David Robertson, Professor Polly Arnold, Professor Karen Halliday, Dr Sara Shinton, Dr Job Thijssen, Dr Emily Porth), University of Nottingham (Dr Karen Salt), Royal Society of Chemistry, Institute of Physics, UKRI and the Knowledge Transfer Network.

Our approach is to understand this social issue from the systems-level, avoiding falling into the trap of taking a ‘deficit model’ approach whereby the interventions are aimed at ‘upskilling’ or ‘fixing’ the women. We want to fix the system that is failing to accommodate diversity.

Please join us for an afternoon of food, entertainment and discussion to mark the official launch of ‘Growing the Big Grant Club’. You will have the opportunity to meet many of our project partners as well as hear about the research we are undertaking.

Registration can be made via eventbrite. A full programme of activities will be shared at the beginning of June.

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Sharing best practice in Higher Education

The LGBT+ Network of Networks in Higher Education (LGBTNoNHE) meets quarterly and works to support members to share, exchange and develop best practice regarding equality, diversity and inclusion in Higher Education.

The March 2019 meeting at Sheffield Hallam University covered a large number of issues including embedding LGBT into procurement practices and and supply, service delivery
(accommodation, student services etc), and freedom of expression and safe spaces in higher education. Feedback was given by British Transport Police on their Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, and discussions took place on establishing a LGBTNoNHE website.

This meeting provides a great opportunity for members to network and share good practice, and I would recommend anyone interested in being involved in attending future meetings.

Full notes from the LGBTNoNHE are on SharePoint.

Derek Williams (derek.williams@ed.ac.uk)