Poster Competition 2026 – Trans Inclusion

Please share this attached poster with any students or staff – the Staff Pride Network has teamed up with the local LGBTQI+ academic network Queer.ed and UCU Edinburgh to launch a Trans-inclusion poster campaign, deadline for submissions 20 February 2026. 3 winners to be announced before the end of LGBT+ History Month (i.e. end of February).
Best regards and happy 2026,
Gina, David, and the Staff Pride Network committee
Gina Gwenffrewi (she/her) and David Radford (he/him)

Co-Chairs, Staff Pride Network for LGBT+ Colleagues & Allies

Why pronouns matter

□□□□ Pride Month Events 2025 □□□□

June is here and it’s time to celebrate! We’ve been hearing about lots of fantastic Pride events and activities happening throughout the month in and around Edinburgh. Whether you’re into sports, community engagement, or cultural events, there’s something for everyone. Here’s what we know about so far – **please let us know if we’ve missed anything you’d like us to share with the network!**

Late May Events

“Bend It Like Deckham!” PQFC + Jokes FC Fundraiser

 Friday, May 30th | 8pm-1am

 Leith Arches

Join Porty Queer Football Community and Jokes FC for “Bend It Like Deckham!” – an evening of DJs and drag entertainment!

DJs: Tamboi, Ceits Bush, Greengiant
Drag: Cliff Lickhard, Élixir
Special raffle: 2x Chappell Roan tickets up for grabs!
Cost: Pay what you can (£12 suggested) – 100% of donations go to accessible football for PQFC and Jokes FC

Romance Fiction Event

 Friday, May 30th | Evening

 Lighthouse Books

A celebration of contemporary romance fiction – “fiercely feminist, and jubilantly queer!” featuring Eleanor Pilcher in conversation with host Arusa Qureshi, followed by drinks reception.

More info: Lighthouse Bookshop Events

Early June Events (Passed)

Trans+ Swimming Session

 Wednesday, June 4th | 7:00pm-9:00pm

 St Leonard’s Pool (Holyrood Rd, Edinburgh EH8 8AQ)

Monthly Trans+ swimming sessions with exclusive access to pool and changing facilities. Part of the University's commitment to inclusion and wellbeing, designed to remove barriers that trans people may experience in accessing public swimming spaces.

Who can attend: Trans+ students, staff, and members of the wider Edinburgh community. Allies may attend only as a guest (+1) of a trans person.

Key features:

- Exclusive pool and changing room access (all genders welcome to use facilities they're most comfortable with, plus gender neutral options)
- 1-hour swimming session with 30 minutes changing time on each end
- Pool divided into lane swimming and free swim areas
- Staff trained in trans inclusion
- All swimwear styles welcome, including option to go topless regardless of gender

Tickets: £3 per person (free tickets available if cost is a barrier) – all funds donated to LEAP Sports Scotland. Tickets released 3 weeks before each session.

Future sessions: Monthly through September (July 9th, August 13th, September 3rd)

Booking and more info: Edinburgh University Students' Association
Questions: transnonbinary@eusa.ed.ac.uk

Queer Data Showcase

 Thursday, June 5th | 5:00pm-7:00pm

 Cabaret Bar, Pleasance

A first-of-its-kind showcase spotlighting a curated selection of artists, academics, and activists working with queer data. Co-organised by Pride in STEM and the Edinburgh Futures Institute’s AI Ethics & Society. The event concludes with time for presenters and audience members to meet each other and learn more about the variety of queer data projects taking place.

Tickets: Free – Available here

“Jeanne” Book Launch

 Wednesday, June 5th | 7-8pm

 Lighthouse Books

Launch of Arielle Burgdorf’s “Jeanne” – a queer, experimental novel exploring the intersections of language, gender, sexuality, and art. Described as “a clever, sexy, moving & playful novel about literary translation, control, language, & selfhood.”

More info: Lighthouse Bookshop Events

Queer Climbing Night

 Friday, June 6th

Part of Porty Pride events – a fantastic opportunity to try climbing in a welcoming, inclusive environment.

More details: Porty Pride Events Programme

Staff Pride Network Evening Social

 Friday, June 6th | 5:30pm-10:00pm

 The Auld Hoose, 23-25 Saint Leonard’s Street, Edinburgh EH8

9QN

SPN’s flagship monthly evening social – a casual Friday wind-down for LGBT+ colleagues and allies. This free drop-in event welcomes all LGBT+ and ally staff and postgrad students from the University of Edinburgh and Napier University. The relaxed atmosphere accommodates people of all ages, disabilities, and social comfort levels.

Who can attend: LGBT+ and ally staff and postgrad students
Cost: Free
Format: Drop-in, no registration required
New to SPN? Contact staffpridenetwork@ed.ac.uk to arrange meeting an SPN member beforehand

Registration: Eventbrite (Free)

Porty Queer Football Community: Gie it a Go!

 Saturday, June 7th

Come and try football with Porty Queer Football Community – perfect for beginners and experienced players alike!

More details: Porty Pride Events Programme

Porty Pride Ball

 Saturday, June 7th | 7pm-12pm (doors 7pm for 7:30pm start)

 Portobello Town Hall

Theme: QUEER FREEDOM – Come dressed to show freedom to express, freedom to love and freedom to THRIVE! Features DJ Arusa Qureshi, DJ Ria Andrews, hosted by Butch Cassidy. 18+ event with accessible venue.

Tickets: £5-£25 available on OutSavvy

Queer(ing) Data in Healthcare Research & Practice Workshop

 Wednesday, June 11th | 10:00am-4:00pm

 Usher Enlighten One, Ground Floor, Usher Building, BioQuarter

1-day workshop engaging master's, PhD, and postdoctoral researchers in methodological training for queering data in science, technology, innovation, and healthcare research and practice. Attendees will work collaboratively to learn, employ and create 'queer' data practices, including applying issues of normativity to data science, supported through regular sharing and collective problem solving.

Who can attend: Master's, PhD, and postdoctoral researchers
Cost: Free
Organizers: Dr Chase Ledin (Usher) and Dr Kevin Guyan (Business)
Contact: chase.ledin@ed.ac.uk

Staff Pride Network Central Coffee & Cake

 Wednesday, June 11th | 1:00pm-2:00pm

 Canopy Cafe, Edinburgh Futures Institute, 1 Lauriston Place, Edinburgh EH3 9EF

Bi-monthly lunchtime coffee meetup at the central campus. Drop in for a coffee and free cake, meet your LGBT+ colleagues and ask a committee member those questions you've been dying to have answered! The venue is accessible and located on the Middle Meadows Walk side of the building.

Who can attend: LGBT+ and ally staff (or PhD students) of the

University of Edinburgh
Cost: Free (cake provided)
Format: Drop-in, no registration required
Features: Rainbow lanyards and table signage for easy identification
Accessibility: Accessible venue with accessible toilets

Contact: staffpridenetwork@ed.ac.uk
Registration: Eventbrite (Free)

“No Differences: Debating Demographic Expertise in U.S. Marriage Equality Cases”

 Wednesday, June 11th | 4:00pm

 Edinburgh Futures Institute, University of Edinburgh

The demography of sexuality has become a battleground in debates over LGBTQ civil rights. Experts and activists on all sides turn to demographic knowledge to make claims about LGBTQ people and the worthiness of their political claims, and data collection itself has become a site of intense political contestation. This talk draws on evidence from three pivotal same-sex marriage cases at the United States Supreme Court on the path to federal marriage equality to analyze the specific ways that population counting and other types of demographic evidence are mobilized in the legal arena.

Speaker: Dr Jamie Budnick (Assistant Professor, Sociology, Cornell University)
Hosted by: The Gender + Sexuality Data Lab and GENDER.ED
Format: Public talk, all welcome

Registration: Free tickets available

“Life Cycle of a Moth” Book Launch

 Wednesday, June 11th | 7-8pm

 Lighthouse Books

Launch of Rowe Irwin’s debut novel – an urgent, thrillingly alive novel about Maya and Daughter, who live in complete isolation in a secluded woodland. Explores both the tenderness and ferocity of maternal love.

More info: Lighthouse Bookshop Events

Trans Social Space at Augustine United Church

 Thursday, June 12th | 6:00pm-8:30pm

 Augustine United Church, 41-43 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EL

Social event for the trans community and allies. Come along for chat, refreshments and an opportunity to make signs for Edinburgh Pride. If you have clothes to swap, bring them along too!

Who can attend: Trans community and allies
Activities: Chat, refreshments, Pride sign making, clothes swap
Supported by: Augustine United Church and Resisting Transphobia in Edinburgh

Contact: Maxwell Reay – ourtribe@augustine.org.uk
Website: augustine.org.uk

Dundee Pride

 Saturday, June 14th

Dundee Pride

Stranraer Pride

 Saturday, June 14th

LGBT Plus

Trans+ Workout Session

 Sunday, June 15th | 5:00pm-7:00pm

 Salle, Pleasance Gym, Pleasance

Trans+ workout sessions organized by Edinburgh University Students' Association and Edinburgh University Sports Union. Exclusive access to gym facilities in a supportive environment.

Cost: £3 per session – all proceeds donated to LEAP Sports Scotland
Schedule: Every other Sunday (June 15th & 29th; July 13th & 27th; August 10th & 24th; September 7th)

LGBTQI+ Drop In Lunch Sessions – Easter Bush

 Monday, June 16th | 1:00pm-2:00pm

 Vet School Teaching Building, Room G03-A, Easter Bush Campus

Regular monthly drop-in lunch session for the LGBTQI+ and allies community at Easter Bush, open to all students and staff! To celebrate Pride Month and get ready for Edinburgh Pride on June 21st, organizers will bring arts & crafts materials for people who'd like to make signs for the Pride march. Feel free to bring your own craft materials as well!

Who can attend: All LGBTQI+ and ally students and staff at Easter Bush
Format: Drop-in throughout the session, bring your lunch
Provided: Snacks and arts & crafts materials for Pride signs
Schedule: Third Monday of each month from 1-2pm

Future sessions: Monday July 21st (G01) and Monday August 18th (G01)
Contact: Ben (organizer via Easter Bush campus)

🌈 WorkPride 2025 – Global Virtual Conference 🌈

📅 Monday-Friday, June 16th-20th | 🕒 Various times (Virtual)

📍 Online – Global Virtual Conference

Theme: "Your Allyship Journey Starts Here"

The sixth annual WorkPride is the world's largest virtual global conference dedicated to workplace LGBTQ+ inclusion! This 5-day event features **200+ global speakers** and **40+ sessions** designed for LGBTQ+ professionals, allies, HR leaders, DEI advocates, and anyone committed to workplace equality.

🎯 **Key Conference Topics:**

- **Bisexual Inclusion:** Navigating Identity at Work
- **Mentoring for Success:** Developing Future Leaders
- **Becoming an Active Trans Ally** (Interactive Workshop)
- **Using Data** to Measure and Improve DEI Outcomes
- **Visible Allyship** in Leadership
- **Creating Inclusive Company Culture**

Who can attend: LGBTQ+ professionals, allies, inclusive employers, students, graduates

Cost: 🆓 Completely FREE
Languages: English and Spanish
Special Certificate: Attend 5+ sessions to earn an LGBTQ+ Inclusion Certificate
Hosted by: myGwork (world's largest LGBTQ+ business platform)

Major Sponsors: Booking.com (headline), Taylor Wessing, RS Group, Canada Life, Organon, Valencia Gay Games

Registration: Free registration at myGwork.com
More info: WorkPride 2025 Events

🎯 *Perfect for University staff interested in workplace inclusion, DEI strategies, and building allyship skills!*

LEAP Sports Scotland Festival Fortnight

📅 June 17th-30th

An exciting mix of sporting, recreational, and cultural events designed to increase LGBTIQ+ visibility and participation in Scottish sport. Everyone is welcome to participate, whether trying new sports, supporting teams, or celebrating at festival parties.

Full listings: LEAP Sports Festival Fortnight

BioQuarter Pride Month Bake Sale

📅 Tuesday, June 17th | ⏰ Starting 1pm

📍 IRR South reception area, BioQuarter campus

Bake sale organized by the BioQuarter Pride Committee, open to anyone from across the University. All donations go to LGBT Health & Wellbeing, an Edinburgh-based charity supporting LGBTQ+ adults in Scotland.

Want to contribute bakes? Contact: BioQuarter.Pride@ed.ac.uk

“Second Skin” Book Launch

 Monday, June 17th | 7-8pm

 Lighthouse Books

Launch of Anastasiia Fedorova’s “Second Skin” – bringing subversive desire out of the dungeon and into the light. An illuminating tour of the world of fetishes that casts light on our culture at large, revealing how what we deem ‘taboo’ is never static.

More info: Lighthouse Bookshop Events

Staff Pride Network Kings Buildings Coffee & Cake

 Wednesday, June 18th | 1:00pm-2:00pm

 Magnet Café, JCMB Building, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh EH9 3BF

Monthly coffee meetup at Kings Buildings campus with the same welcoming format of free cake and community connection. Located in the James Clerk Maxwell Building, this accessible venue features SPN committee members available for questions and informal conversation.

Who can attend: LGBT+ and ally staff and students
Cost: Free (cake provided)
Format: Drop-in, no registration required
Features: Rainbow lanyards and table signage for easy identification

Registration: Eventbrite (Free)

NHS Lothian Pride Stalls Event

 Wednesday, June 18th | 1:30pm-3:30pm

 Little France, BioQuarter

Local organizations will have stalls at this community pride event. The University of Edinburgh has been invited to participate, and we expect good attendance from university staff and students.

Setup available from 1pm

“This Princess Kills Monsters” Book Launch

 Thursday, June 19th | 7-8pm

 Lighthouse Books Garden

Celebrate Ry Herman’s new novel about a princess with a mostly useless magical talent who takes on horrible monsters, masked heroes, and a talking lion. Expect themed surprises, refreshments – costumes and extra fabulousness most welcome!

More info: Lighthouse Bookshop Events

Edinburgh Pride Run ♀♂

 Friday, June 20th | 7pm start (arrive 6-6:45pm)

 Holyrood Park

After a hiatus, Edinburgh Frontrunners are back! Walk, run, or wheel your way around the iconic Arthur’s Seat to kick off Pride weekend in style. This 5km route is open to anyone over 18 – no need to be an EFR member to participate.

Registration: Edinburgh Frontrunners Pride Run

Contact: Dom.Cairns-Gibson@ed.ac.uk for questions or to meet committee members beforehand

Pride Edinburgh □□□□

□ Saturday, June 21st

□ Edinburgh

□ THE MARCH DETAILS:

□ **Meet:** Scottish Parliament at 12:30pm
□ **March starts:** 1:00pm
□□ **Route:** Scottish Parliament → Canongate → High Street → George IV Bridge → Bristo Place → Lothian Street → Potterrow → Crichton Street → Charles Street
□ **Finish:** Pride Edinburgh Festival Village at EUSA Complex

□ STAFF PRIDE NETWORK MEETUPS:

□ **PRE-MARCH MEETUP:**
Time: 11:00am-noon (drop in anytime)
Location: Levels Cafe
Plan: Meet as SPN group – **we leave at noon** to head down to the march together

□ **POST-MARCH MEETUP:**
Location: Columns outside University Visitors Centre
Plan: Group meetup after the march – option to head up to the chill out space on the roof

BioQuarter Pride Committee Meetup: If you'd like to march with BioQuarter Pride Committee colleagues, join their mailing list or contact BioQuarter.Pride@ed.ac.uk for meetup details.
BioQuarter mailing list:

https://mlist.is.ed.ac.uk/lists/info/bq.pride

More info: Pride Edinburgh

Upcoming June 2025 Events

“Music and words from the trans imaginary: an evening with CN Lester”

 Wednesday, June 25th | 7:00pm-9:00pm

 Reid Lecture Theatre on Bristo Square

QUEER.ED Event: An evening with CN Lester, a multi-genre musician (classical singer, improviser, composer, alternative piano-based singer-songwriter) and author of the critically acclaimed “Trans Like Me.” CN is also the founder and artistic director of the groundbreaking arts event “Transpose” at the Barbican.

Programme: CN will perform selections of their soulful, melodic, piano-based music on the Reid Concert Hall’s Steinway piano, plus deliver a reading of their recent reflections on the current state of life for trans people in the U.K.

About the programme: Rejects dehumanising narratives about trans people disseminated by media and anti-trans movement. Instead, CN’s art offers a glimpse into the trans imaginary—a space where trans people create their own stories, shape their own narratives, and define their own lives, inspired by energy, solidarity, hope, and love.

Tickets: https://CNLester.eventbrite.com
Sponsored by: QUEER.ED, UCU Edinburgh, Staff Pride Network, Lighthouse Bookshop, Edinburgh College of Art, School of Philosophy Psychology & Language Sciences, School of Social & Political Science, School of History Classics & Archaeology

Trans and Non-Binary Meet-up

 Thursday, June 26th | 5:30pm-7:30pm

 Paradise Palms (next to central campus)

Monthly social meet-up for trans and non-binary staff and PGRs! A safe space to meet, chat, relax, and discuss issues relating to our community (or anything and everything!). Held on the 4th (usually last) Thursday of every month.

Where to find us: Cosy alcove in the back on the left in the very queer trans-friendly bar Paradise Palms. Look out for a shark (cuddly trans icon of internet fame) and progress flag lanyard!
Who can attend: Trans and non-binary staff and PGRs
Schedule: 4th Thursday of every month, 5:30-7:30pm

RSVP required: Eventbrite registration
Contact: Merlyn (Co Trans & Non-binary Rep)

KB Coffee and Cake (King’s Buildings)

 Thursday, June 26th | 12:00pm

 Room 2.06 (Rowan), The Nucleus, King’s Buildings

SCHEDULE CHANGE: June’s Coffee and Cake has been moved from the usual third Wednesday to Thursday, June 26th! Come along for some cake/biscuits and a chat with other SPN members at King’s Buildings campus.

Who can attend: LGBTQ+ members of staff and PhD students, and allies on King’s Buildings campus
Provided: Cake/biscuits (gluten free and vegan options available)
Feel free to: Bring your lunch! (Microwaves and café/student shop available in The Nucleus)
Usually held: Third Wednesday of every month

Future KB Coffee and Cake dates:
• July 16th, 1-2pm (location TBC, hosted by David Radford)
• August 20th, 1-2pm in Room 2.06 (Rowan), The Nucleus

Host: Megan Hammell, APRIL AI Hub Engagement Officer
Purpose: Connect LGBTQ+ staff, PhD students and allies on King's Buildings campus

Pride Sports Day □□♀□□□□♀□

□ Sunday, June 22nd

□ Pleasance Games Hall

□ **Completely FREE**

Organized by Madeleine Bell (EUSU Wellbeing & Inclusion Officer), this inclusive sports day is open to everyone – staff, students, friends, and allies welcome!

Activities include:

- Self defence
- Climbing
- Boccia
- Football
- Pickleball

Important: Climbing signup deadline is June 6th, but please register even if climbing is full so organizers can plan for numbers.

Registration: Sign up here
Contact: eusu.wellbeing@ed.ac.uk

Edinburgh Curveballs Pride In Tennis

□ Sunday, June 22nd

Edinburgh Curveballs’ Pride In Tennis event, celebrating LGBTQ+ inclusivity in racquet sports.

More info: Edinburgh Curveballs

Staff Pride Network BioQuarter Coffee & Cake Social

 Tuesday, June 24th | 12:30pm-1:30pm

 Café 1898, Ground Floor Usher Building, 3 Little France Road, BioQuarter Gate, Edinburgh EH16 4UX

The final SPN event of June takes place at the BioQuarter campus, featuring the standard coffee and cake format with free cake provided. This monthly drop-in social is hosted by the BioQuarter Pride Committee and welcomes all LGBT+/ally staff and students at the BioQuarter. Part of the University’s Staff Pride Network monthly events held on different campuses.

Who can attend: LGBT+ and ally staff and students at BioQuarter
Cost: Free (coffee and cake provided)
Format: Drop-in, no registration required
Special feature: Optional wellbeing walk afterward (weather permitting)
Accessibility: All access and dietary needs accommodated when contacted in advance

Contact: BioQuarter.Pride@ed.ac.uk
Registration: Eventbrite (Free)

Music and words from the trans imaginary: an evening with CN Lester

 Wednesday, June 25th | 7:00pm-9:00pm

 Reid Lecture Theatre on Bristo Square

CN Lester is a multi-genre musician: a classical singer, improviser/deviser, composer, and alternative piano-based singer-songwriter. They are also the author of the critically acclaimed *Trans Like Me*, and the founder and artistic director of the groundbreaking arts event *Transpose* at the Barbican.

For this evening, CN will perform selections of their soulful, melodic, piano-based music, brought to life by the sumptuous sound of the Reid Concert Hall's Steinway piano. CN will also deliver a reading of their recent reflections on the current state of life for trans people in the U.K.

Part of a programme of trans-centred events that rejects dehumanising narratives about trans people and instead offers a glimpse into the trans imaginary—a space where trans people create their own stories, shape their own narratives, and define their own lives, inspired by energy, solidarity, hope, and love.

Sponsored by: University of Edinburgh's QUEER.ED, UCU Edinburgh, Staff Pride Network, Lighthouse Bookshop, Edinburgh College of Art, and the School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences

Tickets: Available on Eventbrite

"The Dry Season" Book Event

 Thursday, June 26th | 7-8pm

 Lighthouse Books

Melissa Febos in conversation with Dina Nayeri discussing "The Dry Season" – a memoir of the author's year of celibacy and a profound exploration of independence, sexuality and deep self-knowledge.

More info: Lighthouse Bookshop Events

Dunedin Fencing Club – Pride Community Beginners Course

 Starting Thursday, June 26th | Thursday evenings (6 weeks)

 Leith Community Centre

A six week beginners course specifically for members of the Pride community! Learn the fun and excitement of fencing with an inclusive and open approach to the sport. The course will give you an introduction to the sport, its different weapons and techniques, and the joy of meeting new people so you can (sportingly) stab them.

Who can attend: Pride community members 16 years and older
Cost: £40 (equipment hire included)
Special features: Courses run by coaches who are members of the pride community. Venue has both single gender and gender neutral changing facilities.

Registration & more info: Dunedin Fencing Club
Contact: hello@dunedinfencingclub.co.uk
Instagram: @dunedinfencing

Another beginners course is scheduled for October (tickets not yet available)

Edinburgh Curveballs Squash Tournament

 Saturday, June 28th

Organizer: Edinburgh Curveballs

More info: Edinburgh Curveballs

Trans+ Workout Session

 Sunday, June 29th | 5:00pm-7:00pm

 Salle, Pleasance Gym, Pleasance

Second June session of the bi-weekly Trans+ workout sessions. Exclusive access to gym facilities in a supportive environment.

Cost: £3 per session – all proceeds donated to LEAP Sports Scotland

Edinburgh Curveballs Padel Tournament

 Sunday, June 29th

Organizer: Edinburgh Curveballs

More info: Edinburgh Curveballs

Free taster sessions: Edinburgh Curveballs offers free taster sessions throughout Pride Month for tennis, squash, and padel – perfect for trying out racquet sports in an inclusive environment!

Staff Pride Network Evening Social

 Friday, July 4th | 5:30pm-10:00pm

 The Auld Hoose, 23-25 Saint Leonard’s Street, Edinburgh EH8 9QN

SPN’s flagship monthly evening social – a casual Friday wind-down for LGBT+ colleagues and allies. This free drop-in event welcomes all LGBT+ and ally staff and postgraduate students from the University of Edinburgh, Napier University, and Queen Margaret University. The relaxed atmosphere accommodates

people of all ages, disabilities, and social comfort levels.

Who can attend: LGBT+ and ally staff and postgrad students
Cost: Free
Format: Drop-in, no registration required
New to SPN? Contact staffpridenetwork@ed.ac.uk to arrange meeting an SPN member beforehand

Registration: Eventbrite (Free)

Other Pride Events in the Region

For those interested in supporting Pride celebrations in nearby areas:

Fife Pride

 Saturday, July 5th

Fife Pride

□□□□ Fife Pride – SPN Contingent

 Saturday, July 5th
 Kirkcaldy, Fife

We're organising an SPN contingent to support and celebrate at Fife Pride! It's a fantastic opportunity to show solidarity with our LGBTQ+ community across Scotland and enjoy a great day out with fellow SPN members.

 FIFE PRIDE MARCH DETAILS:

- **Gather:** Outside Fife College on St Brycedale Avenue from 12:30pm
- **March starts:** 1:00pm

- **Route:** Led by Kirkcaldy and District Pipe Band – down Kirk Wynd, then along High Street, turning onto Whytescauseway, then onto Town Square
- **Entertainment:** 1:15pm-6:30pm in the marquee at Town Square
- **Cost:** Free event, no tickets needed

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE SPN FIFE PRIDE CONTINGENT?

Contact:

- **Robbie Court:** XXXX
- **Jonathan MacBride**

Get in touch to coordinate travel arrangements, meetup details, and to connect with other SPN members heading to Fife Pride!

West Lothian Pride

Saturday, July 26th

West Lothian Pride

Stirling Pride

Saturday, September 20th

Related LGBTQ+ Events Beyond June

“Rainbow Trap” Book Launch with Kevin Guyan

Thursday, July 3rd | 7:00pm

 Lighthouse Bookstore (and online)

Rainbow Trap reveals how the fight for LGBTQ equalities in the UK is shaped – and constrained – by the classifications we encounter every day. Edinburgh launch for local author and researcher Dr Kevin Guyan, hosted by Gemma Milne!

Looking across six systems – the police and the recording of hate crimes; dating apps and digital desire; outness in the film and television industry; borders and LGBTQ asylum seekers; health and fitness activities; and DEI initiatives in the workplace – Rainbow Trap documents how inclusive interventions have attempted to bring historically marginalized communities out of the shadows.

Author: Dr Kevin Guyan (Chancellor's Fellow, University of Edinburgh Business School & Director, Gender + Sexuality Data Lab)
Host: Gemma Milne
Book release: June 12th, 2025

Tickets: Lighthouse Bookshop Events

Other Opportunities We've Heard About

LGBTQ+ Youth in Sport Research

PhD student Gabriel Bell from the University of Hull is researching the impact of publicly out LGBTQ+ Olympians on LGBTQ+ youth. They're looking for LGBTQ+ people aged 16-25 in the UK to complete an online survey.

Participate: LGBTQ+ Sport Research Survey
Contact: G.COUTO-RIBAS-2022@hull.ac.uk

“We Have Always Been Here. And We Always Will Be” Project

Some of our network members are working to bring this impactful project to Engineering spaces around the university. This exhibition has been making rounds at other schools and there’s interest in providing more visibility within our community.

Know of Other Events?

This list represents what we’ve heard about so far, but we know there’s always more happening! If you know of other Pride events or activities taking place this month that our members might be interested in, please let us know and we’ll share them with the network.

Let’s make this Pride Month one to remember!

LGBTQ+ History Month 2025

Welcome colleagues to our round-up of events happening throughout LGBTQ+ History month in 2025. This year the theme is Activism! Events have been arranged by colleagues and groups across the University, some in collaboration with SPN, some independently.

Note: Additional events will be added as details become available. Check back regularly for updates.

Water Trouble: Queer Bodies and Fluidity in the Mediterranean

Wednesday 5 February

13:00-14:00

Seminar room, 2 Hope Park Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9NW

Organised by Dr Alice Parrinello

In recent years, and especially since the arrival on Italian shores in 1991 of the Vlora cargo ship, the Mediterranean has been constructed as a border. This view has fostered necropolitical policies, which create a strict divide between Central Europe and the Global South and reclaim an impossible ownership of the Mediterranean. Simultaneously, queer Italian films promote a different view of the Mediterranean, seeing it as a place of resistance and reclamation. The talk will investigate the films *Il padre d'Italia* (2017) by Fabio Mollo, *La dea fortuna* (2019) by Ferzan Özpetek, *Misericordia* (2023) by Emma Dante, arguing that they promote a porous and queer futurity from Mediterranean waters (Neimanis 2017).

Please join in-person, or click the link below to join the webinar:

https://ed-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/83015772676

Passcode: b1QpaAD7

Open to staff and students.

Staff Pride Network Evening Social

Friday 7th February, 17:30 – 22:00, The Auld Hoose

This event is open to all LGBT+/ally staff and postgrad students at the University of Edinburgh and Napier University. Even if you're not a Staff Pride Network member (yet), you're very welcome to join us and find out what we're about. We hope you'll find that we're a welcoming crowd

Link: Staff Pride Network Evening Social

Crochet and Craftivism

Tuesday 11 February, 12-2pm, Usher Engage (ground floor, Usher Building)

Join the Usher Community and the BioQuarter Pride Committee for a lunchtime drop-in session of crafting and community building. Our two activities will be an introduction to crochet (whether you're a crochet newbie or an experienced yarn-lover) and LGBT+ activism-themed fabric painting (canvas, paints and brushes provided – just bring your enthusiasm and creativity!).

Open to staff and students.

If you have any questions about the event, you can email BioQuarter.Pride@ed.ac.uk

Staff Pride Network Central Coffee & Cake

Wednesday 12 February, 1-2pm, Canopy Cafe, Edinburgh Futures Institute (entrance from Middle Meadows Walk)

Join us for our central bi-monthly Coffee & Cake meetup at the Canopy Cafe, Edinburgh Futures Institute on Wednesday 12 February, 1-2pm. All University LGBT+ staff and allies are welcome to drop in for complimentary cake and conversation in our accessible venue. To find our table follow the pictures/description on the Eventbrite link below:

Link: Staff Pride Network Central Coffee & Cake

International Shorts: Queer Stories (18+)

Saturday 15 February, 8pm, French Institute of Scotland, West

Parliament Square, Edinburgh EH1 1RF

Co-curated by Manipulate Arts and Sanctuary Queer Arts, this 90-minute programme showcases award-winning LGBTQIA+ animated shorts from around the globe. From tender tales of self-discovery to bold explorations of identity, the films range from a trans narrative within the Godzilla family to the complex life of a queer football hooligan. Animation proves the perfect medium for exploring rich inner worlds, transformation, and stories that might be unsafe to tell through live action.

Tickets £10/£8 through Manipulate Festival Box Office

Accessibility: Level access throughout, wheelchair accessible, closed captions [CC]. Accessible toilet on ground floor. Contact venue for access information: 0131 285 6030 or frenchclassesife@gmail.com

Content Warning: Contains strobing effects. Features themes of violence, smoking, swearing, homophobia, alcohol, drug use, racism, nudity, and sexual content across different films.

BOOK TICKETS

Staff Pride Network Kings Buildings Coffee & Cake

19 February, 1pm, The Nucleus Room 2.06 (Rowan)

February’s Coffee and Cake is this Wednesday, please come along to Room 2.06 (Rowan), The Nucleus at 1pm for some cake/biscuits and a chat with other SPN members! All LGBTQ+ staff and allies welcome to join!

‘We have always been here. And we always will be’ Exhibition

On display in Paterson’s land social space lower ground floor

(Moray House) from the 14-28 February pay a visit to the exhibition. You can find details of the guided tour taking place on the 25 February further down this page.

A quote from Ash Scholz, one of the creators: “This exhibition is by no means exhaustive. It provides some glimpses into the incredible work of queer student activists and community members throughout a time of significant repression and discriminatory laws and policies. Without the work of student activists in the past, these successes would have not been possible at all, and we found a sense of intergenerational solidarity with the queer students that came before us through our research. The exhibition wants to take up space for an underrepresented community, with queer students being able to manifest their belonging at the University through having a visual reminder of their historical presence. Thank you to my amazing volunteer group, and all the support I have received from the School, without whom this would have not been possible!”

LGBTQuizzing Afternoon

Friday 21 February 4-6pm Paterson’s Land 1.26

Organised by UoE Staff Pride Network

We wanted to provide an extended social opportunity during LGBTQ+ history month that does not involve alcohol but features opportunities to get to know your colleagues better and also flex your quizzing skills on all things LGBTQ+!

Refreshments will be provided!

Please feel free to invite friends & colleagues from across the University, open to staff and students.

We will arrange teams on the day so you have a chance to mingle and meet new people.

REGISTER HERE

LGBTQ+ History Month Our Tribe @Augustine United Church

Saturday 22 February at Augustine United Church, 41 George VI Bridge. Doors open at 1pm.

- Panel of speakers on LGBT Activism 1.30 pm – 2.30pm
- Drag Queen Bingo 3pm – 4.30pm
- Singer/Songwriter – Mike Mckenzie 4.30pm
- T Dance/Disco – 5pm -7pm

Please feel free to join us for all or part of the day. Refreshments and snacks will be provided. This is an alcohol free event. Changing space is available. The building is wheelchair accessible. Please ring the bell to the right of the main front door. This is a free event and ALL are welcome.

If you would like any more information please email ourtribe@augustine.org.uk

We look forward to seeing you! Maxwell and the Our Tribe Team

‘We have always been here. And we always will be’ Exhibition Tour

Monday 24 February 2025,- 4-5 pm, Paterson’s land social space lower ground floor (Moray House)
Join a guided tour of a new exhibition from a student-led group in the School of History, Classics and Archaeology (HCA). Students created a database of student LGBTQ+ sources in the University archive, from around 1970 to today under the title ‘We have always been here. And we always will be.’ The student research team was made up joint degrees HCA students and recovers the history of LGBTQ+ community, culture, and activism at the University.

REGISTER HERE

LGBT+ History Month Seminar and Social

Tuesday 25 February, 12:30-2pm, IRR South 1.05

Description: Join the BioQuarter LGBT+/ally community for a lunchtime seminar with speakers from across our staff and student community. The seminar will be followed by a social with pizza. Everyone is welcome to attend.

FULL DETAILS HERE

Discovery Day : Exploring LGBTQ+ History

Wednesday 26 February, Main Library, events throughout the day from 1000-1700

At University of Edinburgh, you have access to archival material digitised from around the world to explore centuries of stories and voices on sex and sexuality, community organisation, protest and the fight for equal rights.

Come to our Discovery Day. We're exploring LGBTQ+ History Month with a day of themed events in the Main Library, featuring:

Deep dive sessions into our digital primary sources.
Stalls with information, freebies and advice on library resources.
Hands on session with our unique archival resources.

Open to UoE Staff and Students!

Exploring LGBTQ+ Resources: Navigating ProQuest and Alexander Street Platforms

10:00-10:50, In-person, Main Library ML1.07

In this session, we will focus on the historical challenges faced by the LGBTQ+ community and the evolution of laws impacting their rights in the UK. We will explore a range of primary and secondary sources available on ProQuest and Alexander Street platforms, and will demonstrate effective strategies for searching and locating relevant documents to support your learning and research process.

REGISTER HERE

“The barman was quite cute, and could never resist a dare…”: gender and sexuality in the archives (AM Digital)
11:10-12:00, In-person, Main Library ML1.07

In this session, Dr Laura Blomvall from AM [Adam Matthew] will present on two collections of digitised archival material – Gender, Identity and Social Change and Sex & Sexuality – to show material from diaries of Anne ‘Gentleman Jack’ Lister to photographs of a Victorian fetishist, from the fight for gay rights and the rights to legal sex change in post-war California to British coming out stories from the 1990s.

REGISTER HERE

Insights into LGBTQ History with Gale Primary Sources
12:10-13:00, In-person, Main Library ML1.07

In this presentation Gale will illustrate the histories and stories contained within the Gale Primary Sources digital archives, as well as covering techniques for finding and interpreting LGBTQ primary sources. Given the unique collections that are contained within these archives, this session can benefit students from a variety of disciplines when it comes to their dissertation and thesis research.

REGISTER HERE

Exploring LGBT+ Resources in Lothian Health Services Archive

16:10-17:00, Centre for Research Collections Teaching Room 2, Main Library 6th floor (Central Area)

Are you interested in finding out more about support services for LGBT+ people in the mid-twentieth century? In this session, you will discover how these services were initiated and developed, and how they supported the LGBT+ community, especially during periods of change and crisis. We will focus mostly on the archive of the Lothian Gay and Lesbian Switchboard (LGLS), but will also highlight sources on LGBT+ activism during the HIV crisis of the 1980s and 1990s.

LGLS was the UK's first gay helpline and Scotland's first gay charity, and it was a key source of support to LGBT+ people across Scotland and the UK. They campaigned and advised on sexual health, mental health, and equality issues, as well as providing listening and befriending services to people about issues or difficulties relating to their sexuality, as well as passing on details of gay-friendly organisations, counselling professionals, and sexual health advice.

This session will introduce you to items from this fascinating collection, and let you know how LHSA sources on LGBT+ activism can help with research towards your dissertation. We will also cover how to access archive collections for yourself, and share some hints and tips for first-time archive researchers. You can find out more about the Lothian Health Services Archive collections from our website.

Open to staff and students.

Contact organiser: Louise Williams (Tel: 01316508379, Email: lhsa@ed.ac.uk)

REGISTER HERE

Edinburgh Historic Walks

Wednesday 26th February, 12.30pm, King’s Buildings House

Our February theme is Activism, and in honour of LGBT+ History Month, we’ll be discussing the role of the student union in fighting for same-sex marriage. We’ll then discuss other forms of activism, including links to abolitionism at King’s Buildings, before taking the scenic route up to the Royal Observatory, where we’ll discuss the suffragette bombing of 1913.

Join us on Wednesday 26th February to learn about Edinburgh University’s ties to activism and fights for justice. We’ll be meeting outside King’s Buildings House at 12.30, and finishing at 1-1.15pm at the Royal Observatory.

Book your place now!

Investigating How Societal Narratives and Social Networks Shape LGBTQ+ Youth Suicide Risk

Wednesday 26th February 4-5pm,

As part of the Queer Minds Scotland Network (a collaboration between Glasgow Caledonian University and the University of Edinburgh) we are beginning an online LGBTQ+ mental health and wellbeing research seminar series. This is beginning this month with a talk from the brilliant Dr Kirsty Clark reflecting on LGBTQ+ youth suicide drawing from research projects in the US (and in particular the southern states) and Scotland. Dr. Kirsty Clark will share research from both the United States and Scotland examining how societal narratives and social networks can shape suicide risk among LGBTQ+ youth. She will discuss how the portrayal of LGBTQ+ youth suicide in media, education, and even research may contribute to risk.

Dr. Clark will highlight perspectives from LGBTQ+ individuals who have survived suicide attempts and present new findings on how being exposed to the suicidal thoughts and behaviors of others may impact LGBTQ+ youth. This talk will encourage discussion on how we can reshape societal messages and strengthen support networks to promote resilience and well-being among LGBTQ+ youth.

BOOK HERE

The Future of Gender and Sexuality Data: Perils and Possibilities

Thursday 27 February at the Edinburgh Futures Institute.

To mark the launch of the University of Edinburgh's Gender + Sexuality Data Lab, join us for a panel discussion: 'The Future of Gender and Sexuality Data: Perils and Possibilities' on Thursday 27 February at the Edinburgh Futures Institute.

From the laws that shape our rights to the algorithms that predict our behaviours, gender and sexuality data is everywhere – but who decides what gets counted and why?

The panel will explore how gender and sexuality data is collected, analysed and used – in policy and law, in technology and AI, and in our everyday interactions with organisations and institutions. The panel includes:

- Sharon Cowan (chair): Professor of Feminist and Queer Legal Studies, University of Edinburgh
- Reema Vadoliya: data professional, storyteller and advocate for inclusion in data
- Vic Valentine: Scottish Trans Manager, Equality Network
- Matthew J. Cull: author of *What Gender Should Be* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2024)

How does our approach to data enable and constrain people's opportunities in day-to-day life? What are the wider effects of the datafication of identity characteristics – particularly for communities minoritised due to sexual orientation, gender identity, age, race, class and/or disability?

What lies ahead in 2025? Will changes to the design of data categories make decisions fairer for everyone or are we trapped in classification systems that are beyond repair? Where the only solution left is to rip it all up and start again?

The panel event will be followed by a networking reception.

The Future of Gender and Sexuality Data: Perils and Possibilities | Thurs 27 Feb, 3pm | Edinburgh Futures Institute | Open to all | Register here

The Love Hub on the Road: Edinburgh Edition

A series of 6 free workshops/events taking place in Edinburgh on 27 and 28th February, as part of a collaboration between the Centre for Biomedicine, Self and Society and The Love Tank.

The workshops focus in on key issues that we've been grappling with – as researchers, and as community organisations/activists and we hope will create a safe and creative space to explore and reflect on some of these issues. These include but are not limited to HIV PrEP equity, inclusive abortion, DOXY-PEP/sexual health, disability justice and activism. They all take place in Edinburgh – at the Pleasance and at Lighthouse Bookshop. And we're hoping to make a few available online: the PrEP Equity and Spoken word events will be streamed; disability justice workshop will be hybrid and interactive).

Please consider this an invitation to join some (or all!) of

our events and to share widely with those you work and collaborate with.

Contact Dr Ingrid Young if you have any questions: ingrid.young@ed.ac.uk

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Join/subscribe/unsubscribe the SPN mailing List (mlist – staffpridenetworkmembers)

Since the Universities mlist system isn't the easiest to navigate it requires a page:

To access the list page for SPN members please click below but note the likely error and how to get around before clicking:

https://mlist.is.ed.ac.uk/lists/info/staffpridenetworkmembers

You will need to first log in via ease which should be straightforward the issue comes if you get this mysterious error shown above.

The error is that mlist site isn't logged in as it needs you to click the University Login button on the top right. This should then finally let you through to the staffpridenetworkmembers list page and click the option to subscribe / unsubscribe and generally manage your preferences.

Genderfluid Awareness Week

This week we celebrate Genderfluid Awareness Week. This began on Twitter in 2021 with a post by @LGBTQcontent and is now celebrated annually between 17th and 24th October.

Genderfluidity is a gender identity that is not fixed and can shift or fluctuate. Genderfluid people may shift between masculine and feminine, be a combination of both, be completely genderless or fluctuate. Genderfluidity is generally considered to come under the Trans and Non-binary umbrella.

This week raises awareness of Genderfluidity and is an opportunity to showcase Gender-Fluid culture and amplify Gender-Fluid voices.

October 11th is National Coming Out Day

This Friday is National Coming Out Day.

First celebrated in 1988, this day originally marked the one-year anniversary of the 1987 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. It’s founders, Robert Eichberg and Jean O’Leary, believed that once people are aware that they have loved ones that are LGBTQIA+, they are far less likely to

maintain oppressive views and this was a powerful tool in combating homophobia.

“Most people think they don’t know anyone gay or lesbian, and in fact, everybody does. It is imperative that we come out and let people know who we are and disabuse them of their fears and stereotypes”

> – Robert Eichberg (1993)

Although this started off as an American awareness day, the meaning of National Coming Out Day is still highly relevant to LGBTQ+ communities across the world today.

October Awareness Days, Social Events and the AGM!

The leaves are turning orange, the nights are drawing in and we begin the cozy Autumn season as we begin October! That means it’s Black History month and throughout October there’s also a number of varied Pride awareness days to keep an eye out for.

This month we have:

- Lesbian Day – 8th October
- National Coming Out Day – 12th October
- Pronouns Day – 16th October
- Gender Fluid Visibility Week – 17th-24th October
- Ace (Asexuality) Week – 20th-26th October
- Intersex Awareness Day – 26th October

If you’re new to SPN, please check out our Eventbrite page for

our regular social gatherings by clicking here.

We have our upcoming Annual General Meeting on the 14th October via Zoom, where we update on the past year and vote in the coming year's SPN committee.

If you're interested in joining our committee you can find out find out more about the roles by clicking here. If you're interested in standing for a role, please email us.

Happy October, all!

Queer Voices in Music at St Cecilia's Hall

Through September and October a series of events will be held at St Cecilia's Hall organised by the Heritage Collections department centered around unique artists whose work relates to LGBTQ+ narratives and themes. "Queer Voices in Music" begins with an after-hours social at the museum, followed by a series of concerts listed below:

7th Sept 19:00 Museum Late
21st Sept 18:00 Lauren Bianchi
5th Oct 18:00 Bogle Mufty
19th Oct 19:00 Finn Anderson

Click here for Eventbrite link

Celebrating International Non Binary People’s Day and Non Binary Awareness Week

The 8th July marks the beginning of 2024’s Non Binary Awareness Week, a week celebrating and raising awareness of all things Non Binary.

This week culminates in the 14th July which is International Non Binary People’s Day. This day has been celebrated since 2012 when non binary blogger Katje van Loon wrote a post addressing a need for a day that celebrated those that do not fit within the gender binary and suggesting that the 14th July would serve as a good date for this, being that it falls between International Women’s Day and International Men’s Day.

New Pronoun Badges Available Across Campuses

We are pleased to announce that pronoun badges are now available on both our Central and Holyrood campuses! This initiative aims to foster an inclusive environment, particularly supporting LGBTQ+ and trans* inclusivity within our community.

Where to Find the Badges:

- **Central Campus**:
  - Main Library (Ground Floor Helpdesk)
  - Centre for Research Collections (Sixth Floor)

- **Holyrood Campus**:
    - Campus Reception (Old Nursery Building)
- **Argyle House**:
    - Currently holding a box of pronoun badges which will circulate to different site libraries starting mid-July.

Badge Options:

- **She/Her**
- **He/Him**
- **They/Them**

Why Pronoun Badges?

Using pronoun badges is a simple yet impactful way to promote gender inclusivity. Whether through badges, email signatures, or casual conversations, stating your pronouns helps create a more respectful and understanding community. This practice is particularly significant for the inclusion of trans* individuals, who often face challenges around misgendering and lack of recognition.

Acknowledgements

A heartfelt thank you to Nel Coleman and Lena Wånggren for their efforts in organizing this initiative. Their commitment to fostering an inclusive environment is truly commendable.

Let’s embrace this opportunity to make our campuses more welcoming and inclusive for everyone.

Feel free to pick up your badge and wear it with pride!