



26 - 28 JUNE 2018 SOAS, University of London, WC1H 0XG UCL, WC1E 6BT



General Info

26 June, Keynote & Reception: Registration from 1730 (1800 start)

27 and 28 June, Conference: Registration from 0930-1000 (1000 start)

Registration desks can be found past the entrance of the Paul Webley Building (Cloisters)

Panels/events run consecutively on 27 and 28 June

Social media:

Twitter: @thequeerasia Facebook: @queerasia

Official hashtag: #queerasia2018 Website: www.queerasia.com

### ART EXHIBITION: BODIES X BORDERS

Cloisters, Paul Webley Curator: Rhea Tuli, UCL

Featuring artists from Syria, South Korea, Bangladesh, Pakistan, the US, and the UK, the art exhibition explores themes of identity, gender, sexuality, sexual orientation, LGBTQ+ rights, religion, refugee and immigrant issues, mental illness, societal norms, and social pressures. Organised by Rhea Tuli and Amy Kahng.

#### **POSTER EXHIBITION**

Upper Atrium, Paul Webley

Our first ever 'Queer' Asia poster exhibition examines a range of themes related to LGBTQ+ identities in Asia and among the Asian diaspora. During lunch time (1300–1400) on both 27 and 28 June, there will be round-robin style presentations at the exhibition for poster presenters who are able to attend in person.



DAY 1

Keynote Address, Tuesday 26 June, 2018

### **KEYNOTE OPENING PANEL, 1800-1930**

Paul Webley Atrium Registration from 1730 Chaired by Dr Nour Abu-Assab, CTDC



#### **VANJA HAMZIĆ**

Senior Lecturer in Legal History and Legal Anthropology, SOAS University of London



**GEETA PATEL** 

Director of UVA in India and Professor, University of Virginia



**SUEN YIU TUNG** 

Assistant Professor, Gender Studies Programme and Associate Director of the Gender Research Centre, Chinese University of Hong Kong



Sponsored by the SOAS South Asia Institute

With special thanks to Professor Edward Simpson and Dr Navtej Purewal





Keynote Speaker Bios

#### VANJA HAMZIĆ

Senior Lecturer in Legal History and Legal Anthropology, SOAS University of London

Dr Hamzić's research addresses issues in human subjectivity formation—especially related to gender, sexual, class, linguistic and religious difference—with principal fieldwork sites in Pakistan, Indonesia, Senegal and Louisiana. While the focus of Dr Hamzić's work has been the Islamic legal tradition, both in its historical and present-day diversity, he is also interested in how some of its strands have influenced—and, in some cases, moulded into—other South Asian, South East Asian, West African and circum-Atlantic traditions. Dr Hamzić's work to date has particularly sought to shed new light on how gender-variant individuals and communities have braved the turbulent tides of colonialism, slavery and other legally-sanctioned oppression and how, in turn, they have developed and abided by multiple formations of insurrectionary vernacular knowledge about themselves and the world at large.

#### **GEETA PATEL**

Director of UVA in India and Professor, University of Virginia

Professor Patel has three degrees in science and a doctorate from Columbia University, NY in inter-disciplinary South Asian Studies focusing on Sanskrit and Urdu. She has published widely in both academic and popular venues on the collusive conundrums posed by bringing finance, science, sexuality and aesthetics together, and translated lyric and prose from Sanskrit, Urdu, Hindi and Braj. Her first monograph, Lyrical Movements, Historical Hauntings: On Gender, Colonialism and Desire in Miraji's Urdu Poetry, reimagines the landscape of Urdu modernism. Dr Patel's second book, Risky Bodies & Techno-Intimacy uses technointimacy as the locus for interrogating capital, science, media and desire. She is the co-editor of three special issues that engage several of her areas of expertise. "In Queery/In Theory/ In Deed" and "Area Impossible," for GLQ and "Trust and Islamic Capital" for Society and Business Review. Dr. Patel is completing three other manuscripts, one on the poetics of finance (historical pensions, insurance, credit, debt) and farm finance; one on Ismat Chughtai using the history of scientific realism, light, quantum and special relativity as vectors; and one on fantasies embedded in advertising called "Billboard Fantasies."

#### **SUEN YIU TUNG**

Assistant Professor, Gender Studies Programme and Associate Director of the Gender Research Centre, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Professor Suen founded and directs the Sexualities Research Programme, the first research programme in Hong Kong dedicated to conducting rigorous, independent research on sexuality issues, focusing on LGBT+ legal and policy issues. He has been frequently invited to speak on LGBT+ issues to a wide range of audiences including policy makers, business leaders, lawyers, health care professionals, service providers, secondary school and university students, and social activists. He serves as a consultant and data analyst for the United Nations Development Programme Being LGBTI in Asia programme, serves on the Research Advisory Board of Open for Business, and is the Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Directors of AIDS Concern. His work is frequently cited in the Hong Kong media, has been reported to the Legislative Council, as well as used in evidence in court cases. Professor Suen has been interviewed by international media outlets such as the BBC and Bloomberg and he is frequently asked to comment on gender and sexuality issues by Hong Kong media. He was a regular contributor to the South China Morning Post Letter of the Law column. His op-eds have been published in the Guardian, China Daily, Hong Kong Economic Journal and Ming Pao among other diverse outlets.



DAY 2

Wednesday 27 June 1000-1200

#### PANEL 1: UNDER WESTERN EYES IN TRANSNATIONAL TIMES

1000-1200, S209

Chair: Dr Vanja Hamzić, SOAS

'Translate Me Not: The Invisibility of the Filipino Queer Immigrants in the Dutch Society' - Raymond Unico, Utrecht University (Alumni)

'(De)constructing the global: Tracing the ephemeral queer Arab through the globalization of Mashrou Leila' - Heather Jaber, University of Pennsylvania

'Indexing the Queer Asian Body in Australian and New Zealand literary characters (Witi Ihimaera & Benjamin Law)' – Borja Ibaseta Garrido, University of Oviedo, Spain

'Analyzing the lived realities and experiences of gay Malaysian men who migrated to the Netherlands and the United Kingdom' - Kan Wai Min, International Institute of Social Studies

'Trans<mark>national Queerness in South India' - Nisha Kommattam, University of Chicago</mark>

### PANEL 2: SEXING THE INTERSTICES: FROM CLASS TO COSPLAY

1000-1200, S211

Chair: Dr Navtej Purewal, SOAS

'Urban interstit<mark>iality</mark> and queer <mark>dwe</mark>lling spaces: A <mark>case st</mark>udy of urban village in Chandigarh, Punjab, India' - Preetika Sharma, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Mohali

'Gender Revealed: The Collective Gender Perfor<mark>manc</mark>e in Gender-crossing Cosplay' - Yuchen Yang, University of Chicago

'Disruptive Queer Representation: Media Valorization of Queer Bodies in Thai Boys' Love Television Series' – Jaray Singhakowinta, National Institute of Development Administration, Thailand

'A Subculture of Sex Workers in Hong Kong' - Xinlei Sha, University of Cambridge

'On gay-friendly Islamophobia: the limits of homonationalism and the securitization of sexuality' – Sabiha Allouche, SOAS, University of London

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#### **FILM FESTIVAL**

1000-1200, S113



DAY 2

Wednesday 27 June 1200 - 1300

# TALK: 'MOURNING IN DIASPORA AND NARRATING QUEER ASIAN MELANCHOLIA' BY DR WEN LIU

1200–1300, Paul Webley Atrium Chair: Dr Akanksha Mehta, University of Sussex



As US-led imperialism spreads through in the Asia Pacific region through neoliberal trades and military occupation, how do the affective spaces of "Asia" and "America" construct and assemble diasporic Asian subjects? Furthermore, as national allegiance is aggressive demanded by the surge of white nationalism in the Global North, how does one afford to be continually attached to an object—"Asia"—that is supposed to be gotten rid of in the interest of becoming Asian American? Drawing on narrative study with queer Asian American activists involved in anti-imperialist organizing in New York City, Liu's talk situates their narratives of racialized queer grief in the framework of racial melancholia (Cheng 2000; Eng and Hang 2000) as a form of protest against the splitting of Asian and American identity. With a queer and intersectional framework of analysis and anti-essentialist method of narrating identity, this paper highlights how racial melancholia are strategies of subjectivity-making against the colonial splitting of blackness and whiteness, the erasure of imperial history, and segregation of communities. Dr Wen Liu is assistant professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at University at Albany.

#### DISCUSSION: CENTRAL ASIA AND CAUCASUS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

1200-1300, S209

LGBTQI+ rights in Central Asia and the Caucasus have come under increased attack in the recent past, especially due to their proximity with Russia and its influence on their domestic policies. While international media and human rights organisations have been quick to condemn the backlash, there is a need to listen to voices from the ground. Featuring:

Nazik Abylgazieva, Labrys, Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia;

Javid Nabiyev, Founder of Queer Refugees for Pride and Chairman of Nefes LGBT Azerbaijan Alliance;

Anna Kirey (Chair), Amnesty International's Deputy Regional Director for Central Asia and Eurasia.

#### **FILM FESTIVAL**

1200-1300, S113



DAY 2

Wednesday 27 June 1400 - 1600

### PANEL 3: LIFE AND LIVABILITY: PRACTICES OF EXISTENCE AND RESISTANCE

1400-1600, S209

Chair: Dr Ross Forman, Warwick University

<mark>'Romancing the Transhuman' - Victoria Caudle, University of East Ang<mark>lia</mark></mark>

'Class as a method to localise queer theory in East Asia' - Ting-Fai Yu, French Centre for Research on Contemporary China

'Mental Health of Sexual and Gender Minority Asylum Seekers' – Tseng Po-Chang, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

'Lost in Gay Paradise: Rethinking Gay tourism, Global Capitalism, and Queer Autonomy in Thailand' – Thirayut Sangangamsakun, University of Warwick

'Tips for the straight to gain green-card by performing homosexuality: Navigating sexual orientation and citizenship of Chinese asylum seekers in the United States' - Xuwen Dong, University of Oxford

### ROUNDTABLE - 'BEING LGBTI IN ASIA': EXPLORING THE UNDP PROJECT

1400-1600, S211

This panel has been put convened by UNDP's 'Being LGBTI in Asia' project, a unique programme working at a pan-Asia level to address violence and discrimination against LGBTQI+ persons. The panel will focus on various topics covered by the project; all the studies commissioned are multi-country and have a comparative outlook on laws and policies on LGBTI issues in Asia.

LGBTI People and Employment Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Sex Characteristics in China, Philippines and Thailand (3 countries) - Prof Yiu-Tung Suen, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Legal Gender Recognition: A Multi-Country Legal and Policy Review in Asia (9 counties) - Eszter Kismodi, International Human Rights Lawyer

An Advocacy Vista: a regional study of LGBTI civil society engagement with the UN human rights mechanisms (12 countries) - Ryan Silverio, Regional Manager, ASEAN Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity/Expression Caucus

Denied Work: An audit of employment discrimination on the basis of gender identity in the Asia – Joe Wong, Programme Manager, Asia Pacific Transgender Network

Know Violence: Exploring the links between violence, mental health and HIV risk among men who have sex with men and transwomen in South Asia – Speaker TBD

Chair: Edmund Settle, Policy Advisor, United Nations Development Programme, Bangkok



DAY 2

Wednesday 27 June 1400 - 1600

#### **FILM FESTIVAL**

1400-1600, S113

Please consult Film Festival Schedule

WORKSHOP: 'A/SEXUALITY 101: A CONCEPTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF SEXUALITY THROUGH UNDERSTANDING ASEXUALITY' BY PRAGATI SINGH

1400-1600, Taviton (16) 431, UCL, WC1H OBW

This workshop will engage participants in an understanding of both sexuality and asexuality: both as a complex amalgamation of human traits against the uni-dimensional model often portrayed. A/Sexuality 101 workshops were launched in July 2017 by Dr Pragati Singh, founder of Indian Aces, India's first and only Asexual collective, with an aim to:

- 1. share her comprehensive model of sexuality, beyond notions of sexual orientation, and
- 2. help people conceptually understand asexuality as a sexual orientation

#### BREAK

1600-1630



DAY 2

Wednesday 27 June 1630 - 1800

### ROUNDTABLE: REFLECTING REFUGEE VOICES: LEGAL CHALLENGES AND COPING STRATEGIES

1630-1800, S209

This panel focuses on the experience of LGBTQI+ refugees, when they are forced to flee their home country due to violence and seek asylum in another country. The panel will focus on legal challenges in seeking asylum, socio-economic difficulties faced by refugees, and coping strategies adopted by them. Featuring:

Chaka Bachmann, Senior Research Officer, Stonewall UK – Author of the report 'No Safe Refuge', which focuses on the experience of LGBTQ+ refugees in UK detention centres;

Suraj Girijanshanker, Legal Fellow, University of Columbia Law School, whose research covers the experience of LGBTQ+ refugees from Syria and Iraq in Jordan and Lebanon;

Paul Dillane, Executive Director, Kaleidoscope Trust, refugee rights lawyer

### TALK: 'LOVING MY BODY AND LETTING YOU' BY HAYDEN ROYALTY

1630-1730, S211

Chair: Dr Eva CY Li, Kings College London

Featuring genderqueer and Korean-American Youtuber, currently located in Seoul, South Korea, Hayden Royalty examines gender-queer and non-binary identity in a creative talk drawing upon Royalty's own experiences. Royalty aims to challenge societal ideas on gender, bodies, beauty, sex, and relationships and navigate various forms of relationships, both platonic and intimate.



#### **FILM FESTIVAL**

1630–1800, S113



DAY 2

Wednesday 27 June 1630 - 1800

#### PLAY: 'CONTEMPT' BY DANISH SHEIKH

1630-1800, UCL: G6 Lecture Theatre, 31-34 Gordon Square, WC1H 0PY

Over a period of two months in 2012, the Supreme Court of India heard arguments on the constitutionality of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code. This law effectively criminalises the intimate lives of LGBTQ+ individuals in the country. The Court ultimately found that it did not violate the Indian Constitution, leaving millions of queer persons vulnerable to state legitimised persecution. Contempt explores the interactions between the judges and lawyers in the case, interspersing the courtroom narratives with the lived experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals. The play will be followed by a Q&A session with Danish Sheikh.



DAY 3

Thursday 28 June 1000-1200

### PANEL 4: CROSSING PUBLIC DOMAINS: SPACE, AFFECT, OTHERING

1000-1200, S312

Chair: Sabiha Allouche, SOAS

'Re-claiming the Thai national imaginary: Affective politics of the Pa Sri Monkol Community in the Time of Neoliberalism' - Chanatip Tatiyakaroonwong, Columbia University

'Discussing Queer Theory as a Sociological Tool to Analyse Discrimination Against LGBT+ and Roma People' - Elif Gezgin and Argun Abrek Canbolat, Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University

'Online stance-taking toward regulating naked bodies in Taiwan's Pride parade' - Ping-Hsuan Wang, Georgetown University

'Gay People on the Radar? - A signal analysis of Jack'd and Blued' - T. H. Jason Chao, University of Warwick

The A<mark>ctive Life of Queer Bodies</mark> in Kuwait: On Spatial Recognition, Agency, and Affect' - Nour Almazidi

### PANEL 5: BREAKING OUR BACKS: NATIONALISM AND STATE POWER

1000-1200, Alumni Lecture Theatre (SALT) Chair: Dr Rahul Rao, SOAS

'United in exclusion: Queer and blurring the colonial borders' – Altynay Kambekova, Global Health Research Center of Central Asia, Columbia University

'Depathologization Revisited: Therapeutic Governance, (Re)medicalisation, and the Neoliberal Regulation of Homosexuality in China' – Suisui Wang, Indiana University

'Tourism as a colonial practice: Pink Washing and Israeli gay pride as a case study' - Rabeea Eid, Doha institute for Graduated Studies

'Erasures of History: Bakla (gay) Narratives and the Chico River Dam Struggle' – Jennifer Josef, University of the Philippines Baguio

'Queer bodies as national borders' - Yun Chen Chen, Utrecht University

#### **FILM FESTIVAL**

1000-1200, S113



DAY 3

Thursday 28 June 1200 - 1300

# INSTALLATION: 'ART, ACTIVISM, ACTUALISATION: ALQUMIT ALHAMAD'

1200-1300, Paul Webley Atrium

Alqumit Alhamad is a self-taught visual artist, a native of Syria, and now a refugee who has been granted residency in Sweden. His Fine Art studies in Aleppo were interrupted by the onset of civil war and the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq taking over his hometown of Raqqa. For Alhamad, not only war triggered the need to find a safe haven, but also the desire to find the right space for artistic self-expression and actualisation. Alhamad has engaged with a variety of personal causes, including LGBTQ rights, refugee and immigrant issues, gender and women, and mental illness in Malmo in order to promote ideas of equality, rights, and better integration for newcomers who seek in Sweden an alternative home, be it for reasons of war, sexual oppression, or religious and ethnic prosecution. Alhamad's work engages with how individuals come to terms with who they are, in relation to their identities, emotions, illnesses. This installation includes a video of Alqumit as well as a viewing of his work.

# TALK: 'QUEER MYANMAR: EXAMINING LGBT CLAIMS TO HUMAN RIGHTS' BY DR LYNETTE CHUA

1200–1300, Alumni Lecture Theatre (SALT) Chair: Bryan Choong, University of Edinburgh



A little more than a decade since its founding, Myanmar's LGBT movement joins the post-2011 political landscape of their country, where marginalized groups demand for recognition and rights. A movement initially made up of exiles and migrants, today its activists come from all walks of life, making human rights claims in a society where the discourse was violently suppressed for decades, whose predominantly Buddhist population is unfamiliar with rights talk, and where queer people are morally suspect, much less recognized as people with legitimate grievances. How did Myanmar's LGBT movement emerge? How do LGBT activists of the movement make sense of human rights and put them into action, that is, practice human rights? What can others learn from it? In this talk, Lynette Chua discusses the legal and social challenges facing queer Burmese, the LGBT movement's development, and its efforts at using human rights to empower queer Burmese to accept themselves, gain social belonging and strive for legal reform together. Dr Chua is Associate Professor of Law at the National University of Singapore.



DAY 3

Thursday 28 June 1200 - 1300

# TALK: 'HOW CAN CRITICAL SOCIAL ANALYSIS ILLUMINATE THE QUEER POLITICS OF THE LONDON COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING?' BY DR MATTHEW WAITES

1200-1300, S312

Chair: Dr Mayur Suresh, SOAS



The London Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 2018 was targeted by the LGBTI activists of The Commonwealth Equality Network (TCEN), who defined the event as a key opportunity to press for human rights. The original idea for TCEN came from Sri Lankan activist Rosanna-Flamer Caldera, founder of the organisation Equal Ground in Sri Lanka; and many other Asian activists in TCEN also participated in the CHOGM. Apparently in response to prior TCEN activity, UK Prime Minister Theresa May for the first time made a statement of 'deep regret' for the British Empire's criminalisation of same-sex sexual behaviour, on behalf of the British government. TCEN activists sought to advance their case in the various Commonwealth civil society forums, and surrounding events. Yet from a critical perspective it is obvious that participation in such events is delimited and unequal, requiring us to examine these inequalities and their implications.

Dr Waites will present findings derived from empirical research conducted during the CHOGM, using online ethnographic methods as well as observation and transcription of speeches, public debates and other public events. They will suggest that to develop a more empirically informed and structured sociology of 'global civil society' in this context, it is helpful to use primary sources to compare and contrast coverage and debates in several social realms: the Commonwealth forums, including the People's Forum; wider events in London, ranging from street protests to erudite book launches at the British Library; the online environment of Twitter proposed by the Commonwealth Foundation for global conversation; and the press internationally as an example of news media, in Commonwealth states and beyond. Through considering these various realms, and drawing comparisons between them, it is possible to develop a more accurately contoured and up to date critical analysis of how Commonwealth governance and Commonwealth civil society operate and interplay, and for whom – to inform contemporary queer politics. Dr Waites is Senior Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Glasgow, with research expertise on issues of human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity in international contexts.

#### **FILM FESTIVAL**

1200-1300, S113



DAY 3

Thursday 28 June 1400 - 1530

# PANEL 6: UN/DOING DISCIPLINARY BOUNDARIES: METHODS, THEORY, AND BEYOND

1400-1530, S312

Chair: Dr Matthew Waites, University of Glasgow

'Doing Queer Studies, Re-Doing the Internet - Tianyang Zhou, University of Sussex

'De-territorialising methodology: The limits of the socio/legal imagination in identifying "evidence" - Po-Han Lee, University of Sussex

'The Untouchable of Theory: Stories of Sex, Queerness, and Im/migrant women' - Moon Chara<mark>nia,</mark> Spelman College and Sara Shroff, New School

'Making Sense of Ambiguity: Queering Qualitative Interviews and the Reflexivity of Discomfort' – Eva Cheuk-Yin Li, Kings College London

#### PANEL 7: GAZE AWAY: REEL IMAGINED REALITIES

1400-1530, S113

Chair: Dr Ben Murtagh, SOAS

'From "Closet" to "Party": Hong Kong Lesbian and Gay Film Festival in Hong Kong LGBT movements' – Heshen Xie, University of Nottingham

"Funeral Parade of Roses" and the double performance of queer bodies' - Marco Meneghin, Concordia University, Montreal

"Spa Night" (2016) and queer Korea in Los Angeles' – Jongwoo Kim, Carnegie Mellon University 'Visualising Queer Intimacy: Stories of queer kinship and the integration into their partner's families in Hong Kong and southern China' – Kit Hung, Goldsmiths, University of London

### ROUNDTABLE - PHILANTHROPY AND IT'S DISCONTENTS: FUNDING LGBTI ACTIVISM IN ASIA

1400-1530, Alumni Lecture Theatre

Bringing together experts in the field of philanthropy, this panel focuses on philanthropy and grant making in Asia for LGBTQI+ rights activism and policy work. Activism has been affected by a rise in right wing politics and a backlash against LGBTQI+ rights, tightening resources that are typically provided by foundations and agencies based in the global north. Featuring:

Urooj Arshad, Director, International LGBTQ Youth Health and Rights Programs at Advocates for Youth;



DAY 3

Thursday 28 June 1400 - 1530

Philanthropy (cont.)

Zohra Moosa, Executive Director, Mama Cash; Bridget de Gersigny, Director of Communications, Astraea Foundation; Susie Jolly (chair), Associate, Institute of Development Studies

**BREAK** 

1530-1600



DAY 3

Thursday 28 June 1600 - 1730

#### PLAY: 'HUMERA' BY FATIMA MAAN

1600-1730, Djam Lecture Theatre (DLT, Main Building)

Set in an upper-middle class tuition center in Lahore in 2016, Humera is a full-length play that chronicles a chapter in the lives of three Pakistani teenagers from differing religious, cultural, and economic backgrounds. It examines their intertwined stories through the lens of religion and sexuality, and gauges the impact of such elements on the choices they make. Humera questions the treatment and perception of religious and sexual minorities across social strata of modern day Pakistan, and explores how the youth view these topics in light of the clash between their religious education (passed on to them by their parents and society) and their more open-minded and ambiguous interplay with peers. Filled with dark humour, Humera offers a snapshot of shifting mindsets, inner conflict, and taboos around spirituality and love. Directed by Vicky Zhuang Yi-Yin and Fatima Maan. The play will be followed by a Q&A with the directors.

#### PANEL: THE BUSINESS CASE FOR LGBTQI+ INCLUSION

1600–1730, Paul Webley Atrium

What role can businesses play in advancing LGBTQI+ rights in Asia? Given that multinational corporations remain a major source of formal employment, it is important that the rights of LGBTQI+ employees are maintained. This panel will focus on how companies are working towards ensuring diversity and inclusion at the workplace level, despite unfriendly local laws and ask whether businesses can provide funds to support LGBTQI+ activism, given the shortage of non-governmental funds. Featuring:

Salil Tripathi, Senior Advisor, Institute for Human Rights and Business, author of recently released UN business standards on LGBT inclusion;

Midnight Poonkasetwattana, Executive Director, Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health (APCOM);

Cheryl "Chelsea" Alcantara, Citi;

Amazin LeThi, Founder, Amazin LeThi Foundation (ALF);

Chair: Vicky Hayden, Head of Private Sector Memberships, Stonewall



DAY 3

Thursday 28 June 1600 - 1730

# TALK: 'POLITICS OF QUEER ORGANIZING IN PALESTINE' BY HANEEN MAIKEY

1600-1730, S312

Chair: Prof. Nadje Al-Ali, SOAS



This talk shares the grassroots experience of alQaws, the national LGBTQ Palestinian organisation, to frame a discussion on how to challenge oppressive systems and offer creative strategies for leading real change in how Palestinian society perceives sexual and gender diversity issues. Queer organising in Palestine has always been a complex and charged topic, due to its intersection with multiple systems of oppression (including patriarchal and colonial practices). These intersections shaped the strategy and ideology of Palestinian queer movements, which adopted a political approach that refuses to isolate sexual and gender diversity issues from the broader colonial context in Palestine. We will take a close look at different aspects of queer organising in Palestine, including the role of Palestinian history and tradition, the violence of Israeli colonialism, and specifically the impact of the "Pinkwashing" propaganda campaign on the lives of Palestinian queers. Haneen Maikey is the Director of alQaws, a civil society organisation in Palestine founded in grassroots activism, that strives to ensure sexual and gender diversity and wider social justice.

### **FILM FESTIVAL**

1600-1730, S113



DAY 3

Thursday 28 June, 1800 - onwards

# LECTURE: TRANSLATIONAL DESIRES: PERFORMING GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES IN THE PHILIPPINES, BY PROF. J. NEIL C. GARCIA

1800-2000, Khalili Lecture Theatre (Main Building)

What does it mean when we render opaque the cultural specificity of the language in which we have been inquiring and theorizing, especially when the location in which they occur and to which they pertain is not monolingual or monocultural but rather culturally hybrid, syncretic, and helplessly mixed? Professor Garcia's presentation reflects on the question of interlinguality or translation, and how it may prove critically generative to frame our inquiries into the specificities of critical and theoretical work in gender and sexuality studies in our and perhaps other global locations from the perspective of how translational it all is. This is especially the case to the degree that, in many different places around the world, feminist, LGBT, and "queer" discourses are mostly conducted in the anglophonic register, reflecting wider trends in technological and cultural globalization. Professor Garcia argues that the 'moderately nativist' position in the study of gender and sexuality in the postcolonial context is nothing if not another register of the critical position that recognizes the translational dynamic between local and translocal-between "oral" and "textual," "traditional" and "modern," "Western" and "postcolonial"—conceptual histories. It is these histories that the presentation seeks to unpack, primarily through a reading of a recent Filipino independent film about the southern Tagalog tomboy identity, directed by Lemuel Lorca. This film—titled Ned's Project demonstrates the productive and unfinished conversation between traditional concepts of gender and modern sexual categories, flagging the importance of a self-reflexive translational approach in the study of Philippine LGBT representations. Sponsored by SOAS Centre of South East Asian Studies and Philippine Studies at SOAS.

### **CONFERENCE CLOSING PARTY: 'QUEER ASIA TAKEOVER'**

1800-Late, SOAS Junior Common Room (Main Building)

Join us to celebrate the end of the conference at the SOAS Junior Common Room with our 'Queer Asia Takeover'. Kick back, relax, and socialise the night away in true SOAS style! Featuring: Victoria Sin (Screening of A View from Elsewhere: A fantasy in three acts by Victoria Sin ft Whiskey Chow)

SOAS LGBTQ+ Soc Open Mic

DJ Cường Pham

DJ Ritu & Club Kali

DJ Qiu

DJ Hodan Omar Elmi



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