

CfP: Lesbian Lives Conference 2015: *Lesbian Feminism/s Now*

The theme for the 2015 Lesbian Lives Conference is *Lesbian Feminism/s Now*. The conference will take place at the University of Brighton, UK on the **20-21 February 2015** and is hosted by University of Brighton LGBT and Queer Life Research Hub in conjunction with the Women's Studies Centre, University College Dublin. The organisers of this two-day international and interdisciplinary conference now welcome proposals from academics, scholars, students, activists, documentary and film-makers, writers and artists.

Proposals are welcomed on (but not limited to) the following:

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| Lesbian Feminism and Contemporary Politics | Wimmin's Lands |
| Historicising Lesbian Feminism | Androgyny: Theory & Practice |
| Lesbian Feminist Ethics | Lesbian Feminist Fashion, Aesthetics and Body Culture |
| Lesbian Feminist Philosophy | Filling Up & Spilling Over: Lesbian Feminist Music |
| Lesbian Feminist politics and direct action | 'Of Woman Born': Lesbian Feminist Literature |
| Lesbian Feminism and Physical Culture (including sport) | Lesbian Feminist Art |
| Lesbian Feminism and Intersectionalities (race, class, dis/ability) | Beyond God the Father: Lesbian Feminism, Religion & Spirituality |
| Black Lesbian Feminism | Lesbian Feminist Food cultures |
| Trans Lesbian Feminism | Lesbian Feminist Events & Rituals |
| Queer Lesbian Feminism | Sex Wars: Lesbian Feminist Sex & Sexuality |
| Bi Lesbian Feminism | The Wanderground: Lesbian Feminist Imagination and Utopias |
| Lesbian Feminist Politics and Direct Action | Lesbian Nations: Lesbian Feminist Organisations |
| Lesbian Feminist Communities | Lesbian Feminism in Mainstream Politics |
| Sleeping with the Enemy: Political Lesbianism | Lesbian Feminism in the Curriculum |
| Lifestyle activism | Representations of Lesbian Feminisms |
| The Lavender Menace: Lesbians and Straight Feminists | Lesbian lives in relation to neoliberal feminism |
| The Ideology and Practice of Separatism | |
| Panels on key thinkers in Lesbian Feminism | |
| Sisterhood is Global?: Lesbian Feminism Internationally | |

The conference organisers welcome proposals for (A) individual papers, (B) sessions, (C) round table discussions, (D) workshops and (E) visual presentations or performances. This conference also includes a series of film screenings, which run concurrently with the main programme. We encourage submissions across all genres, both fact and fiction which align to the conference theme, and which have been produced between 2013-2015.

The Lesbian Lives Conference is open to all genders and any political and sexual orientations. There is an ethos of welcome and accessibility.

E-mail proposals of no more than 300 words to LGBTQ@brighton.ac.uk by 1st June 2014.

For more details and for regular conference updates visit:

<http://arts.brighton.ac.uk/projects/lgbt>

The Lesbian Lives Conference has been organised by the Women's Studies Centre at University College Dublin for the first seventeen years and in 2011 celebrated its 18th birthday in Brighton. In 2015 The University of Brighton is delighted to co-host the 22nd conference.

The Lesbian Lives Conference is not just the world's only annual academic conference in Lesbian Studies, it is a large international event that draws speakers and participants from all continents and hosts the best-known as well as emerging scholars in the field. In the past we have hosted Emma Donoghue, Jackie Kay, Joan Nestle, Cherry Smyth, Del La Grace Volcano, Sarah Waters and academics such as Sara Ahmed, Terry Castle, Laura Doan, Lillian Faderman, Sarah Franklin, Claire Hemmings, Alison Hennegan, Sally R. Munt, Helena Whitbread, Bonnie Zimmerman among many others.

The social, cultural and artistic impact of this annual conference cannot be underestimated as it gathers together academics, activists, performers and writers who do not otherwise have the opportunity to address such large audiences or to network across international and professional boundaries. It is a forum for political organisation on the levels of both community activism and established international NGOs. Many books (academic and literary) and films (documentaries and dramas) are launched at this event and it is continually referenced in lesbian work and events internationally. Throughout the years selected contributions to the conference have been published in various collections and journals, most recently in a special issue of the *Journal of Lesbian Studies*:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10894160.2013.731942?af=R#.Uxd03ihmU3s>

The conference sets the parameters for debate in the manifold disciplines that now take 'Lesbian' or 'Lesbian Communities' as the object of enquiry or as a category for analysis. The Lesbian Lives conference is open to people of all identities and strongly welcomes and encourages members of all LGBTQ communities to attend. We particularly want to extend a welcome to bi and trans communities.

The conference organisers welcome proposals for (A) individual papers, (B) sessions, (C) round table discussions, (D) workshops and (E) visual presentations or performances:

- A. Individual Papers: Individual papers should last 20 minutes (c. 2,400 words). Individuals should submit: (1) paper title, (2) abstract (up to 300 words), (3) biography (c. 100-150 words), (4) institutional affiliation and address (if any), (5) audio-visual requirements.
- B. Sessions: Panels of academic papers should include 3 speakers and 1 moderator. Each paper should last for 20 minutes (c. 2,400 words), with a further 30 minutes for questions and discussion. Proposers should submit (1) session title, (2) paper titles, (3) abstracts for each paper (c. 100 words), (3) biography for each participant (c. 100-150 words), (4) institutional affiliation and address (if any) for each participant, (5) audio-visual requirements.
- C. Round Table Discussions: Round table discussions should include 6 speakers and 1 moderator. Each paper should last for 10 minutes (c. 1,200 words), with a further 30 minutes for questions and discussion. Proposers should submit (1) round table title, (2) rationale for round table (up to 300 words), (3) biography for each participant (c. 100-150 words), (4) institutional affiliation and address for each participant (if any), (5) audio-visual requirements.
- D. Workshops: Workshops last 90 minutes. Proposers should submit (1) workshop title, (2) rationale for workshop (up to 300 words), (3) biography (c. 100-150 words), (4) institutional affiliation and address (if any)
- E. Visual presentations or performances; documentary, video, art, musical, theatrical, comic or multi-media presentations by individuals or groups are welcomed.

Occasionally, organisers of some workshops will want to focus on particular issues and cohorts and will wish to limit participation on certain grounds (such as people who are recently bereaved, or to certain categories or intersections of age, race, class and gender). The Lesbian Lives Conference wishes that proposals for workshops will state clearly why they might wish to limit participation in particular ways and will, in principle, facilitate such desired boundaries. However, the Lesbian Lives Conference will not allow a positive preference operate as prejudice: grounds for focusing on particular identity issues are valid provided that they are not based on assumptions of purity and hierarchy of value.

The Lesbian Lives Conference has considered and signed a comprehensive statement of support for 'Feminists Fighting Transphobia' accessible at:

<http://feministsfightingtransphobia.wordpress.com/2013/09/16/a-statement-of-trans-inclusive-feminism/>

E-mail proposals of no more than 300 words to LGBTQ@brighton.ac.uk by 1st June 2014. For more details and for regular conference updates visit: <http://arts.brighton.ac.uk/projects/lgbt> and our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lesbian-Lives-Conference-UCD/134603906156>