

SSPARC

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Presentation

Transforming sexuality and gender research symposium

Speaker

[Dr Katherine Johnson](#), SSPARC, University of Brighton
Eduardo Sodr  de Souza, Federal University of Sao Paulo, Brazil
Lucy Nicholas, Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, Australia

Abstract

This symposium introduces the Transforming sexuality and gender (TSG) research cluster and showcases research from two international visiting scholars.

Transforming sexuality and gender research: introductions, aims, collaborations

Katherine Johnson

This paper introduces the TSG research cluster, outlines its aims and objectives and situates these within a social science context that argues for transdisciplinary theory, creative methodologies and applied outputs that influence policy and practice. The session welcomes two international visiting scholars from Brazil and Australia and encourages the development of new national and international collaborations.

The health care of transvestites on the street - a transformation policy and psychosocial perspective

Eduardo Sodr  de Souza, Federal University of Sao Paulo, Brazil

The invisibility of travestis living on the streets in national and international literature reflects the invisibility and neglect of the health of this group. People living in socially vulnerable situations often have health problems that require specific care.

However, health care for marginalised people, such as travestis in a street situation, introduce a complex network of relations and disputes of powers and knowledge in which the neoliberal logic of suffering of production and consumption in health justifies practices that become chronic precarious conditions of life.

This talk will discuss psychosocial transformation possibilities from primary health

care and argues that it is necessary to extend curative and preventive interventions and include the promotion of reflections on the structural factors in which care is inserted.

Factors such as race, class, political and social situation should be considered as a background for a proposal of a new model of care. Still, there is the need for professional training policy so they can recognise and practice a care to break with cycles that produce exclusion and suffering.

We propose a discussion about the care that encourages practices in 'marginal' areas in order to recognise the 'central' spaces as local for interventions and policies and practices of psychosocial transformations. Finally, this discussion will have as central theoretical support the thought of Jose Bernardo Toro (The Care Paradigm); Leonardo Boff (Learn caring); and Paulo Freire (Pedagogy of the Oppressed, and Pedagogy of Autonomy)

Queer post-gender ethics in the real world

Lucy Nicholas, Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, Australia

There is increasing resistance to gendering in contemporary society, seen in gender-neutral childrearing and pronouns, expansion of legal sex categories and intersex rights, and queer and genderqueer movements. My work on queer post-gender ethics has considered how gender could be eradicated and how we might understand identity and relationships without it. It considers the implications of arguments from 'new materialism' about the malleability of biological sex, and of queer theory and gender deconstruction, for social change and political practice. The original theoretical and practical argument is for an androgynous, reciprocal ethic or way of being in the world that transcends both sex/gender and some of the debates plaguing gender studies.

This talk will outline this vision and also discuss my more recent extension of the idea in more practical directions. I will discuss my search for strategies for implementing the ethic, including ideas from 'contact theory' and also queer approaches to pedagogy that find ways to foster an open mindset to the identities of others.