

Workshop

Out in the Outskirts. LGBTQ+ Lives Beyond Metropolises

22 March 2022, 2.00-6.00pm – Theater, Badia Fiesolana

Organised by the EUI Queer and Feminist Studies Working Group, Moises Fernandez Cano, Benno Gammerl, Kamil Karczewski and Gabriella Romano (independent scholar)

14.00 PART 1, chaired by Benno Gammerl (EUI, Florence)

14.15 Kamil Karczewski (EUI, Florence): *Queer Sex and the Village: Sexual and Gender Dissidence in Rural Poland in the Interwar Period*

15.15 Gabriella Romano (Rome): *Subverting “Back to the Kitchen”. Memories of food and lesbian love affairs in Italy’s 1950s*

16:15 *coffee break*

16.30 PART 2, chaired by Moises Fernandez Cano (EUI, Florence)

16.30 Javier Cuevas (University of Malaga): *LGBTQ+ History of Spain beyond the Big Cities. The arrival of International Tourism in Torremolinos during the Franco Dictatorship*

17.30 Sean Brady (Birkbeck, London): *Being LGBTQ+ in the Two Irelands – a contemporary history of life in the outskirts*

Queer Sex and the Village: Sexual and Gender Dissidence in Rural Poland in the Interwar Period

The new Polish nation-state created in 1918 enthusiastically embraced modernity as a mark of its distinctiveness. It highly valued the knowledge of psychiatric and sexual experts and was eager to employ it as an element of state- and nation-building. I investigate several queer stories in rural Poland in the interwar period and compare them with cases of metropolitan queerness in Warsaw at the time. What perils and opportunities did queers face in these very different settings? How did imperial legacies and flourishing nationalisms define the responses of the state and society to sexual and gender dissidence?

Kamil Karczewski is a PhD candidate at the Department of History and Civilization at the European University Institute in Florence and a 2022 fellow at the Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG) in Mainz and the Herder Institute in Marburg. His research is focused on the relationship between sexuality and nationalism.

Subverting “Back to the Kitchen”. Memories of food and lesbian love affairs in Italy’s 1950s

I illustrate an oral history project I conducted 15 years ago. I recorded 11 interviews with Italian women who recalled their lesbian love affairs and relationships in Italy in the 1950s. In years characterised by a return to family values and Catholic ethics, women’s emotional lives could not be expressed outside of the domestic environment. Women’s sexuality was a taboo, let alone lesbianism, and “discretion” was the norm. The interviewees’ memories, connected with recipes and food, testify that, under the crust of the impeccable and fulfilled housewife on every magazine cover, in some Italian kitchens, women did not conform. In provincial towns, where women had no meeting place and could rarely escape from their neighbours’ intrusive glances or parental control, the kitchen was the only safe place for courting and loving other women.

Dr Gabriella M. Romano is a documentary writer/director and a scholar. Her field of research is the history of sexuality and homosexuality in Italy, specialising in the fascist period, and women's history. On these two broad topics, she has published non-fiction books and essays mainly based on her oral history research and she has written, produced and directed several documentaries. Among her publications are *The Pathologisation of Homosexuality in Fascist Italy. The Case of G.*, Palgrave Macmillan 2019 (Italian translation: *Il Caso di G. La patologizzazione dell'omosessualità nell'Italia fascista*, ETS 2019); *Prodigiose Amazzoni. Opere di Artiste a Roma tra il Rinascimento e il primo Ottocento*, Biblink 2012, I Prize "Il Paese delle Donne - Sezione Arti Visive" 2013; *Il mio nome è Lucy. L'Italia del XX secolo nei ricordi di una transessuale*, Donzelli 2009; *I Sapori della Seduzione. Ricettario dell'amore tra donne nell'Italia degli Anni Cinquanta*, Ombre corte 2006.

LGBTQ+ History of Spain beyond the Big Cities. The arrival of International Tourism in Torremolinos during the Franco Dictatorship

During the 1960s and 1970s, mass tourism developed greatly on the Mediterranean coasts of Spain, where the developmentalism that characterized the second stage of Franco's dictatorship boosted the growth of tourism on the Costa del Sol. The construction of a queer genealogy in Torremolinos is not so much linked to the political and activist movements of homosexual liberation (concentrated in large capitals such as Madrid, Barcelona, or Valencia), but to the arrival of mass tourism, and its new ways of life. In 1970, the law of Dangerousness and Social Rehabilitation was approved and began to be applied a year later. Proof of this were the raids in Torremolinos in the summer of 1971, which led to the closure of the bars in the area and the end of an era. In 1975, the dictator Franco died, and the period known in Spain as *Transición* (the democratic transition) began.

Javier Cuevas holds a PhD in Art History from the University of Malaga (UMA). He is an Assistant Lecturer at the Department of Art History at UMA and he is the principal investigator on the research project "Cruising Torremolinos. Memory, imagery and LGBT/queer identities from the 60s to the present" (funded by the UMA, from 2019 to 2021). Javier is one of the founders of the UMA Queer Studies Seminar, he is a member of the University Institute for Research on Gender and Equality (IGIUMA) and the Research Network on Art and Feminisms (RIAF). Among his publications are *Cruising Torremolinos. Cuerpos, territorio y memoria*, edited together with Ángel Néstore (Tirant lo Blanch, 2022). He has been a visiting researcher at the University of California, Berkeley in 2019 and at the Warburg Institute, London in 2017.

Being LGBTQ+ in the Two Irelands – a contemporary history of life in the outskirts

This paper discusses the contemporary history of what it has been like to be LGBTQ+ in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland since the 1970s. In spite of recent developments to liberate the lives of LGBTQ+ people, especially in the Republic of Ireland, LGBTQ+ contemporary history has been painful and difficult for many people trying to be 'out' in the Two Irelands. This paper discusses the paucity of scholarship in the history of sexuality for the Two Irelands, reflecting a context that is often hostile to Queer history as well as LGBTQ+ lives. It discusses the Two Irelands themselves as peripheral to the metropolises in regard to LGBTQ+ lives, and also what it has been like to be LGBTQ+ in rural and small-town Ireland. LGBTQ+ lives are analysed in the contexts of religiously-orientated homophobia and sectarianism.

Dr Sean Brady's research focuses on gender, sexuality, religion and politics in nineteenth, twentieth and twenty first-century Britain and Ireland. His published work examines masculinities and attitudes to (homo)sexuality in Britain before the First World War. More recently, he has examined the potentials to historicise homosexuality in Europe through comparative approaches that take account of considerable differences in attitudes to homosexuality in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and the concomitant effects upon homosexual self-fashioning. His current research examines questions of sectarianism, religion, masculinities and sexualities in Northern Ireland after 1921, and this is the focus of a book project he is working on currently, with the working title *Sex and Sectarianism: Gender, Sexuality and religion in Northern Ireland's History*. He is convening editor of the series 'Genders and Sexualities in History', Palgrave Macmillan.

