

OU GCRN



The Open University Gender Critical Research Network

WELCOME TO THE NETWORK!

Firstly, we'd like to welcome everyone to the network and to our gender critical research community. We hope that this is the start of a thriving academic network which will provide a space for critical, interdisciplinary, challenging and collegial discussions about gender and sexed bodies.

We started in style with our launch [podcast](#), now with over 7.5k views, followed by an interview series with [Professor Rosa Freedman](#), [Professor Jo Phoenix](#), [Professor Alice Sullivan](#) and [Dr Laura McGrath](#).

In October we launched our first webinar: ["Gender and Sport After Tokyo"](#) with Dr Emma Hilton and Dr. Jon Pike, and hosted by Professor Jo Phoenix and attended by over 100 people.

In December we were happy to congratulate our co-convenor Professor Jo Phoenix on her new appointment at The University of Reading as Chair of Criminology in the School of Law. We will miss you Jo!

We have planned a programme of webinars for the upcoming months exploring a range of topics, including data collection, gender medicine and sport.

We would like to thank everyone for the support you have shown to the network in our first few months. If you have any ideas for future events please do get in touch. Contact details can be found at the bottom of this newsletter.

WEBINAR PROGRAMME

We are very excited to present our webinar programme for the coming term.

All times are UK, and the webinars will last for one hour.

Cathy Devine: Sex, Gender Identity, and Sport

March 29th, 2pm

Cathy Devine is a researcher focussing on the human rights of women and girls in sports. She will be discussing work from her 2021 paper 'Female Sports Participation, Gender Identity and the British 2010 Equality Act', which was published in Sport, Ethics and Philosophy.

Book your place here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cathy-devine-sex-gender-identity-and-sport-ou-gcrn-seminar-tickets-293020501207>

Simon Fanshawe: 'Safe spaces' or psychological safety?

April date tbc

Simon Fanshawe OBE is a writer and broadcaster with a long history of equality and diversity campaigning. He is a founder member of both Stonewall and the LGB Alliance. He recently published 'The Power of Difference', looking at diversity within organisations. He will be discussing the issue of 'safety' and managing difference in organisations.

Lisa Littman: Detransition and gender medicine

May 17th, 2pm.

Dr. Littman is a medical researcher and founder member of the Society for Evidence Based Gender Medicine (SEGM). Her 2018 paper on 'rapid onset gender dysphoria' described the emergent phenomenon of teenagers identifying as transgender without childhood dysphoria. Her most recent paper is one of the first surveys completed with people who have detransitioned.

Early Career Gender Critical Scholarship

June 7th, 11am

Three early career scholars will present their work looking at issues of gender, feminism and sexed bodies.

NETWORK NEWS

News from some network members

Jon Pike: Convenor

I have been busy recently on the sports ethics front: In terms of policy, the big news was the publication of the Sports Councils Equality Group Report, which gets things roughly right. In December, my Canadian paper came out (co-authored with Emma Hilton and Leslie Howe), I have just given a keynote address at a conference in Madrid and I'm rewriting 'Safety, Fairness and Inclusion' for the 4th edition of [Ethics and Sport](#).

The IOC has also published its 'framework' document which bypasses both the biological science, and fairness considerations for a 'Human Rights' approach. I'm pretty sure there is no 'human right' to compete in a category chosen according to internal feelings of gender identity, so I'm turning my attention to a critique of that.

Jessica Evans

I am researching for a paper on the institutionalisation of pseudo-psychological concepts in the professions that, from a psychoanalytical perspective, manifest a religious and fundamentalist state of mind.

The idea that students require 'trigger warnings'; the concept of 'gender affirmation' in social work and professional clinical organisations; the denial of the reality of sexed bodies in social constructionist social science; and the new ontological humanism of identity politics in which (self-) beliefs must be treated as unassailable fact: these displace doubt and the scientific method. I will argue these are a defence against difference and undermine the capacity for thinking.

Hannah R. Marston

I am currently finishing a book which focuses on technology across different age cohorts, and will be published by Emerald towards the end of the year. Also, I am talking with a previous co-author, a Games Industry veteran about a possible forthcoming book chapter. Previously we wrote '[Older Women on the Game: Understanding Digital Game Perspectives from an Ageing Cohort](#)'

Laura McGrath

I am working on two relevant papers. One is a qualitative paper looking at detransitioners' experiences of gender medicine. The second is a conceptual/historical paper looking at concepts of gender from John Money onwards, focussing on the relationship between materiality and psychology.

PAPERS OF INTEREST

Recent publications from the network, our speakers, or of interest to gender critical scholars.

Devine, C. (2021). 'Female Sports Participation, Gender Identity and the British 2010 Equality Act', *Sport, Ethics and Philosophy*.

Fanshawe, S (2021) 'The Power of Difference: Where the Complexities of Diversity and Inclusion Meet Practical Solutions' (Kogan Page)

Ion, R., Patrick, L., Hayter, M., Jackson, D. (2021) 'Sex, gender and nursing', *Journal of Advanced Nursing*

Littman, L. (2021). 'Individuals Treated for Gender Dysphoria with Medical and/or Surgical Transition Who Subsequently Detransitioned: A Survey of 100 Detransitioners', *Archives of Sexual Behaviour*.

Pike, J. (2020) 'Safety, Fairness and Inclusion: Sport and the Essence of Rugby', *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*.

Sullivan, A., Suissa, J. (2021). 'The Gender Wars and Academic Freedom'. *Journal of Philosophy of Education*

CONTACT US

Please do get in touch with ideas for events, speakers or to join as an affiliate member

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