



# THE 2023 SEX, HEALTH & SOCIETY CONFERENCE

## 2023 Sex, Health and Society Conference Schedule

25-27 SEPTEMBER

SEXTEMBER FESTIVAL, UNSW SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Conference registration: <https://events.humanitix.com/sextember-2023-the-sex-health-and-society-conference>

SEXtember 2023: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/sextember>

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## Keynote and workshop

### Keynote: Sextech – a critical introduction (Tuesday, 26 September 2023, 10 – 11am)

<p>Professor Kath Albury, Swinburne University of Technology, Australia</p>	<p>Sextech: a critical introduction’</p>	<p>A recent article in The Economist suggested that the rapidly-growing global market for sexual pleasure and wellbeing-focused devices and technologies (also known as sextech) was likely to reach US\$40 billion in 2023. This keynote offers a brief overview of recent research and popular commentary on sextech, exploring the ways cultural assumptions around gender, sexuality, health, and pleasure both guide and inform emerging markets. I focus ethical questions associated with data-driven technologies such as menstrual-tracking apps, sex education chatbots and Bluetooth-enabled vibrators. As digital technologies for sex and pleasure are increasingly networked, both bodies and digital devices are opened up to privacy breeches and data leaks. I conclude by highlighting the need for both health researchers and tech developers to place both sexual rights and data justice at the centre of sextech futures.</p>
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### Featured discussion workshop: Making research more inclusive of gender and sexuality diversity: HDR perspectives (Wednesday, 27 September 2023, 7 – 8.30pm)

<p>Ania Anderst; Bella Bushby; Angela Griffin; Heather McCormack; Kazi Ashraf Uddin; and Dr Kerry Drysdale; Centre for Social Research in Health, UNSW Sydney, Australia</p> <p>Supported by the Division of Equity, Diversity &amp; Inclusion (EDI), UNSW Sydney, Australia</p>	<p>Making research more inclusive of gender and sexuality diversity: HDR perspectives</p>	<p>The aim of this panel discussion workshop is to increase the confidence of a new generation of researchers to ask questions about sex, gender and sexuality in appropriate, meaningful ways. The UNSW Community of Practice in Inclusive Research with Queer, Trans and Intersex people (CoPQTI) is a new initiative developed by a group of UNSW academics who model inclusive research design and practice with gender and sexuality diverse communities. Despite the proliferation of the language of inclusivity in various research domains, there is no ‘one-size fits all’ model that can conceivably respond to its varied, complex and intersectional aspects. Aligning with the conference theme of ‘Empowerment, Relationships and Intimacy’, this interactive workshop has been organised by the CoP to introduce attendees to the general principles underpinning inclusive research, and the importance of asking questions around sex, gender, and sexuality in culturally safe and sensitive ways. This event showcases the voices of Higher Degree Research students at UNSW, drawing on an array of diverse forms of lived experience, community engagement, and professional and research</p>
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		expertise. Discussion will include the value of co-design with affected communities, peer collaboration and partnerships, advisory groups as mechanisms for challenging researcher assumptions and approaches, and the ethical, practical and cultural nuances that need to be addressed through these processes.
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## Panel sessions

### Panel 1: Contemplating power, pleasure and (im)possibility (Monday, 25 September 2023, 12.15 – 2pm)

#	Name/Affiliation	Title	Abstract
1	Lena Chen; University of California Berkeley, USA	Yellow power play: Performing Asian American resistance through BDSM	From the 1875 Page Act to the 2021 Atlanta spa shootings, Asian American women’s sexuality is inextricably linked to legacies of racial, gender, and sexual discrimination. In a contemporary moment of rising anti-AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) violence, this paper argues that the construction and performance of BDSM fantasy offers Asian American dominatrixes a method of resolving the psychic wounds that arise from histories of racism and fetishization. Citing interviews with and conversations between Asian American dominatrixes, I argue that their performances aspire to new configurations of power and intimacy for racially and sexually marginalized subjects. Unsettling the model minority trope, Asian American sex workers are employed in highly stigmatized, often criminalized professions. Rather than characterizing sex work in binary terms of exploitation or empowerment, I argue that the experiences of Asian American sex workers are far more nuanced and contradictory, with many workers self-consciously performing and subverting stereotypes in order to profit from their clients’ racist preferences, even if they find them to be offensive. I assert that the BDSM scene not only unsettles xenophobic discourse, but by testing the emancipatory and reparative possibilities of embracing hypersexuality, it acts as a speculative site for hopeful performances of utopian Asian American futures.
2	Miranda Millen; Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University, Australia	Navigating pleasure: Reflections on consent through narratives about women as ‘sluts’ or ‘victims’	In recent years, in a post #MeToo landscape, topics of sexual assault and consent have been prominent in media and public debate. While consent discourse is considered the cornerstone of enjoyable sexual encounters, its potential is diminished by the societal discourse surrounding women and their pursuit of pleasure. Women are expected to know and assert their sexual desires, but in a culture where slut-shaming is equally prevalent, they are also torn down for having them. This paper explores how media narratives about women, sex, and consent construct a precedent of how pleasure can be experienced. Presenting early doctoral research on theoretical framings, academic debates, and observations of slut-shaming and victim-blaming narratives, this paper raises the question: how do these narratives impact how women experience pleasure? It is argued that a deeper grasp of consent hinges on acknowledging and validating

			women’s pursuit of sexual pleasure for its intrinsic value, transcending outdated ideologies that associate women and sex with reproduction, domesticity, and male sexual gratification. Arguing that the pursuit of consensual and enjoyable encounters demands an extensive reevaluation of what gets to be said about women, sex and pleasure.
3	Alamgir; RMIT University, Australia	Intersectional criminology and trans identity: An analysis of Khawaja Sara and Hijra identity and the criminal justice system in Pakistan	This article examines the intersection of transgender identity in criminal justice system of Pakistan– a South Asian nation with a population of around 220 million. A qualitative research methodology was conducted using face to face interviews with the members of Khawaja Sara and Hijra communities in guru-cheela houses in Peshawar to discuss the problems they face in the criminal procedure including police, prison, prosecution, and courts and the nature of crimes that they face in their daily routine life. By using intersectional theory, the findings of this study suggest that sexual assault, robbery, physical and verbal abuse and even murder are routine experiences within transgender communities in Peshawar city. We further demonstrate that sex negativity and transphobia are embedded in the complex justice system of Pakistan that produce pathways to many hate crimes against Khawaja sara & Hijra people in the country. The finding of this study has discussed the loopholes in the criminal justice system of Pakistan, taking the case of Khawaja Sara and Hijra identities. The findings further indicate that Khawaja Sara and Hijra communities get less support from the police, courts, and community whenever they seek justice against their perpetrators due to the ongoing favouritism and nepotism in the criminal justice system. Police officials favour offenders who are cisgender men and participate in the marginalisation of transgender people. In this way, many cases linked to transgender persons are either not reported or are ignored in Peshawar.
4	Chantell Martin; Sex Workers Outreach Project, Australia	Breaking barriers: Advancing sex workers’ rights and social understanding	This presentation explores the multifaceted challenges faced by sex workers including trans sex workers, focusing on their lived experiences within the sex industry. It discusses the urgent need for legislative changes, such as the removal of the Summary Offences Act, to fully decriminalize sex work and create a safer environment for all sex workers. Furthermore, it advocates for the inclusion of sex workers in the Anti-Discrimination Act to protect them from various forms of discrimination and stigma. “Sex work is work” and we should be entitled to the same rights as everyone else in Australia.

			<p>In addition to the legal aspects, this presentation candidly discusses the misconceptions that have shaped public perception of sex workers in the industry. Drawing from their personal experiences, the speaker addresses these misconceptions head-on, highlighting the importance of dispelling myths and fostering a more empathetic and informed society. This work is a deeply personal account that seeks to humanize the experiences for sex workers, amplifying their voices and advocating for their rights through the lens of one individual's remarkable journey.</p>
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Panel 2: Space, place, and relationality (Monday, 25 September 2023, 2.15 – 4pm)

#	Name/Affiliation	Title	Abstract
1	Elise Frost; Macquarie University, Australia	"I forgot how hot the sun is": outdoor exercise as relational placemaking among LGBTQIA+ people living in Sydney	As an emerging area of research, relational placemaking encompasses the dynamic ways “spatial identities” (Massey, 2004, p. 8) of places are constituted through interactions between embodied practices and the materiality of place. In this paper, I argue that outdoor exercise, an embodying and emplacing practice, is a form of relational placemaking. To do this, I draw on autoethnographic research, solicited diary research, and semi-structured interviews which examine outdoor exercise practices among LGBTQIA+ people in Sydney, paying particular attention to how the places in which we participate in outdoor exercise are diversely experienced and relationally constituted by the bodies which inhabit them. Such diversity of experiences affects access to outdoor exercise and opportunities for LGBTQIA+ people to engage in relational placemaking through outdoor exercise, especially as research on outdoor exercise too often neglects intersectionalities of gender and sexuality (Coen, 2018). I contend that the framework of relational placemaking which makes room for the specific perspectives of LGBTQIA+ people can reorient planning for the future of accessible and enjoyable outdoor exercise.
2	MacKenzie McCowan; University of Sydney, Australia	Rewards and recognition: Grappling with queerness and normativity on Facebook	5th of October, 2021. “Goodnight, sweet prince” is the final post in the Facebook group ‘Rainbow Kids’, more (or less) fondly referred to as ‘RK’. Beneath the short and somehow achingly tender goodbye from the group’s admin lies the remnants of a proposed queer utopia for queer people ages 13–19 in NSW, popular from mid-2016 to late-2018 and boasting over 1500 members at the height of its infamy. When the Facebook group moved from an online space to in-person meet-ups, chaos ensued in Sydney’s Hyde Park, and chaos continued to mark this group as its meet-ups became more frequent and less monitored. In this paper, I will be seek to analyse the ‘Rainbow Kids’ Facebook page for queer youth at the height of its infamy, and engaging in a virtual ethnographic investigation into the still-present but inactive group. Drawing on José Muñoz’s concept of queer utopias, Lauren Berlant’s ideas of cruel optimism, Sara Ahmed’s writings on queer spaces, and the adapted concept of the ‘drama of recognition’ coalesced from the works of Grace Sharkey, Franz Fanon, and Muñoz; it is my hope with this paper to unpack why this space of queer joy had such a strong, irrevocable impact on so many people—any why that impact turned bitter once the space left the ether of the internet.



3	Zirui Ying; University of Sydney, Australia	Beyond screens: Fusing technological advancements with authentic intimacy in the digital age	In this era, technology has completely transformed the way we experience relationships. This paper delves into the balance, between advancements and the preservation of authentic intimacy. By examining how platforms like dating apps and social media impact trust, vulnerability and emotional closeness, we uncover the challenges and opportunities in fostering connections. This study emphasizes the significance of face-to-face interactions, open communication and mutual understanding to counterbalance any drawbacks of technology. Through analysing surveys research findings and personal stories, we highlight the importance of navigating the landscape while nurturing authentic emotional bonds. In a world dominated by screens, making choices becomes crucial. We advocate for an integration of technology to enhance than replace true intimacy. This work provides insights into strategies that ensure technology complements rather than compromises relationship quality in this tech-driven era.
4	Wilfred Roach; Queer Writing Group, Australia	Reflecting on the risks and benefits for LGBTIQ+ identifying people when working in predominantly heteronormative spaces	I have worked in a number of predominantly creative heteronormative spaces. Over the past two years, I have noticed anecdotally that among LGBTIQ+ creative makers there has been an increase in chronic health conditions including mental health. I consider what the safe level of engagement for those with such conditions might be, reflect on the seemingly curious absence of LGBTIQ+ Safe Spaces that are run by us for us, and wonder if sharing in a heteronormative environment is too costly to our specific and overall wellbeing, before contemplating on some options that might be available to us.

Panel 3: Healthcare journeys (Tuesday, 26 September 2023, 12.15 – 2pm)

1	Kimberly Tao and Simon Chung; Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong	Transgender healthcare journeys in Hong Kong: Examining medical transitioning trajectories	Centring on Hong Kong's healthcare framework, which provides gender-affirming care through both public and private institutions, this paper investigates the intricate relationship between transgender medicine and the unique medical trajectory that transgender individuals take in their life course. Drawing on an in-depth analysis of Hong Kong medical practices and their profound impact on the trajectories of transgender individuals through analysing interviews with 16 transgender patients who have navigated both public and private hospitals, our research explores the nuanced dimensions of resilience, relational dynamics, and self-actualization. This exploration illuminates the important role that medical practices play in shaping the lives of transgender individuals, highlighting the disparities and variations that emerge when navigating different medical contexts (Halberstam, 2005; Castaneda, 2015; Murawsky (2023). The findings of this study contribute to a nuanced understanding of how medical supports contribute to and affect transgender individuals' pursuit and manifestation of their (trans)gender embodiments and their understanding and imagination of transgender bodies and experiences. It also sheds light on the varying levels of medical support and empowerment originating from medical interventions in both public and private hospitals, highlighting the intricate interplay of medical care within the context of gender transition journeys and overall gender wellbeing.
2	Harsh Agarwal, Tulani Francis L Matenga, Oluwamuyiwa P. Adeniran, Melissa Lam-McCarthy, Enioluwaduroti Abigail Johnson, Margaret Kasaro, Suzanne Maman, Benjamin Chi, Stephanie Martin; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA	"I will get the child, put him on my back and take a walk, so that the mother can eat and then I eat afterwards" Engaging male partners to support mothers living with HIV in Lusaka, Zambia	Women living with HIV (WLWH) with infants encounter intersectional challenges of fears of transmission, ART adherence and taking care of their babies, along with chores or work to support the family. Amidst this, pervasive social norms and patriarchy may prevent the male partners from providing the much-needed support that could make it easier for mother-baby pairs. We explored the role male partners played in everyday life for WLWH through qualitative formative research interviewing. At the first visit, mothers reported receiving varying level of support. During second visit, male partners were counselled to praise the mother for practicing the strategies recommended for exclusive breastfeeding and adherence, and to support mothers with chores and other responsibilities, giving mothers time to breastfeed. At third visit, several male partners reported praising mothers for trying recommended care and feeding practices, which they had not done before. A few mothers described partners providing encouragement and food to help mothers produce more milk, who felt their breastmilk was insufficient. Partners reported helping mothers with other tasks so the mother had time to

			breastfeed, which mothers confirmed. Despite the social norms, it is feasible to engage male partners and pool in the much-required support for care and feeding practices.
3	Lee Pei Hua; National Centre for Infectious Diseases and Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore	Exploring migrant sex workers' experiences with access and care for HIV and sexual health in Singapore: A qualitative study	The disruption of sex work practices due to the COVID-19 pandemic has heightened the existing precarity experienced by sex workers, potentially increasing the risk of HIV and sexually transmitted infections. This study aims to understand the HIV and sexual health education of migrant sex workers in Singapore, as well as the challenges they face in accessing sexual health care services. We adopted a community participatory qualitative research approach, which included the implementation of four focus group discussions (FGDs) with 14 participants, and semi-structured in-depth interviews (IDIs) with 53 sex workers in Singapore. The interviews were conducted by trained sex workers, and explored themes such as sex work experiences, HIV and STI knowledge and valuable insights provided by the participants in creating a supportive environment for migrant sex workers. Participants reported that their sexual health practices were largely unaffected by COVID-19, although many experienced financial hardship due to reduced customers. They identified several areas of need that were already underserved prior to the pandemic, including poor access to HIV pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis, as well as lack of person-centered sexual and reproductive health services including HPV vaccinations and pap smear tests. As a result of the above, participants described low levels of sexuality education and resultant empowerment, and described a belief that information, skills and services that could increase sexual health empowerment could only be accessed through trusted community groups, rather than official healthcare providers. This study highlighted the importance of comprehensive sexuality education to this vulnerable community. By raising awareness and providing education, migrant sex workers can be equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge in negotiating safer sex practises.
4	Marcus Phillip Paul; University of Sydney, Australia	The lived experiences of Myanmar women migrants in Malaysia	My PhD research explores the lived experiences of Myanmar women migrants in Malaysia. In Malaysia, Myanmar migrants work in construction, manufacturing, agriculture, and services. These are highly gendered spaces and while many Myanmar women migrants who make up only 17.45% of the total 104 000 Myanmar migrant population, they participate in the services (nursing, sales and domestic care), and manufacturing industries where there are few places in which they feel protected and supported. The rights of migrant women in these gendered workplaces are more

			<p>limited, and they experience exploitation and vulnerability in areas affecting their health, physicality, mental health, and well-being. While the lived experiences of women migrants in Malaysia and elsewhere have been extensively studied, research remains scarce about Myanmar women migrants in Malaysia. Hence, my study focuses on the challenges that Myanmar women migrants in Malaysia face and how they navigate those challenges. I employ intersectionality as a conceptual framework and intend to use participant observations, interviews and focus group discussions through a multisite ethnography with the Myanmar women migrants from Tanma, Migrant Ministry at Assumption Church and Persatuan Sahabat Wanita Selangor in Malaysia to collect data. Thematic analysis will be used for data analysis and the outcome of this research hopes to inform evidence-based interventions to assist Myanmar women migrants in Malaysia overcome their challenges, and see that this be included in a working migration policy in Malaysia. The significance of this research includes highlighting the challenges of Myanmar women migrants in Malaysia, exploring the research topic through a gendered and feminist lens, and empowering women migrants to play active roles in the research.</p>
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Panel 4: Communities, collaborations, and capacities in health promotion (Tuesday, 26 September 2023, 2.15 – 4pm)

1	Sammy (Swarup) Thite; ACON Health Limited, Australia	Peer-led HIV testing for gay men: A successful sexual health initiative	Australia’s early HIV response was characterised by innovative activities led by the communities most affected by HIV. Such activities formed the foundation of what is now widely practiced in HIV health promotion, education, testing and support. This presentation will outline learning from the delivery of a contemporary community based and peer-led approach to HIV testing for gay and bisexual men who have sex with men (cis and trans), a[TEST]. a[TEST] is a longstanding service delivered in partnership between ACON (formerly the AIDS Council of New South Wales) and the Sydney Sexual Health Centre. At a[TEST], peers work alongside clinicians to deliver rapid HIV point of care tests, STI screening, peer education addressing biomedical HIV prevention and peer-led brief interventions addressing sexualised drug use. Evaluation of a[TEST] has demonstrated that the service is readily accessed by culturally and linguistically diverse clients and accounts for 1% of annual HIV tests but 13% of annual HIV diagnosis in the state of NSW. The success of a[TEST] reflects the strength of partnership between ACON’s peer workers and Sydney Sexual Health Centre’s clinicians. Together, these teams bring clinical and lived experience expertise and facilitate a non-judgemental environment that is instrumental in creating a safe space for clients to test for HIV and discuss their sexual health.
2	P. Arun Kumar; National Centre for Infectious Diseases, Singapore	Combating Stigma in HIV and Key Populations Programme (SHAKE UP): A pilot key population-led HIV sensitivity training programme for healthcare professionals in Singapore	The National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID) Clinical HIV Programme (CHP) in Singapore addresses the needs of people living with HIV (PLHIV), yet insufficient training leaves health care professionals (HCPs) ill-equipped in areas like gender pronouns due to their absence in the curriculum and societal discussions. This leads to inadequate care quality, negative HCP attitudes, and compromised confidentiality. Targeted training is crucial to enhance HCP knowledge when treating HIV among marginalised groups and to combat stigma. To bridge this gap, NCID CHP devised an HIV Sensitivity Training Workshop. Facilitated by experienced community groups, it equips HCPs with communication skills for quality care, covering gender identity, sexuality, sex work, drug use, and HIV. The workshop, aimed at 30 participants, employs small-group settings with key population representatives. Pre-workshop, staff stigma was reported in 16 cases. Post-workshop, 29 agreed it boosted their understanding of sensitive PLHIV communication, bolstering their confidence, especially through mindfulness. Community group involvement enriched learning with lived experiences and insights. A

			pioneering initiative in Singapore, plans include workshop continuation, wider participation, and engagement of HCPs across healthcare facilities. This effort strives to create inclusive healthcare for LGBTQ+, sex workers, and marginalised groups — It is time for a SHAKE-UP!
3	Maddison Stratten and Eliza Basheer; Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District, STI Programs Unit (NSW Ministry of Health); Australia	Meeting sexual and reproductive health needs for international students through a whole of program consultative approach	The Play Safe Programs International Student Program aims to improve the sexual and reproductive health (SRH) outcomes of international students in NSW through two key activities: first, the development, maintenance and evaluation of the International Student Health Hub, and second, the development and piloting of five sexual health online learning modules (OLM). Launched in March 2021, the Hub is an online platform containing evidence-based SRH information and links. Over 198 NSW international students were consulted to inform the Hub’s development and 30 students for final focus testing. To date, the Hub has had over 19,000 new users, 23,500 sessions and 48,000+ page-views. In 2023, 15 stakeholder engagement consultations informed the development of a strategy to support communications with international students. A total of 52 resources were developed to meet an identified gap and support Hub promotion and student engagement. Following consultations, traffic to Hub increased by 74%. OLM Priority SRH topics were co-designed with international students. Modules are being piloted in June 2023 within six universities and one English College with 30 students (to date) providing additional feedback on acceptability, relevance, learning experiences and outcomes. Data will be presented at the conference.
4	Professor Kath Albury, Swinburne University of Technology, Australia	Building digital and data capabilities for sexual health	The Australian Digital Health Agency’s 2020 National Digital Health Capability Action Plan (CAP) proposes a new approach to embedding digital technologies and practices within Australian healthcare settings. But what does this mean for sexual health practitioners – including sexuality educators and health promoters? On one hand, digital technologies and platforms (including dating apps and social media platforms) are viewed by researchers and practitioners alike as sites of ‘risk’ and ‘misinformation’. On the other, the COVID pandemic and ongoing digital transformation of health systems mean that health practitioners are increasingly required to use data-driven technologies (including customer relationship management software) as part of their everyday work. So, what is ‘digital health capability’ in a sexual health context? This presentation introduces new frameworks for digital and data capabilities for Australian sexual health policy and practice.

Panel 5: Hope, violation and (in)justice (Wednesday, 27 September 2023, 5 – 6.45pm)

#	Name/Affiliation	Title	Abstract
1	Nathanael Wells, Mohamed Hammoud, Garrett Prestage, Allisson Carter, Benjamin Bavinton, Bernard Saliba, Jack Freestone, Daniel Storer, and Bridget Haire; Kirby Institute for Infection and Immunity in Society (UNSW Sydney), Australia	Exploring unwanted sexual encounters among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (GBM) in Australia: Prevalence, context, and associations with mental health	Sexual consent is a growing topic in public and legal debates, but often overlooks sexual subcultures among gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBM). As part of the Flux study, we studied unwanted sexual encounters among a cohort of GBM in Australia. Launched in 2014, Flux was a prospective observational study exploring health-related behaviours among GBM in Australia. In 2021, specific survey items were introduced to examine unwanted sexual encounters in the past 3 months. Binary logistic regression analysis on 967 surveys collected between June 2021 and June 2022 found that 12.2% reported at least one experience of unwanted sex in the previous three months and 39.8% reported it occurring with an anonymous partner. Most events (64.0%) occurred at their home, while 24.7% were at a sex-on-premises venue. Compared to individuals who did not report any unwanted sexual encounters, those who reported such experiences had higher pre-encounter scores on measures of anxiety (OR:1.13;95%CI:1.09-1.18) and depression (OR:1.09;95%CI:1.06-1.13). After unwanted encounters, those individuals had higher scores on measures of anxiety (OR:1.13;95%CI:1.09-1.18) and depression (OR:1.10;95%CI:1.06-1.14). We conclude that sexual consent education that specifically targets GBM is essential to mitigate the risks of unwanted sexual encounters, and that educational campaigns should consider the unique sexual subcultures within the GBM community.
2	Rodrigo Perez Toledo; Macquarie University, Australia	“That’s why I came here: to have sex with men”: Migration and sexuality among Mainland Chinese gay men in Sydney	Research on LGBTQ+ migration has become a relevant arena of debate. However, the colonial conditions that generate and facilitate not only such movements, and the peoples involved, are often overlooked. In this article I explore the intertwining of migration of same-sex attracted men and coloniality through the case of Mainland Chinese men who have migrated to Sydney, Australia. I conclude find that migration of same-sex attracted Chinese men to Australia deepens the modern/colonial system in three main ways: it solidifies the idea that populations in China are intolerant of non-heterosexual behaviours, positing an inherent contradiction between authoritarian China and always-welcoming and multicultural Australia; it consolidates LGBTQ+ identities as the only valid and recognised form of expressing non-heterosexualities, erasing the millennia-long traditions of same-sex interactions in Imperial China; and it sets a horizon that is created and embodied by the Western society as the only possible future for non-heterosexual populations. Despite migrants’ aspirations, they often

			encounter difficulties and disappointments they find in Australia that are, in some cases, so relevant that, with little financial and family support, impel their return to China. Coloniality draws participants to Australia and, at the same time, coloniality drives their return to China.
3	Wee Yang Soh; University of Chicago, USA	Finding god in the poststructuralism age	This meditative essay was inspired by the author's recent interactions with multiple queer folks who disavow the language and tools afforded by critical theory. Sceptical of the language of marginalisation despite being marginalised themselves, these folks had turned back to the reassurance of old gods. These old gods typically include the empirical and mathematical dependability of Newtonian metaphysics; the functionalist perspective of society that is reminiscent of the philosophies of Durkheim and Confucius; and of course, the monotheistic, omnipresent Abrahamic God that grants meaning to all forms of structure and order. By embracing these old gods, these queer folks not only turn their backs on intersectionality and gravitate towards the right of today's polarising culture wars. They also assert that Trumpian politics are a necessary counter to the excesses to the "woke" left. Rather than deconstructing these problematic perspectives, this piece hopes to contemplate the anti-feminist woman, the anti-BLM Black person, and the anti-queer gay man. In particular, through the epistemological tensions afforded by the existence of these characters, this essay asks: How do these identity paradoxes appear? How has poststructuralism led us to this point? And how can we preserve some notion of "progress" that avoids both the nihilism of social (de)constructionism and the false stability of new old structuralist gods?
4	Saakshi Saxena; Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK	Exploring how young Indian women victim-survivors of intimate partner sexual violence may practice sexual well-being and pleasure in the aftermath	This paper explores if and how young, unmarried, Indian, female victim-survivors of intimate partner sexual violence (IPSV) reclaim sexual well-being within a context of systemic impunity with structural and intersectional gender inequalities. While legal and societal structures need reform, we seek to understand how victim-survivors use their personal agency to move forward, forge new relationships and lead a fulfilling sexual life. We utilised analytic autoethnography research methods to understand these issues since they allowed us to include personal reflections and recognise the authors' as well as study participants' positionality. Findings highlight the importance of close female friendships combined with access to therapy to recognise and (re)frame experiences of sexual violence within an intimate relationship. None of the victim-survivors reported



			sexual violence to law enforcement. They struggled in the aftermath of their relationships but also used their close personal and therapeutic networks to understand how to build more satisfying intimate relations, including recognising internalised gendered attitudes and behaviours. Our findings raise important questions about gender, class, friendship, social support, power and taking legal action in reclaiming sexual pleasure and rights.
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