



**4th International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Emotional Geographies
1-3 July 2013 at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands**

Session Summary

Session Title	Geographies of Sexuality: Bodies, Spatial Encounters, and Emotions II
Session Abstract	<p>From the 1990s, geographers have been engaging more and more with sexuality and space. Seeing sexuality as an essential, fluid foundation of society and human behaviour, geographers have been critically questioning the socio-spatial configurations of, most importantly, sexual citizenship, queerness, sex work, public sex, sex tourism, sexual violence, eroticism and pornography, residence of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgenders (LGBT), and sexual antagonism by LGBT who are conceived of as sexual dissidents by heteronormative belief systems (cf. Browne 2007; Oswin 2008; Hubbard 2011). Apart from analyses stressing the complexities and fluidities of geographies of sexualities, this session explicitly invites scholars from across all disciplines to critically reflect on the encounters between sexed bodies, sexed space and sexed emotions. An emotional/affective approach is, in line with Davidson (2005), particularly pivotal to be or get critical in understanding how social relations within the emerging context of sexuality are spatially performed from the level of the individual body and body-between- body to group levels and overall society.</p> <p>As for sexuality, emotions are also related to the conceptual level. Sex and sexualities are closely linked with norms and values, with virtue and/or vice, and therefore create a diversity of feelings (cf. Fincher and Jacobs 1998). Particularly when it comes to non-heteronormative sexualities, emotions such as guilt, shame and the fear of negative evaluation seem to have a dialectic relationship with (re)production of and oppression by norms and in this way influence one's behaviour and use of space, leading to including/excluding discourses, conformism, feelings of acceptance/oppression, etc.</p>
Keywords	

Presentations

#	Title	Author Name
1	Dirty Dancing: The (Non)fluid Geographies of a Queer Night Club in Tel Aviv	Chen Misgav & Lynda Johnston
2	Queer Domesticity in Turkey: Potentials for Challenge of Shame and Fashioning a Queer Life	Haktan Ural
3	Making 'Sense' of Spatiality among Queer Iranian Refugees in Turkey	Eda Farsakoglu
4	Constructions of Teachers' Moral Authority and Students' Sexual Innocence in School-Based Sexuality Education in Uganda	Billie de Haas

Session Convenors and Chair	
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Session presentation details	
Presentation 1	
Title	Dirty Dancing: The (Non)fluid Geographies of a Queer Night Club in Tel Aviv
Abstract	In this paper we would like to examine the (non)fluid geographies of a queer night club in Tel Aviv. The city's most popular nightclub, it is considered by many to be a space of sexual liberation and at the time of this research, hosted the Friendly Freedom Friday (FFF) Party – a party that was first hosted in the early 1990s and changes its location every few years. Yet, this party, and the space of the nightclub, is also divided by embodied performances of gender and sexuality. We draw on individual in-depth interviews and participant observations to examine the tensions that arise from, and between, nightclub bodies and spaces. A number of paradoxes are present in this space. We argue that the fluidity of subjectivity – espoused by queer theorists – evaporates when confronted with the materiality of actual sweating bodies. We are interested in how and where sweat, and other body fluids, becomes matter out of place, or 'dirty'. Three points will structure our discussion. First, we will outline the theoretical debates about body fluids and fluid sexual subjectivities. Second, we will examine the sexed and gendered divisions of the nightclub. The spaces that gay, partially clothed and sweating male bodies occupy are distinct from, and in opposition to, transwomen's clothed and non-sweating bodies. Finally, the complex and subversive ways in which bodies and subjectivities do blur – or become fluid – will be discussed.
Author name	Author affiliation
Chen Misgav & Lynda Johnston	Tel-Aviv University, Israel & University of Waikato, New-Zealand
Presentation 2	
Title	Queer Domesticity in Turkey: Potentials for Challenge of Shame and Fashioning a Queer Life
Abstract	In Turkey, nascent literature on queer sexualities and its spatial dynamics is significantly focusing on how place-making plays an indispensable role in identity constitution and community construction for gay and lesbian individuals. In line with this, queer publicity comes forward as a critical dimension for claiming a legitimacy and self-affirmation. On the other hand, 'closet' implies politically unpromising spatial domain, as the term is associated with certain emotions of shame, guilt and fear. However, public visibility of queer subcultures in Turkey is entrapped by a lack of social, cultural and legislative protection. Therefore; 'coming out of the closet' and enjoying a truly urban existence is hardly attained under severe confinements of heteronormativity that governs one's connectivity with others (Özyeğin, 2012). Through the context of queer sexualities in such a non-Western milieu, I aim to propound how domesticity constitutes a significant ground that shapes and is shaped by queer subcultures. Departing from 24 interviews with

	gay men living in Ankara –capital city of Turkey, I aim to explore queer domesticity in two interrelated levels. On the one hand, I will attempt to understand how queer domesticity is spatially experienced as a 'backstage' (Urbach, 2000) that operates as an extension of outside. How does the one adorn its own private life for the sake of self-representation and negotiating a queer (in)visibility? In this vein, I aim to understand how boundaries between in/out is fluid and constantly demarcated in the very ephemeral moments of queer life. Besides, I will try to explore social and spatial meanings of queer domesticity and whether it does accommodate potentialities beyond the feelings of shame, guilt and fear. By going beyond rigid conception of queer domesticity as a site for captivity and solitariness, I will seek to find how queer privacy is produced as a space where plural affections and social practices are performed from the levels of individual body to larger scales.
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Author name	Author affiliation
Haktan Ural	Ankara University, Turkey

Presentation 3

Title	Making 'Sense' of Spatiality among Queer Iranian Refugees in Turkey
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Abstract	<p>Although migration scholars have recently given greater attention to theoretical and analytical importance of space in making sense of immigrant community formations in general and queer immigrant communities in particular, they have not adequately addressed the complex relationships of emotions in such formative processes. Building upon a limited but steadily enlarging literature, the main aim of this paper is to explore how sexuality, race/ethnicity and emotions shape spatiality among a particular refugee community in the transit migratory space of Turkey.</p> <p>Among other irregular migrants and transit refugees, Turkey hosts many Iranian queer subjects, who are seeking asylum based on sexual orientation and gender identity persecution and waiting for resettlement to a third country in the global North. Time they spend between 'home' and 'final' destination in the migratory socio-spatial setting of Turkey affects and inflects spatiality among exiled queer Iranians. During their 'waiting' time in transit, they experience extreme isolation and marginalization as queers not only by the Turkish society and politics but also by the larger Iranian community in Turkey. This positioning at the intersection of refugeeness and queerness necessarily creates diverse emotions among queer Iranian refugees. The paper draws on findings from a doctoral dissertation project, which is based on 11-months of fieldwork consisting of key-informant interviews as well as on ethnographic data and narratives collected through in-depth interviews with 40 Iranian sexual refugees living in different "refugee" cities in Turkey.</p>
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Author name	Author affiliation
Eda Farsakoglu	Department of Sociology and Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Lund University, Sweden

Presentation 4

Title	Constructions of Teachers' Moral Authority and Students' Sexual Innocence in School-Based Sexuality Education in Uganda
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Abstract	Sexuality education has been identified as an important preventive method in Uganda's struggle against HIV/AIDS. However, teachers experience difficulties in teaching sexuality education because of cultural beliefs that consider discussing sex with students a taboo. This paper aims to understand how teachers' images of youth and their sexual agency are embedded in their
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	<p>intentions to teach sexuality education. In-depth interviews were conducted with 40 teachers in Kampala, capital of Uganda. Participants describe students as young and sexually innocent. These constructions allow them to practice their perceived role as a teacher, i.e. to guide and advise students, correct behaviours and teach what is morally upright. Participants indicate that hierarchy, status and respect are important to them: they are older and have more knowledge than students. In addition, teachers indicate that sex is for adults and that they prefer to regard students as sexually innocent, even when they know a part of students are sexually active. This paper argues that teachers construct students as sexually innocent because it allows teachers to maintain (moral) authority within the school by creating a clear boundary between “us” teachers and “them” students. These images of sexual innocence seem to prohibit students from receiving sexuality education fitting their realities and instead receiving sexuality education focused on moral teachings of abstinence-only.</p>
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Short biographical notes of presenters	
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