

Sexuality Summer School 2018: Queer Longing Arts Methods Funding Report

We are immensely grateful for the funding we received from Arts Methods to support this year's Sexuality Summer School. This funding went towards the opening day lunch (provided by the Café at the Museum), as well as providing for the expenses for two of our invited speakers, Shen Xin and Li Maizi.

Despite the strike disruption earlier this year, we were able to make up sufficient numbers for our registered delegates. As usual for the Sexuality Summer School, the delegates in attendance were from a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds, including: Anthropology, Archaeology, Art History, Classics, Dance, Development, English Studies, Geography, Gender Studies, Human Rights, Irish Studies, Linguistics, Marketing, Pedagogy, Performance, Portuguese and Lusophone studies, Psychoanalysis, Sociology. We also opened up attendance at this year's Sexuality Summer School to other researchers and practitioners, such as artists and curators.

This rich interdisciplinary mix was echoed in the variety of public events and workshops on offer this year. We began the week with a Public Lecture by Professor Scott Herring (Indiana), followed by a film screening of the Oscar-Award-winning *Moonlight* (Barry Jenkins, 2016) and independent short *DESIRE* (Campbell X, 2017). For the lecture, all seats were taken in the SALC Graduate School Conference room, and the film screening was sold out. The next day saw a Book Launch and Roundtable for *Clinical Encounters in Sexuality: Psychoanalysis and Queer Theory* (2016) with co-editors Noreen Giffney and Eve Watson. Again, the speakers were met with a full house! This event was followed by an Artist's Talk from New-York-based performance artist Dan Fishback. Later in the week we also held an 'In Conversation' event with performance artist Holly Hughes and cultural anthropologist Esther Newton, and an artists'/activists' dialogue on Sexuality and Longing in Chinese Contemporary Art.

As in previous years, the public events were paired with workshops the following day, enabling our delegates to pose further questions to the visiting speakers about their work. This was supplemented by a student-led discussion workshop, a writing workshop run by Professor Jackie Stacey, and a workshop with local artist and activist Greg Thorpe, who also helps run Superbia, the academic sister organisation to Manchester Pride. We held smaller-group feedback sessions daily to ensure that all our delegates had the chance to address the content, discuss their research and engage in peer support. We were able to offer our delegates and speakers lunch most days, and we received positive feedback on the quality of the food.

We reached out to two new venues this year: performance space 53two, located near Deansgate, and the Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art in the Northern Quarter. The CFCCA collaborated with us on the evening event with Shen Xin, Li Maizi and Whiskey Chow. We are pleased to have forged these connections between the University and other cultural partners in the city.

All in all, the Sexuality Summer School 2018 was simultaneous our most ambitious and our most successful to date. We overcame many difficulties in order to ensure that the event went ahead as planned, but we were rewarded with incredibly positive feedback both in our final feedback session and in comments collected from members of the public attending our public events during the week.









