

PhD/ECR Travel Bursaries: 'Trans/Queer'

Friday 26th January 2024, University of Birmingham

We are able to offer a modest number of travel bursaries to enable PhD students or early-career researchers to attend the next event to be hosted by the AHRC-funded research network 'Beyond Radical: Queer Theory and the UK'. 'Trans/Queer' will provide space to reflect on and further develop trans studies in the UK and its relation to queer theory. In light of this, we want to encourage as much participation from early-stage researchers as we can. Confirmed speakers include Susan Stryker and Sophie Lewis. Please see below for a description of the event.

Further Details

Eligibility: bursaries are available to any current PhD student or postdoctoral researcher actively engaged in research. Priority will be given to applicants working in trans studies, broadly construed; but others working in feminist and queer studies of gender and sexuality are also welcome to apply. Postdoctoral researchers do not need to be in a formal post, though do need to be actively engaged in research

Prioritisation: priority will be given to unfunded students and to researchers without access to institutional research funds

Amount available: up to £200 to cover travel and accommodation

Application process: please send the following as one document to beyondradicalnetwork@gmail.com by **8th December 2023**:

- A short CV indicating current position, current funding status, current research topic and other relevant information (max 2 pages)
- A short statement about what you hope to get out of the day (max 200 words)

Processing payment: due to financial regulations, the administration of funds will happen either through a) booking travel/accommodation on behalf of recipients via

the University of Manchester (if the total is £200 or less) or b) reimbursing recipients for costs incurred (if the total is more than £200)

Event description

For scholars based in the UK, researching trans lives and cultures offers a specific set of challenges. For one thing, while there are plenty of scholars working on trans topics, “trans studies” as a field has much less sense of the formal organisation of trans studies in somewhere like the US. At the same time, the precarious place of trans people in the UK can make it seem especially urgent for research to focus on tackling immediate social problems. This in turn has tended to mean that the social sciences have become the main home for trans studies here.

But this situation invites a range of questions about how trans studies in the UK might develop. For example, in the US, trans studies has achieved its formal organisation in significant ways by opposing itself to queer studies. Whether this is how the fields will relate to each other as they develop in other locations remains to be seen. Also, the focus of trans studies in the social sciences up to now leaves space to explore what a trans studies rooted elsewhere might look like—say, in history, culture, aesthetics and the conceptually-led humanities.

This event will be dedicated to further building trans studies in the UK. Among the questions we will ask are: In what kinds of disciplines will trans studies be possible? How will this relate to existing scholars and scholarship in gender and sexuality studies? How does/can trans theory relate to feminism in the UK? Are there specificities of the UK context and its colonial history/present that will guide future work in this area? Is it possible to think of transness and trans people outside the frame of social emergency/problem?