

Creating Strong and Safe Queer Communities



10th December 2008

6.00pm – 8.00pm

Location: University of Brighton

START:

6pm - **Dr Catherine Donovan PhD, Reader in Sociology. (tbc)** *Uni of Sunderland and Uni of Bristol, C Donovan, M Hester, J Holmes & M McCarry, "Comparing domestic abuse in same sex & heterosexual relationships", November 2006.*

6.45pm Refreshments

6.50pm **Cindy Holmes, MA, PhD student, University of British Columbia, Canada -**
Creating Strong and Safe Queer Communities: Reflections on LGBTQ Domestic Violence Strategies from British Columbia, Canada

In this talk, Cindy will discuss her recent work in British Columbia Canada and some of the challenges faced in educating about violence in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer communities, with a focus on two violence prevention and training projects she coordinated. She will speak about some of the challenges and complexities faced in this work such as: how we conceptualize and educate about what is healthy or unhealthy in queer relationships and the need to integrate an analysis of racism and colonialism in our LGBTQ anti-violence strategies

7.40 – 8.00pm open discussion/ways forward.

Cindy Holmes has been working with community groups in Canada for over twenty years on many social justice issues including violence against women, violence in LGBT communities, racism and anti-oppression education. She is the former coordinator of two LGBTQ anti-violence initiatives in British Columbia, Canada where she developed a violence prevention and service provider training program to address violence in queer women's relationships. She is currently a PhD student at the University of British Columbia where her dissertation research draws on feminist, anti-colonial and interlocking theories of violence to examine violence on non-heteronormative, gender non-conforming and racialised bodies.

She is the author (with Janice Ristock) of "Exploring discursive constructions of lesbian abuse: Looking inside and out", in *Survivor rhetoric: Negotiations and narrativity in abused women's language*, edited by Christine Shearer-Cremeau and Carol L. Winkleman; and of the article "Destabilizing homonormativity and the public/private dichotomy in North American lesbian domestic violence discourses" forthcoming in January 2009 in the journal *Gender, Place and Culture*.

Dr Catherine Donovan. Catherine is a reader in Sociology and Director of the International Centre for the Study of Violence and Abuse in the School of Health, Natural and Social Sciences, University of Sunderland. She has carried out numerous research papers, including: Uni of Sunderland and Uni of Bristol, C Donovan, M Hester, J Holmes & M McCarry, "Comparing domestic abuse in same sex & heterosexual relationships", November 2006.

The research was carried out between January 2005 and November 2006, and was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. It was informed by an Advisory Group consisting of representatives from Broken Rainbow, the Northern Rock Foundation, Northumbria Probation Service, University of Portsmouth Equalities Unit, Central Manchester Women's Aid, Glasgow Women's Library, Scottish Equality Network, Stonewall Cymru and Devon and Cornwall Police.

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