

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

11th International Biennial

Gender & Education Association Conference:

Generative Feminism(s): working across/within/through borders

Middlesex University, London.

Conference dates

21st-23 June 2017.

Keynote presenters

- Professor Kerry Robinson (Western Sydney University, Australia);
- Professor Farzana Shain (Keele University, UK)
- Professor Emma Renold (Cardiff University, Wales)
- Professor Gabrielle Ivinson (Manchester Metropolitan University, UK)
- Jen Angharad (Community Dance Wales);
- Associate Professor Iris van der Tuin (Utrecht University, The Netherlands)

Conference Outline

The GEA Conference has long provided an important home for established and aspiring feminist researchers to foreground and share deep commitments and passions to addressing gender inequity across all educational contexts and spheres. The Association and the Gender & Education Journal share an overt and proud commitment to feminist modes of publishing, theorising, praxis and activism. The Association, journal and annual conferences collectively provide a key global platform for a wide network of international scholars to (continue) to inform theoretically, methodologically and empirically cutting edge debates about gender, education and culture.

The 11th GEA conference intends to build upon this tradition to create space and opportunities for a range of feminist scholars, working at disciplinary interstices, to share innovative interventions that push at generating understandings about impact - upon research

practice, pedagogy, policy and activism. Crucially, the conference also intends to inspire and support emerging gender scholars and to act as an international collaborative resource for those fighting gendered inequality in multiple ways in local contexts.

Feminist research makes a crucially important contribution to developing diverse and collaborative ways to understand gender, feminism(s), sexual identities, education and embodied experiences. The new material/affective turn in feminist research has produced a wider range of methodologies and interdisciplinary approaches with which to theorise and research gender. The ‘newness’ of these exciting developments owe an enormous debt to generations of feminist scholars; the overriding aim of the conference is to recognise and celebrate the inter and intra-connections that generate such a rich feminist landscape. The conference will open up opportunities for generative, generating and generational feminist research – so that past, present and future feminist theorisations and practices of education research might coalesce. There is much to be gained from affirmatively relating across time and space – to continue to contemplate what feminist research is possible of, and what it does best: unsettle, intervene and insist upon demonstrable impacts for greater gender equity in educational policy, practical pedagogies and within communities.

With these factors in mind the theme of the conference is: *Generative Feminism(s): working across/within/through borders* and is inspired by the work of Gloria Anzaldúa (1987, *Borderlands/La Frontera*); Sylvia Wynter (2015, *On Being Human as Praxis*) and Iris van der Tuin (2015, *Generational Feminism: New Materialist Introduction to A Generative Approach*). Through their work, these feminist scholars pull together the interconnectedness of creative and theoretical resistances and affordances to contemplate borders (temporal, spatial, material and disciplinary) and so grapple with fissures that persist and enfold between practice, policy, theory and activism.

The invited keynote presenters will respond to this theme with reference to their own extensive feminist educational research:

Professor Kerry Robinson’s research focuses on childhood studies; diversity, equity and social justice issues in educational contexts; constructions of gendered and sexualized identities; sexual harassment; constructions of childhood and sexuality; and sexuality education. Kerry has published widely including *Innocence, Knowledge and the construction of childhood: The contradictory relationship between sexuality and censorship in children's*

contemporary lives (2013, Routledge, London); a co-edited collection *Rethinking school violence* (Saltmarsh, Robinson & Davies, 2012) and a co-authored book, *Diversity and Difference in Early Childhood Education: Issues for Theory and Practice* (Robinson & Jones Diaz, 2016, 2nd edition).

Professor Farzana Shain is located in the School of Social sciences and Public Policy and director of the research centre for social Policy at Keele University. She has researched and written extensively on the broad themes of educational inequalities. Her most recent book *Neoliberalism and Education: Rearticulating Social Justice* is co-edited with Kalwant Bhopal. She is also author of *The Schooling and Identity of Asian Girls* and *The New Folk Devils: Muslim Boys and Education in England*. From January 2017, Farzana will take up a 22 month Leverhulme Trust Funded Research Fellowship.

Professors Emma Renold and **Gabrielle Ivinson** with **choreographer Jen Angharad** will contribute an interactive performance piece to the conference that brings to life new materialist feminist research methodologies. The intention is that through creative research practices the team will demonstrate the means by which educational research can transcend conventional boundaries and expectations to put the in-act into enacted activism. Emma Renold's research explores gendered and sexual subjectivities across diverse institutional sites and public spaces across the young life course; Gabrielle Ivinson is interested in how the specific habits, practices and gender worlds that supported dangerous work in industrial locales can be regenerated as social and educational resources for children and young people today. Emma, Gabrielle and Jen have been working collaboratively over a number of years on research that crosses borders and poses important questions about impact.

Associate Professor Iris van der Tuin chairs the COST Action New Materialism: Networking European Scholarship on 'How Matter Comes to Matter' (2014-18). Until March 1, 2015 she was Associate Professor of Gender Studies and Philosophy of Science at Utrecht University (Department of Media and Culture Studies). In 2011-12 she was visiting scholar in the Department of the History of Science, Harvard University, the USA. Iris worked on the project 'The Material Turn in the Humanities'. She has edited *Doing Gender in Media, Art and Culture* (2009) with Rosemarie Buikema and wrote *New Materialism: Interviews & Cartographies* (2012) with Rick Dolphijn. Her work on feminist new materialism has appeared in numerous journals. She has edited a special issue of *Women: A Cultural Review*

on *'Feminist Matters: The Politics of New Materialism* with Peta Hinton and is editor of the book series *New Materialisms* with Rosi Braidotti and associate editor in chief of the Macmillan Interdisciplinary Handbooks on Gender. In 2015 *Generational Feminism: New Materialist Introduction to a Generative Approach* was published.

Abstract submissions

The conference invites contributions that open up generative ways to work towards broader understandings and practices in feminist educational research. As well as conventional conference papers, Keynote addresses and symposia, the conference will include opportunities for creative, arts-based contributions and practical workshops, performances and “soup kitchens” as a means to generate ways to share ideas and make connections.

We welcome submissions from feminists working across/within and through (temporal, spatial, material and disciplinary) borders to push how gender is theorized, researched and practiced with the aim of generating creative ways to reconsider what might be meant by impact – on educational practices, policies, theories and activism.

We invite proposal submissions for individual academic papers, symposia, performances, personal narratives, and artistic installations. We also welcome panels and workshops around the theme of the conference.

Practical Information

Abstracts for individual papers and performances (300 words) should be sent in the following format:

1. Title
2. Presenter(s) + short biography (50 words)
3. Institutional affiliation (including email address)
4. Abstract
5. Key words (5 minimum)

6. Technical requirements (presenting/performing space, ICT etc)

Proposals for pre-organized symposia, panels and workshops should additionally include a summary paragraph along with the proposed session title (100 words).

All submitted abstracts, panel proposals, and workshop proposals will be peer reviewed by the conference committee. **Deadline for abstracts is 31st January 2017.** Send submissions to: a.elwick@mdx.ac.uk General enquiries about the conference should be sent to Dr Sundarum, GEA Executive at v.sundarum@york.ac.uk

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