



## Trans Studies, Trans Lives: Past, Present, and Future

**Symposium: May 25<sup>th</sup> 2019**

In 2018, the Human Rights Campaign described anti-transgender violence in the US as “A National Epidemic”; the *New York Times* reported, “‘Transgender’ Could Be Defined Out of Existence Under Trump Administration”. In the UK, trans identities have been subject to similar attacks, with *The Times* publishing 323 largely critical articles on transgender rights and lives in 2018 alone. In response to the hostility, violence, and misunderstandings perpetrated against trans people, the UCL Grand Challenges programme (GCJE – Justice & Equality) has funded a one-day symposium to celebrate Trans Studies and Trans Lives.

This symposium seeks to recognize the difficult histories and structural issues faced by trans people, but also to ensure the present and future of trans people’s lives are not defined by oppression. We aim to showcase the endurance, joy, and creativity of the trans community with a selection of academic, autobiographical, and creative pieces on the theme of trans studies and trans lives.

The symposium will be held on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at the IAS Common Ground, Gower St, London.

We invite academic, autobiographical, and creative pieces of approximately 20 minutes in length on the theme of Trans Studies and/or Trans Lives. As well as academic papers, we also encourage nonacademic perspectives and as less conventional pieces. We welcome engagements with any aspect of trans and/or nonbinary identities. Suggested responses may include, but are not limited to:

- Autobiographical pieces on ‘living as trans’
- Transness and race
- Transness and the academy
- Transness and NHS and/or private healthcare
- Analyses of legal difficulties faced by trans people
- Analyses of online transphobia and harassment
- Responses to the proposed changes in the GRA
- Responses to transnational trans politics
- Media representations of transness
- Trans in film and literature
- Fiction or poetry on trans themes
- Short films on trans themes

Proposals should be approximately 250 words in length. Please include a short (100 word) biography with your submission. If your submission is a creative piece, please also include an example of your output, such as a 500 word writing sample, a 2 page portfolio (for visual art), or a film sample.

### Keynote Speakers

Prof. Stephen Whittle (Law; Manchester Met), Dr. Meg John Barker (Psychology; Open University)

### Additional Speakers

Prof. Robert Mills (Medieval art; UCL), Prof. Ann Heilmann (Victorian literature; Cardiff), Prof. Susan Rudy (Contemporary literature; QMUL)

**Send submissions to  
[transstudieslives@gmail.com](mailto:transstudieslives@gmail.com)  
by March 3rd 2019**

**#ucltranssym**