Traditionally, unwaged care-work has been considered a female activity that belongs within the spaces of the home. This research considers experiences of unwaged care-work in the contemporary UK, with a particular focus on the domestic lives of co-habiting LGBT couples. As such, it challenges the heteronormativity prevalent in much of the geographical literature on care-work and work/ life balance. The research will explore the role of sexuality in couples’ understandings and experiences of unwaged care-work. In particular, the project seeks to uncover how LGBT couples divide unwaged carework (including childcare, eldercare, emotion work and other forms of domestic labour), and how these divisions are spatially manifested. This will involve a consideration of the ways in which care-work might move beyond or extend the boundaries of the home. The paper will draw upon an on-going PhD research project, and outline some preliminary findings. These findings are based on qualitative analysis of continuing in-home interviews with cohabiting LGBT couples. Although the topic of work/ life balance has received much attention within geography in the last decade, the majority of geographers have concentrated on the waged workplace and divisions of labour within heterosexual married couples. This research project aims to build upon the existing scholarship on work/ life balance in geography, and make three unique contributions. Firstly, it concentrates on unwaged care-work, and how this care-work extends and transcends the boundaries of the home, thereby providing a more holistic understanding of sociospatial configurations of care-work. Secondly, it increases knowledge about the spatialities and divisions of care-work by considering the experiences of LGBT couples, a group that has been largely neglected in geographical studies of care-work and work/life balance. Thirdly, it considers the challenges to performing care-work and achieving work/ life balance in the context of the recent recession in the UK.

Aaron Betsky, Cincinnati Art Museum & University of Kentucky
“When Revisiting Queer Space: Architecture and Same Sex Desire”

In this keynote lecture Aaron Betsky will revisit on the fifteenth anniversary of its publication, the ground-breaking architectural text Queer Space: Architecture and Same Sex Desire (1997). Recognised as one of the first texts in architectural discourse which attempted to breakdown the heteronormative and patriarchal discipline, Queer Space is not without its problems. Betsky’s talk promises to be an exciting and timely revisit to this interesting book; one that was influential for many queer scholars working in spatialised disciplines.

Katarina Bonnevier, Swedish Museum of Architecture, Stockholm
“Queer Domestic Performance: Leaks from the Club Scene”

In this final event of the day Dr Katarina Bonnevier will begin by offering a short discussion about her research interests which will be followed by a performative enactment where all conference guests will be encouraged to take part. Drinks, canapés and finger food will be served. She will contextualise her research on the Lalasalon, a theatrical project which seeks to expand the formal field used to generate and present architectural knowledge through a series of re-enactments of more or less recent historical queer domestic club scenes. Domesticity and its resonance with sexuality will be explored through this scene – a theatrical and corporeal situation guided by preferences – where sharp lines between intimate and public/political life are conflated.

Dr Katarina Bonnevier is an architect and researcher at the Swedish Museum of Architecture, Stockholm. She holds a Ph.D. in critical theory of architecture. She has lectured at the School of Architecture and Built Environment, Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Stockholm and at Haute Ecole Speciale de Suisse Occidentale (HES-So) in Fribourg, Switzerland. Her research evokes around relations of architecture and power, especially from gender perspectives.
Sexuality at Home Presentation and Speaker Details

Dr Ben Campkin, University College London, and Dr R. Justin Hunt, Syracuse University, London
“Letters home”

In 2012 artist Benjamin Sebastian performed ‘home’ as part of the Sundown Schoolhouse of Queer Home Economics – an exploration of queer domesticity led by the architect and artist Fritz Haeg held at London’s Hayward Gallery. This was one piece in a day of performances by the collective “I’m With You”. Inspired by the nineteenth century model of home economics, Haeg had put out a public call to the LGBT community to take part in a dialogue about the queer home and queer home-making. On one of the Hayward’s Brutalist concrete terraces, Sebastian erected and occupied a soft tent-like home, sewn together from paper. During the performance the home – a basic pitch-roofed house – was in constant motion, struggling against the artist’s actions as he climbed inside. Blown about by the wind it changed its form in response to the elements and the artist’s body. The brilliant white walls took on the light and colour of the sky, as cumulus clouds rolled past and momentarily eclipsed the sun. This performance formed part of an ongoing body of work by Sebastian on ‘home’ and queerness. As our contribution to Sexuality at Home we propose to respond to this work not through a co-authored paper, but in a series of letters we have individually written to the artist. As interdisciplinary scholars working in performance studies (Hunt) and urban studies (Campkin) we approach Sebastian’s work from quite different perspectives. Rather than attempt to produce a seamless argument our method here will be to use letters to the artist to work besides each other. In this we draw on Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick’s spatialised notion of ‘beside’ as an alternative to dualistic thinking, permitting a number of elements to run in productive parallel through varied kinds of relation. This approach also allows us to work beside Sebastian’s time-based performances, without imposing a singular interpretation.

Dr Ben Campin is an urbanist and architectural historian interested in the decline and renewal of cities, and the visual cultures of urban change. His work focuses, in particular, on the architecture and representation of twentieth-century and contemporary London, and the history of contentious sites of ‘regeneration’.

Dr R. Justin Hunt completed his doctorate in Performance Studies at the University of Roehampton this Fall. He is a producer and performer internationally, both solo and with his company “I’m with you.” Justin received his MA from the Tisch School at New York University and completed his BA at Emerson College. He has taught at university level since 2005 across a range of disciplines.

Dr Matt Cook, Birbeck University
“Taking Sexual Politics Home: Derek Jarman and Queering Domesticity”

In his published diaries, interviews, and some of his films Derek Jarman laid out his domestic life for public consumption and gave a vivid sense of the interplay there of art, sexual radicalism and the everyday. From 1989 his cottage and garden at Dungeness on the Kent coast became synonymous with him in these different media and were much photographed, viewed and visited (especially after the publication of ‘Derek Jarman’s Garden’ in 1995). This home was never private in a conventional way, but was instead part (a solid, material part) of Jarman’s production of himself for himself and for a broader audience both during his lifetime and after his death. In this paper I show how he used the cottage and also his London flats more or less self consciously to showcase his investment in home as a place and as an idea – and to show too how it could be given a queer twist and used confidently to articulate a sense of felt difference and endurance in ‘dark times’.

Dr Matt Cook is a cultural historian specialising in the history of sexuality and the history of London in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. He is an editor of History Workshop Journal and co-director of the Raphael Samuel History Centre. He is author of London and the Culture of Homosexuality. 1885–1914 (2003), and editor of A Gay History of Britain (2008) and Queer 1950s (2012). His next book, Queer Domesticities, will appear in 2013.
This paper examines lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) experiences of displacement, home loss and obstructions to rebuilding in the face of natural disasters. LGBT vulnerability and resilience are little studied in disaster research; this paper begins to fill this gap, focusing on LGBT domicile, and how LGBT houses, homes and shelters are unmade in natural disaster contexts. To do this, I use textual analysis to review a range of non-governmental and media commentaries on LGBT experiences of natural disasters in various settings over the last eight years, including South Asia, the US, Haiti, Australia and New Zealand. In addition, I utilise preliminary data from pilot work on LGBT experiences of 2011 natural disasters in Brisbane, Australia, and Christchurch, New Zealand. I find that disaster impacts have a middle-class bias; however, responses to rebuilding and recovery are fashioned by gender, sexuality and identity. This paper seeks to make these urbangeographical relationships to LGBT households, homes, and shelters clear, and to explore the forms and impacts of building and rebuilding strategies. This paper finds that LGBT homes and neighbourhoods, including wider community infrastructure (e.g., leisure venues and organisational facilities) that contribute to a sense of home and belonging.
**Sexuality at Home Presentation and Speaker Details**

**Dr Martina Klett-Davies, The Open University**

"What’s love got to do with it?” Negotiating Home Life, Love Life and the Meanings and Uses of Household Space in Adult Couple Relationships"

This paper explores how adult couples ordinarily relate to each other in the domestic space of the home. Paying attention to how heterosexual and same-sex couples frame their relationship both through and outside the discourses of love, it examines the significance of generational difference, gender and the absence/presence of children in the spatial dynamics of long-term couple relationships. This paper draws on fieldwork currently being undertaken as part of a large ESRC-funded project (RES-062-23-3056) "Enduring Love?" Drawing upon a range of data generated by our respondents, including diaries and emotion maps, the paper analyses the mundane relating practices of couples and where different kinds of interactions occur. The analysis is concerned with how one might better understand the home not only as a place where ‘relationship work’ is performed on a daily basis but also where couples experience and enact the minutiae of what it means to be “in love”.

**Dana Kaplan, The Open University, Israel, and The Hebrew University**

"Sex (not) at Home: Sex-Work Apartments in Tel Aviv and Neoliberal Sexuality"

During 2012, feminist activists protested against what they described as the “polluting of the public sphere” with sex-services cards. These cards advertise massage-parlors and sex-work taking place in apartments across the transnational city of Tel Aviv. While the existence of such apartments is not a new phenomenon, the sheer volume of its outdoor [and online] publication is unprecedented and so is the public awareness it raised. This normalisation and mainstreaming of sexual obscurity is part of a shift towards recreational sexuality, seen also in the movement of prostitution from rundown city streets to apartments in middle-class neighborhoods. This paper investigates the spatial and haptic dimensions of this urban-geographical phenomena, thereby also reflecting upon neoliberal (hetero)sexuality more broadly. Sex-work geography has been studied extensively, mostly in the context of global trafficking and the new economy of sex.

Studies also focused on urban degeneration and municipal policies regarding nighttime economies. Still other urban geography work looked at the spatial organisation of sex-work from a cultural perspective. Such works ask how the urban emplacement of sex reproduces social hierarchies. The present research both draws on this cultural perspective and expands it by examining the sensory, atmospheric and experiential dimensions of urban sex apartments. I draw on police reports and court files, media stories, clients’ ‘recommendation’ web sites and preliminary ethnographic data in order to describe the interior of sex apartments. These apartments are designed in particular ways that render sex-work a space of mundane consumerism, a space of free choice in which sex for sale is a normal practice, not glamorous but at the same time not sleazy. I also discuss the material sermonic of the sex cards and their physical presence across the middle-class cityscapes. These two perspectives are designed to unravel the ways of aestheticising and visualising the sexual within the urban landscape. I argue that the Tel Aviv sex cards and the apartments they advertise exemplify how the private and public aspects of sex blur, thus showcasing the sexualisation of culture in its immediacy.

**Dr Martina Klett-Davies, The Open University**

"What’s love got to do with it?” Negotiating Home Life, Love Life and the Meanings and Uses of Household Space in Adult Couple Relationships"

Dr Martina Klett-Davies is a Research Associate on the ESRC funded “Enduring Love?” research project that investigates the experiences and understandings of long-term couple relationships. She also teaches on the Gender & Geography course at London School of Economics. Before joining The Open University in September 2011, she worked as a Senior Research Fellow at the Family & Parenting Institute (FPI). Her research specialises in relationships, family and gender studies and modern social theories, with a focus on the interplay between social identities, social policies and cultural understandings. While working at the Family and Parenting Institute (FPI), Dr Klett-Davies published on parenting and class issues, sibling relationships, and motherhood and paid and unpaid work and managed empirical research into Parenting Programmes and Early Home Education for the Department for Education.

**Dana Kaplan**

Dana Kaplan is a PhD student at the Open University, Israel, and a Scholion Fellow at the Hebrew University. She is a cultural sociologist working on middle classes in Israel. She studied the construction of a middle-class consumer culture in Israel through wedding, culinary and New Age practices. She currently works on neoliberalism, heterosexuality and the new middle class.
Matt Smith, University of Brighton
“Queering the National Trust”

In 2011, Unravelled, an arts commissioning group, began a three year partnership with the National Trust, funded by the Arts Council, working with Nymans House (2012), The Vyne (2013) and Uppark House and Gardens (2014). Whilst researching the histories of the houses, we realised that two of them – Nymans House in Sussex and The Vyne in Hampshire – contained queer histories. This paper outlines how, through the use of site specific art commissioning, we attempted to bring these queer histories to life for visitors and the problems we encountered. In each house, we commissioned ten artists working in craft to deconstruct and broaden the histories usually told by the properties. For both Nymans and The Vyne, this included their queer histories. At Nymans, Oliver Messel (1904–1978) had a thirty year relationship with another man, Vagn Riis-Hansen. This relationship, unlike the multiple marriages of his brother and sister is not mentioned in any of the house guides or family trees. At The Vyne, John Chute (1701–1776) provided rooms for his long term friend Horace Walpole. Neither man married, and whilst there is no evidence to suggest that they were lovers, their correspondence shows a relationship closer than friendship. Picking up Whitney Davis’s ideas on Queer Family Romance, the paper will look at how the two men influenced each other’s taste in interior decoration. This illustrated talk will not only outline the histories of Oliver Messel and John Chute, but also explore the difficulties of trying to impose twenty-first century terminology upon these two historic figures.

Carin Tunåker, University of Kent
“Family Fission: The meaning of ‘Home’ to Homeless LGBT Youth”

Needless to say, the concept of ‘home’ is subject to individual interpretations. A ‘home’ may be conceived of as a physical space, such as a building/house, a geographical space such as a street, a town or a community, or a place where meaningful social relationships and/or kinship are fostered. Consider, then, what would happen to our understandings of ‘home’ if seen from the perspectives of young people that are ‘home–less’ and estranged from their families and kin groups due to their sexual orientation. This paper will present results from an ongoing research project conducted together with Kentish homelessness charity Porchlight. The aim of the research is to formulate an understanding of the lived realities of homeless LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) youth (ages 16–25). Young people who identify as LGB or T are often victims of hate crime, bullying, harassment, violence, oppression, discrimination and social exclusion in the home, in schools and in the community at large. In many cases, these factors can contribute to alienation from the family home and subsequently result in homelessness. In a conversation with an informant (17, male) who was made homeless due to coming out as gay, he conveyed dismay that some of his homeless peers weren’t ‘really homeless’, as they still maintained some extent of a relationship with their family, despite not living with them. He, on the other hand, had been kicked out from home after coming out and has no contact at all with his family; so in his opinion therefore he is more homeless. This research project will look specifically at how these young people experience home and homelessness in relation to kin and social relationships. Drawing from anthropological literature on ‘the house’, ‘home’ and kinship (such as Lévi–Strauss, Bourdieu, Carsten, Hugh–Jones, Kuper, among others) I aim to look at how these concepts as physical and symbolic structures and as principles for social organisation can inform our understanding of LGBT youth homelessness.

Carin Tunåker completed her Undergraduate and Master degrees at the University of Kent, where she is now also in her second year of a PhD in Social Anthropology. Her MA research revolved around kinship, gender and religion in Afro-Cuban households and involved fieldwork in Havana, Cuba, where she is still a frequent visitor and keen researcher. Her PhD dissertation research is entitled “A Different Kind of Homeless: LGBT youth in East Kent” and aims to understand what the conditions and circumstances are that contribute toward LGBT youth homelessness in this area. The research strives to, through in depth ethnography, portray the individual and complex lives of residents at three Young Persons Hostels in Kent where she has worked for the past 4 years. Moreover, it involves elements of Applied Anthropology in its aims to influence housing policies and deliverables for charities working with young LGBT service users and the young homeless population. The project is funded by a local homelessness charity, Porchlight, where she is also employed as a Support and Resettlement Worker.

Matt Smith is currently undertaking an AHRC practice–based PhD at the University of Brighton exploring queer craft visual languages and the ability of craft to queer spaces. Matt is a practising artist and co–runs “Unravelled”, a site–specific arts commissioning group that works with historic properties. In 2010 Matt developed the “Queering the Museum” exhibition at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery and in 2012 developed “Other Stories” which recontextualised the Leeds University Art Collection using the Brighton Ourstory Lesbian and Gay Oral History Archive.
Brent Pilkey, University College London

Brent Pilkey is finalising his PhD in Architectural History and Theory and is a Teaching Fellow at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London. His research looks at the spatialised ways in which sexuality plays out in the mundane and non-celebrated space of home for sexual minorities in London. He has published in Geographical Research, Gender, Place & Culture and is currently organising a special issue for Local Environment. Along with his teaching post, Brent has extensive experience as a research assistant facilitating the publication of academic books.

Dr Barbara Penner, University College London

Dr Barbara Penner is Senior Lecturer in Architectural History at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London. She is author of Newlyweds on Tour: Honeymooning in Nineteenth-Century America (2009) and co-editor of Ladies and Gents: Public Toilets and Gender (2009) and Gender Space Architecture (2000). She has most recently contributed essays to Toilet: The Politics of Sharing (2010), Handbook of Interior Design (forthcoming) and Globalization in Practice (forthcoming). She is presently completing Bathroom, a cultural history of the bathroom (forthcoming). In recent years, Barbara has been invited to give lectures in institutions across the UK, Japan, and North America, including at Aoyama Gakuin University, Cornell University, and the Canadian Centre for Architecture. She serves as a member of the editorial boards of The Journal of Architecture (2011-) and Interiors: Architecture, Design, Culture (2009-) and as a contributing editor to Places. With Charles Rice, she served as Books Reviews Editor for The Journal of Architecture (2006-2011). She is a Board Member of the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain.

Dr Christopher Reed, Pennsylvania State University

Dr Christopher Reed is Professor of English and Visual Culture at the Pennsylvania State University. His most recent book is the co-authored If Memory Serves: AIDS, Gay Men, and the Promise of the Queer Past (2012). His other books include Art and Homosexuality: A History of Ideas (2011), The Chrysanthème Papers: The Pink Notebook of Madame Chrysanthème and Other Documents of French Japonisme (2010), Bloomsbury Rooms: Modernism, Subculture, and Domesticity (2004), A Roger Fry Reader (1996), and the anthology Not at Home: The Suppression of Domesticity in Modern Art and Architecture (1996). His current project, “Bachelor Japanists”, examines the ways Japanese aesthetics have been used to define non-normative forms of masculinity in the West.

Rachel Scicluna, The Open University

Rachel Scicluna is completing her doctorate in the Faculty of Health and Social Care with a disciplinary specialism in Social Anthropology at The Open University. She was awarded a Charter Studentship attached to an ESRC funded research project “Transitions in Kitchen Living” within the New Dynamics of Ageing Programme. Her PhD is taking an anthropological approach to the domestic kitchen where she is looking at the symbolic and ontological meaning of the domestic kitchen in the lives of older lesbians residing in London. In addition to her doctoral research post, she is a peer-reviewer for Skepsi, an online journal based in the School of European Culture and Languages (University of Kent). She has extensive experience as a research assistant and fieldwork researcher both in the UK and Malta. Rachel is also involved in the Opening Doors (Age UK) Advisory Group which is a London-based registered charity offering services to the older LGBT community.
RELEVANT WRITINGS

The organisers would like to recommend the following recently-published relevant texts that may be of interest to those attending the Sexuality at Home event.

Books

Chiara Briganti and Kathy Mezei. The Domestic Space Reader. University of Toronto Press.


Christopher Reed. Art and Homosexuality: A History of Ideas. Oxford University Press.

Christopher Reed and Christopher Castiglia. If Memory Serves: Gay Men, AIDS, and the Promise of the Queer Past. University of Minnesota Press.

Journal articles and book chapters

Gülsüm Baydar. “Sexualised Productions of Space.” Gender, Place and Culture.


Matt Cook. “Homes Fit for Homos: Joe Orton, Masculinity and the Domesticated Queer.” In What is Masculinity? Historical Dynamics from Antiquity to the Contemporary World, John H. Arnold and Sean Brady (eds.). Palgrave Macmillan.


