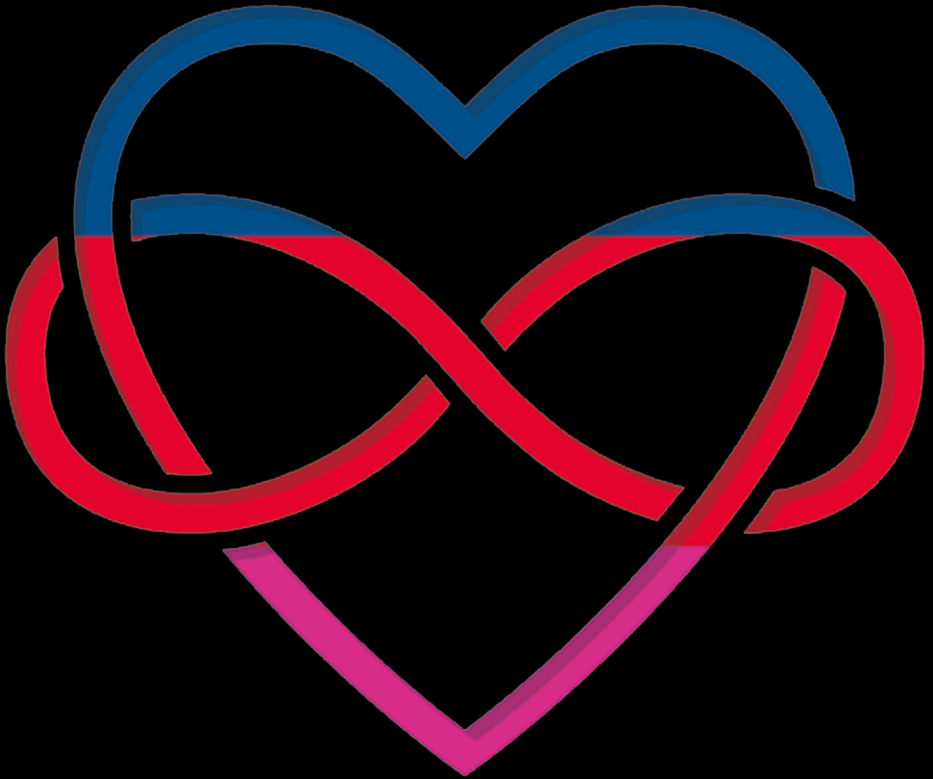




Manchester
Metropolitan
University



Polyamory Day

Polyamory, Consensual Non-Monogamy
and Relationship Anarchy

21 February 2016

No 70 Oxford St, Manchester, M1 5NH

Introduction

2 Many people feel drawn towards building intimate relationships that include mutual arrangements on emotional and/or sexual non-exclusivity. This event will explore questions regarding consensually non-monogamous ways of life, from academic, cultural and political perspectives. Consensual non-monogamy can be based on many different styles of intimacy, including (among others): open relationships (build around a primary couple), negotiated loving multi-partner relationships (often called polyamory) or approaches that refuse to make any distinction between sexual, romantic or platonic relationships (referred to by some as 'relationship anarchy').

This event brings together leading researchers, activists and community organizers to stage a discussion around relationship diversity, exclusion, visibility, relationship ethics and the practical challenges of living in non-monogamous or polyamorous relationships and families. The day will consist of a series of brief talks and discussions, an information fair with stalls and a 'human library' of people who are

ready to answer your questions about what 'poly' means to them personally.

Speakers and Panel members include:

- **Dr Meg John Barker** (*Writer and activist; Senior Lecturer in Psychology at the Open University; Psychotherapist and Co-Founder of Poly Counselling UK*)
- **Dr Robin Bauer** (*Acting Professor of Social Work, The Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University Stuttgart (DHBW Stuttgart, Germany), Brussels/Belgium*)
- **Rosa Benato** (*City University London, Queer and BDSM Event Organiser, London*)
- **Tara Elizabeth Brown** (*Whatever DIY Film Festival, London*)
- **Rich Daley** (*Co-coordinator of Yorkshire OPEN - Open relationships, Polyamory and Ethical Non-monogamy, Leeds, UK*)
- **Grant Denkinson** (*Counsellor/ Psychotherapist, Co-Founder of Poly Counselling UK, Academic and Polyamory Community Organiser, Leicester*)

- **Alexandra Hill** (*Member of Yorkshire OPEN, Durham University – MSC Anthropology, Polyamory Researcher, Durham University LGBT+ Association*)
- **Dr Jenny van Hooff** (*Manchester Metropolitan University*)
- **Gesa Mayer** (*Associate Researcher, Hamburg University of Applied Social Sciences, Germany*)
- **Jen Yockney** (*Convenor of BiPhoria, Editor of Bi Community News Magazine, Bisexual History Project @BisexualHistory, Manchester, UK*).

Convened by Dr Christian Klesse
(Manchester Metropolitan University)

Programme

4 Sunday 21 February Arrival and Stalls

Venue - Reception/Café
09.30

Welcome and Introduction

10.00
Christian Klesse (MMU)

Opening Presentation

Different Ways of Doing Non-monogamy
10.10

Meg John Barker, Open University,
Poly Counselling UK

Non/monogamies: What Does a Queer Relationship Look Like?

In this talk I present a recent zine project where I try to bring together academic work on openly non-monogamous relationships, and queer theory/activism, to produce a collection of questions that queer and openly non-monogamous people might engage with when exploring their own relationships. This is an example of my wider activist-academic approach which combines

critical engagement with wider culture, collaboration with activists and communities, and creative development of (anti-)self-help style materials, in an ongoing dynamic process. The zine takes different understandings of the word 'queer' as a starting point: queer meaning strange; queer meaning gay; queer meaning identities/practices outside (hetero)normativity; and queer meaning questioning fixed identities and either/or binaries. For each understanding the zine considers the potential implications for relationships, particularly how this relates to non/monogamous styles of relating. There's a particularly focus on the recent proliferation of relationships identities and practices, and the potential present in considering how people do relationships, exploring relationships on multiple dimensions, and questioning the lines drawn between different categories of relationships.

Questions and Answers
10.30

Research Presentation International Contexts

10:40
Robin Bauer (*The Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University Stuttgart*)

"Well, first you became a lesbian, then you're into this pervy kinky stuff and well I mean then there is really no necessity to get married, right?" - Non-monogamies in les-bi-trans-queer BDSM communities

In my talk I will present some results from my qualitative empirical study for which I conducted in-depth interviews with 50 les-bi-trans-queer BDSM practitioners from Western Europe and the US. In the les-bi-trans-queer BDSM community, as is reflected in my own sample, the norm of monogamy seems to be reversed and various non-monogamous relationship styles and practices are the expected standard behaviour, especially at community events such as play parties. I will analyse the reasons for this community-specific preference for non-monogamy, and take a look at how some elements of mono-normativity are questioned and some are re-instated in the interviews simultaneously. Furthermore I will introduce some BDSM-specific kinds of relationships and intimacies such as the fulltime ownership relationship, the leather family and sharing intimacy in play party spaces. Some of the BDSM approaches to non-monogamy and polyamory may conflict in interesting ways with some of the tenets of the polyamory community. This may provide a starting point to discuss the role power, negotiating, and collectivity play in sexual and intimate relationships. I utilize the concept of

exuberance as a queer philosophy of excess and abundance, to describe les-bi-trans-queer BDSM (non-monogamous) intimacies and ways of relating.

Questions and Answers/Discussion
11.00

Break

11.30

Panel 1

11:45

Wellbeing and Recognition

Chair: Rosa Benato (City University London, Queer Sex and BDSM Event Organiser, London)

Panel Participants:

- **Meg John Barker** (*Writer and activist; Senior Lecturer in Psychology at the Open University; Psychotherapist and Co-Founder of Poly Counselling UK*)
- **Tara Elizabeth Brown** (*Wotever DIY Film Festival, London*)
- **Grant Denkinson** (*Counsellor Psychotherapist, Co-Founder of Poly Counselling UK, Academic and Polyamory Community Organiser, Leicester*)
- **Alexandra Hill** (*Member of Yorkshire OPEN, Durham University – MSC Anthropology, Polyamory Researcher, Durham University LGBTQ+ Association*)

Lunch

1:00 (*own arrangements*)

Presentation

Emotions and Polyamory
2.00

6 Gesa Mayer (Hamburg University of Applied Social Sciences)

Polyaffectivity: Challenging Monogamy's Logic of Lack

Mainstream culture frequently associates non-monogamy—even consensual non-monogamy and polyamory—with lack, scarcity, and loss: Non-monogamous desire is said to be an outcome of an unfulfilling couple relationship or of one's inability to make a true commitment. Additionally, people who live non-monogamously are accused of taking away from one partner what they give to their other one(s), be it in terms of emotional exclusivity, intimacy, or time. This logic of lack is linked to a container model of affection, conceiving of needs as pre-punched holes longing to be stuffed and supposing love and care to be scarce goods that can only be sufficient for one beloved person (at the same time). As I would like to discuss in my talk, the rhetoric of lack is a key element of mono-normativity, the socially privileged status of exclusive couple relationships. Drawing on my empirical research, I will show that in some cases notions of shortage and replenishment are assumed by people who have opted for open or poly relationships. However, ethical non-monogamies also offer a variety of

contrary conceptions and experiences which challenge mono-normativity by pointing to the productive, exuberant, and transformative power of affects and desire.

Questions and Answers
2.20

Panel 2

2:50

Styles and Diversity

Chair: Jenny van Hooff (Manchester Metropolitan University)

Panel Speakers:

- **Robin Bauer** (*Acting Professor of Social Work, The Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University Stuttgart (DHBW Stuttgart/Germany, Brussels/Belgium)*)
- **Rosa Benato** (**City University London, *Queer Sex and BDSM Event Organiser, London***)
- **Gesa Mayer** (*Associate Researcher, Hamburg University of Applied Social Sciences, Germany*)
- **Jen Yockney** (*Convenor of BiPhoria, Editor of Bi Community News Magazine, Bisexual History Project @ BisexualHistory, Manchester*)
- **Rich Daley** (*Co-coordinator of Yorkshire OPEN - Open Relationships, Polyamory and Ethical Non-monogamy, Leeds*)

Closing Remarks

4:05

Reception and Networking/Stalls

4:30

Close

6:00

Also including an information fair with stalls and a 'human library' of people who are ready to answer your questions about what 'poly' means to them personally.

About OPEN

Yorkshire OPEN (Open relationships, Polyamory and Ethical Non-monogamy) is a discussion, support and social group for people in or curious about non-monogamous relationships. We have been meeting for over 4 years and have over a hundred members from all over Yorkshire.

The discussion meetup happens in Leeds on the first Thursday of every month and is open to everyone in or curious about non-monogamous relationships.

We also have an active Facebook group, lots of social events and a free lending library of resources about non-traditional relationships.

Find out more at the website: y-open.org.uk or on Twitter at @YorkshireOPEN

About BiPhoria

BiPhoria is social and support group for bisexual people based in Manchester. It is the oldest extant bisexual organisation in the UK having launched in 1994.

The group's primary aim is to provide space and voice for bisexual people. It also publishes research, runs outreach stalls and provides bi speakers to events. Their *Getting Bi in a Gay/Straight World* guide has been reprinted abroad & translated into Spanish.

BiPhoria has been shortlisted for a number of awards taking fifth place for Best LGBT Group in the Pink Paper's 2010 reader awards.

Find out more at www.biphoria.org.uk or on Facebook and Twitter twitter.com/biphoria facebook.com/biphoria



Sex

Humanities in Public Festival 15/16

Spring Season
January - March 2016

Tickets and further info at www.mmu.ac.uk/hip

 @mmu_hssr

#HIPSEX

Sex – whether related to gender, orientation, biology, attraction, intercourse or procreation – matters to all of us. Sex is a tremendous source of joy, love, connection, identity and pride, but it can also provoke shame and stigma. Our events will match discussions of several different aspects of sex with numerous fun activities and popular, accessible events that take a lighter look at sex, gender and sexuality. We hope that you will be able to join us and allow yourselves to be inspired, thrilled, enthused, educated and – ultimately – satisfied by what we have to offer.

At a glance

Date	Event	Location
28 January	Rudolph Valentino screening	HOME
5 & 6 February	Queer Film Festival Symposium	No 70
8 February	Sex, Sexuality and Cancer Panel discussion	No 70
12 February	<i>My Name is Gerry Potter</i> Documentary	No 70
21 February	Polyamory Day	No 70
26 February	<i>Myra Breckinridge</i> screening	No 70
3 March	Chemsex Documentary	No 70
4 March	Sex and Stigma panel discussion	No 70
5 March	Hot Sex Time Machine - 80s film triple bill	No 70
9 March	Vanilla Shakes? Panel discussion	No 70
11 March	Being Childfree with Kate Cox	No 70