

SEXUALITIES SIG

*Newsletter
Autumn
2007*

Introduction and welcome

This is my first year as the new convenor for the Sexualities special interest group and this is the first of our annual newsletters. Special thanks to Sandy (Alexandra Allan) for taking this on. My predecessor Elizabeth Atkinson has done a super job as founder convenor of the SIG, and, as can be gleaned from the content of this issue, Elizabeth has made and continues to make a really powerful contribution to the field of sexualities education research. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Elizabeth who was awarded the 2007 scholar activist award by the AERA's Queer Studies SIG.



Dr Elizabeth Atkinson has been presented with a scholar-activist award by the American Educational Research Association

During the course of the year, I have been bombarding you with e-mails regarding various calls for conference abstracts, research tenders/jobs in sexualities education related research, relevant books/special issues in journals etc. I do urge you all to make more of the electronic network, not just as an information sharing technology, but also as a forum for discussion about issues related to sexualities and education research, policy and practice.

In terms of the SIG activities during 2006-7, you can download the SIG report from the website (when it's up and running!). Until then, a brief summary of the highlights can be found below.

My final call is for SIG members to please contact me and each other for any events, debates and activities going on over the next year. And do e-mail Sandy (AllanAJ@cardiff.ac.uk) for items which can be uploaded on the website and/or included in the next newsletter.

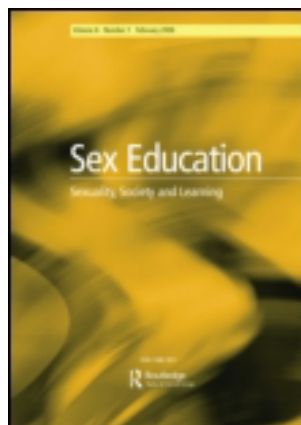
Emma Renold

SIG HIGHLIGHTS 2007

- *The SIG was successful in securing an ESRC-funded seminar series (supported by BERA/Sexualities SIG), 'Invisible Boundaries: Addressing Sexualities Equalities in Children's Worlds' (P.I. Elizabeth Atkinson) with many members of the SIG contributing to the keynotes, papers and workshops. This year, saw the final three seminars hosted at University of Manchester (November 2006), Sheffield University (Feb 2007) and Cardiff University (May 2007).*
- *The Sexualities SIG has maintained its collaboration with parallel SIGs in America and also Australia. Members collaborated with a joint symposia in Chicago this year (Atkinson and DePalma), and members have submitted collaborative symposia for New York in 2008. SIG Members (Renold, Ringrose and Youdell) have also been exploring future research collaborations with Australian Education Association convenors (Rasmussen and Blaise) for a joint ARC/ESRC research project. Watch this space!*
- *One outcome of the 'Invisible Boundaries' seminar series is an invitation by Trentham to publish a book disseminating the papers/workshops from the 6 seminars (details below).*
- *SIG members (Renold and Ringrose) also organised a Butler and Beyond symposia at the Gender and Education Association conference, Trinity College Dublin, 28th-30th March 2007 (10 papers in total, 6 from SIG members).*
- *SIG members have been proactive in presenting papers and publications at a wide range of conferences (AERA, Sex and Relationships Education Conference, Gender and Education Association conference, Discourse, Power and Resistance conference, Girls in Education 3-16 ESRC-funded Seminar Series; New Femininities ESRC-funded seminar series) and other workshops/events (Schools Out national conference, NUT conference, "Teachers Making Safe Spaces", Stonewall's education conference)*

CALL FOR PAPERS

Elizabeth Atkinson and Renee DePalma will be sending out a call for submissions to a special issue of the journal *Sex Education* (February 2009) dedicated to the 10th anniversary of Letts' and Sears' book *Queering Elementary Education*.



CFP: LGBT Identity and New Media Edited by Christopher Pullen and Margaret Cooper

We are inviting proposals for essays (5,000 words length) to be included in a reader which will explore lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender identity within new media through the world-wide-web. It will foreground a sociology, performance and media studies focus.

The reader will primarily focus on the potential of new media to enable reconstructions of identity, and the exploration of complex new connectivities which free the individual from the hold of the local. It will explore a breath of identifications, potentials and readings, specifically focusing on issues such as: representation, commodity, politics, activism, healthcare and play.

Please send abstracts (of 200 words length) and a biography by the 31st of October 2007 to Christopher Pullen, Bournemouth University, UK (cpullen@bournemouth.ac.uk) or Margaret Cooper, Southern Illinois University, USA (macooper@siu.edu).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

September 3rd 2007, Sex/life/politics: a conference sponsored by RGS-IBG Space, Sexuality and Queer working group, Loughborough.
Information: P.J.Hubbard@lboro.ac.uk

September 10-12th 2007, The European Education Association Research Conference, Gothenburg

September 21st 2007, Gendering the Academy: a conference sponsored by The European Journal of Women's Studies, London.

Information:
www.lse.ac.uk/collections/EJWS/genderingtheacademy.htm

November 3rd 2007, Performativities: Contexts, Domains, Perspectives: an international workshop, Gender Institute, London School of Economics.

Information:
www.lse.ac.uk/collections/genderinstitute/performativities.htm

November 9th 2007, The NUT Pride In Education Conference, Birmingham.

Information: S.Thompson@nut.org.uk

November 26th 2007, The LGBT History Month pre-launch, Royal Courts of Justice, London.

Information: <http://www.lgbthistorymonth.org.uk/>

January 26th 2008, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Teachers' Conference, NASUWT.

Information: conferencesandevents@mail.nasuwt.org.uk

February 2nd 2008, Schools Out Annual Conference, Drill Hall, London.

Information: secretary@schools-out.org.uk

March 24-28th 2008, The American Education Research Association Conference, New York.

Information: <http://www.aera.net/>

Journal of LGBT Youth: An Interdisciplinary Quarterly of Practice, Research, Policy & Theory

Special Theme: *Millennial Teens: International Perspectives on LGBT Youth*

The *Journal* invites scholars, practitioners, researchers, educators, lay persons, young persons, and policy analysts to submit abstract proposals for this special theme double issue.

"We are interested in a variety of topics related to the "gay teen" in various institutional contexts such as schools, workplaces, families, religious groups, military and government agencies, youth-related or non-governmental organizations. Authors who can provide comparative analysis (either through first-hand observations or data) that explores differences and similarities between today's 'gay teen' in our global society and those adolescents growing up queer in the 1990s (or earlier generations) would be particularly welcomed.

"Articles that are cross-regional or cross-cultural and/or that are from outside the North American context are important."

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION : October 1, 2007

ARTICLE SUBMISSION : January 15, 2008

Further information: James T. Sears: jglie@jtssears.com

BOOKS TO LOOK OUT FOR



Genderwatch: still watching... edited by: Kate Myers with Sue Adler, Diana Leonard, Hazel Taylor *Trentham Books Ltd. Price £23.99*

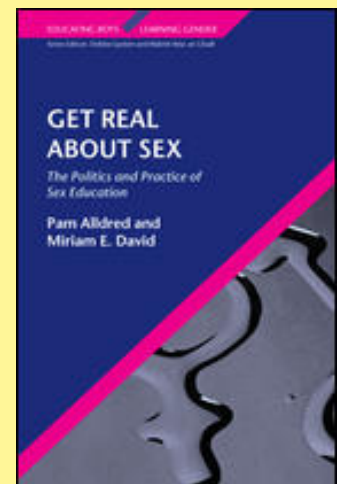
The first *Genderwatch* was published twenty years ago for teachers and school leaders who wanted to do something about discriminatory practices in their schools but were not quite sure what. This entirely new edition, designed to coincide with the Gender Equality Duty legislation which came into force in 2007, aims to help the same professional group. Times have changed but significant differences in children's schooling experiences persist - depending on who they are. *Genderwatch: still watching...* focuses on gender difference, also taking into account that boys and girls come from diverse backgrounds, cultures and heritages. This comprehensive handbook contains 60 schedules covering all aspects of school life and all phases from preschool to secondary. They examine whole school issues such as: *sexualities, the new legislation, leadership, inclusion, what happens in assemblies, working with boys, working with girls, how to ensure that when young people's views are sought all are heard, and detailed accounts of how to enhance equality in each curriculum subject.*

Each schedule will help schools address their gender equality issues through reviewing practice, tackling inequalities and monitoring outcomes so that they can meet their statutory obligations.

Get Real about Sex: The Politics and Practice of Sex Education

Pam Alldred and Miriam David *McGraw-Hill Price: £ 21.99*

- * Combines young people's views of sex education, schooling and parenthood, with those of teachers, school nurses and head-teachers
- * Brings together these varied perspectives and considers how they reveal different values, aims and agendas
- * Highlights the potential conflict between approaches to education and health, and reveals the complexity of dealing with sexuality and gender in real-life situations
- * Contemporary theoretical approaches in the social sciences are employed to explore how gender is enacted and experienced by individuals, and how social pressures and government agendas operate at the level of the individual
- * Contains original, first-hand empirical material from a detailed study of all the schools in one English city, and offers a critical analysis of broader political and cultural ideas and values

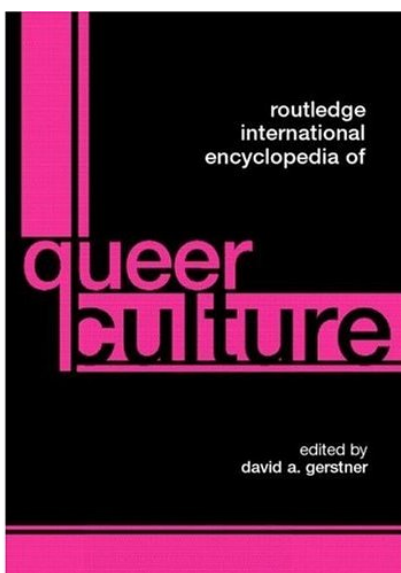


Routledge International Encyclopedia of Queer Culture Edited by David A. Gerstner, City University of New York, USA *Routledge Price: £130*

'This unique, well-executed volume will appeal to general readers interested in popular culture and scholars in academic disciplines like sociology and queer studies.... Highly recommended' - Choice

The *Routledge International Encyclopedia of Queer Culture* covers gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer (GLBTQ) life and culture post-1945, with a strong international approach to the subject.

The scope of the work is extremely comprehensive, with entries falling into the broad categories of Dance, Education, Film, Health, Homophobia, the Internet, Literature, Music, Performance, and Politics. Slang is also covered. The international contributors come from a wide array of backgrounds: scholars, journalists, artists, doctors, scientists, lawyers, activists, and an enormous range of ideologies and points of view is represented. Major entries provide in-depth information and consider the intellectual and cultural implications of their subjects in a global context. Information is completely up-to-date, including full coverage and analysis of such current or ongoing issues as same-sex marriage/civil union and the international AIDS epidemic.



CURRENT RESEARCH

NO OUTSIDERS: RESEARCHING APPROACHES TO SEXUALITIES EQUALITIES IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Everyone is an insider, there are no outsiders – whatever their beliefs, whatever their colour, gender or sexuality.'

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, February 2004

Desmond Tutu's insistence that there are no 'outsiders' provides us with the inspiration to work toward a society where his words are true. At the same time, these words remind us that continuing discrimination, whether in relation to 'race', class, gender, disability, sexuality or other features of identity, still conveys a message to 'outsiders' that they have no place in 'our' society. The 'No Outsiders' research project, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and led by Elizabeth Atkinson and Renée DePalma at the University of Sunderland, in collaboration with colleagues at Exeter University and the Institute of Education, University of London, supports primary teachers in challenging that message within their own schools and classrooms. We are also extending participation in the project to primary teacher-advisers and primary teacher-trainers.

Ofsted and DfES have both identified homophobic bullying (bullying based on assumptions about sexual orientation) as a key priority for all schools. Many children will have a connection, through family or friends, to non-heterosexual relationships, and some will come to identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered, but the life experience of all children will be profoundly affected by the ethos of their school, and this means creating a school environment where no-one is an outsider. This might involve, for example, including non-heterosexual relationships within discussions of family, friendship, self or growing up, exploring a range of identities and relationships through literacy, art, history or drama, or including a specific focus on homophobia within a class- or school-based initiative to tackle bullying.

Participants in the research are supported in developing and evaluating their own school-based projects addressing sexualities equality. Participating schools (or where participants are not in schools, Local Authorities or teacher-training institutions) receive sexualities equality training from an experienced diversity trainer and a comprehensive pack of resources, including a wide range of children's literature, for use during the course of the project. All participants receive support in developing action research strategies in their own practice settings, through training days, regular meetings with a dedicated research assistant and whole-team communications via the project website. Further support is provided through national and regional meetings and the opportunity to attend other related regional and national events.

MEMBERS' PUBLICATIONS



Atkinson, E. (2007) 'Speaking with small voices: voice, resistance and difference'. In Reiss, M, Atkinson, E. & DePalma, R. (Eds) *Marginality and Difference in Education and Beyond*. Stoke on Trent: Trentham.

Vicars, M. (2007 forthcoming) 'Literacy and sexuality: The reading practices and identities of gay men'. In: Bearne, E., & Marsh, J. (Editors) *Literacy and Social Inclusion: Closing the Gap*. London: Trentham.

Renold, E. (in press) 'Tomboys and "female masculinity": (dis)embodying hegemonic masculinity, queering gender identities and relations', in Martino, W., Kehler, M. & Weaver-Hightower, M. (Eds) *The Problem With Boys: Beyond Recuperative Masculinity Politics*. (NY: Haworth)

USEFUL LINKS



International Day against Homophobia:

<http://www.idahomophobia.org/index.php3?lang=enIDAHO>

LGBT History Month: <http://www.lgbthistorymonth.org.uk/>

Stonewall: http://www.stonewall.org.uk/education_for_all/

Educational action challenging homophobia:

<http://www.eachaction.org.uk/>

Out for our children: <http://www.outforourchildren.co.uk/>

Schools Out: <http://www.schools-out.org.uk/>

No Outsiders: <http://www.nooutsiders.sunderland.ac.uk>

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS



Contributions are welcomed.
Please send them to Dr. Alexandra
Allan (AllanAJ@cardiff.ac.uk)