



## The SOGICA newsletter: Issue 2

Welcome to the SOGICA newsletter, updating you on project activities since our last email, and including suggestions for getting involved.

### Recent publications by the SOGICA team

- Dustin M., [Designating 'vulnerability': the asylum claims of women and sexual minorities](#), security praxis, 3 June 2017
- Held N., [What does a genuine lesbian/gay relationship look like in the eyes of asylum decision makers?](#), Discover Society, 2 May 2017.
- Danisi C., [Taking out the Union: The EU-Turkey Statement as an Agreement between States](#), in European Journal of International Law – Eji! Talk! , 20 April 2017
- Ferreira N., [Trump's immigration ban and Europe](#), Forced Migration Forum, 6 March 2017, ([unabridged version](#) published in LaPSe of Reason, 8 March 2017)

### SOGICA presentations and events

- On 6 July, Nina presented 'Lesbian asylum seekers' intersectional experience of violence in the UK' at the [Reconsidering gender-based violence in the context of displacement and migration](#) Summer Symposium of the Centre for Gender Studies at the University of Göttingen.
- On 27 June, we held the first SOGICA [Advisory Board meeting](#) at the University of Sussex. After a project overview and summary of progress so far, Board members focused their discussion on the priorities in terms of the problems facing SOGI asylum seekers and gaps in research in this field.
- On 6 June, the SOGICA team presented a panel entitled 'Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Asylum Claims: A European and Comparative View', at the [2nd Annual Conference of the Refugee Law Initiative](#), School of Advanced Study, University of London, where we drew comparative observations on how SOGI asylum seekers experience the legal and social integration policies in Germany, Italy and the UK.
- Also in June, SOGICA joined the advisory board of [EpsiLon](#) and Moira participated in the project's board meeting. EpsiLon is an EU project to develop and share educational tools with professionals and volunteers working in services for LGBT asylum seekers, refugees and migrants.
- In May, Nuno and Carmelo attended the [Nordic Law Seminar](#) at the University of Iceland. Nuno gave a presentation on 'Seeking asylum in Europe: Delving into sexual orientation and gender identity asylum claims', while Carmelo spoke about 'Personal characteristics v objective situations in

the application of the ECHR to asylum seekers: Towards a coherent interpretation of the European human rights system?'

- Also in May, Moira and Nina presented 'Proving the unprovable: the social-legal experiences of SOGI asylum seekers in the UK and Germany: a comparative, interdisciplinary and intersectional approach' at a workshop on [Queer migration, diaspora and asylum in Europe](#), University College London.
- Nina gave a presentation asking 'What does a genuine lesbian/gay relationship look like in the eyes of asylum decision makers?' at the [launch](#) of the Special Issue of Discover Society '[Families and Relationships across Crises](#)' at Amnesty International UK in London on 12 May.
- In April, Carmelo discussed Russian international obligations and the treatment of LGBTI asylum seekers in Chechnya at the Roundtable 'Tra Tortura e Discriminazione: L'Omossessualità nel XXI secolo' [Between torture and discrimination: Homosexuality in the 21st century], at the University of Bologna School of Law.

### Future events

- In September, Nuno will be presenting on 'Seeking Asylum in Europe: Delving into Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Asylum Claims' at the [UACES 2017](#) annual conference in Krakow.
- The Conference: [Out & Proud? LGBTI asylum in Europe](#) takes place on Thursday 5 & Friday 6 October 2017 in Amsterdam, bringing together lawyers, NGOs, researchers, activists, policy makers and LGBTI refugees to explore both the legal and social aspects of LGBTI asylum issues.

### Life stories

New stories on the website include: [No Place for Me](#), the narratives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex urban refugees in Mexico, Uganda and South Africa; and [descriptions by Yasmin, Ali and Rima of what life is like for LGBTQ Refugees in Greece](#).

### New database items

We continue to add new resources to the database as they come in, including European, German, Italian and UK [case law](#), [academic articles](#) and [NGO resources](#). Nuno has also produced [a table of European SOGI asylum case law](#) which we hope will be a useful resource.

If you know of any items that should be included, we would be very grateful if you would [send them to us](#).

### Getting involved

Please email us if you are an asylum seeker or refugee claiming on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity and would be willing to be interviewed for our research (on a strictly confidential basis). We would also like to hear from people

who work with or support asylum seekers and refugees claiming on this basis, including lawyers, service providers, judges and NGO staff.

Other ways to get involved, including how to sign up to receive future newsletters if you are not already on our mailing list, are on the [Get Involved](#) section of our website.

We will be starting the fieldwork pilots over the summer with the majority of the project fieldwork taking place from the autumn. There will be an update on that in the next SOGICA newsletter in September. In the meantime, please feel free to [email us](#) with any questions or suggestions.

Best wishes from [Nuno](#), [Carmelo](#), [Moira](#) and [Nina](#) at SOGICA

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**[SOGICA](#) – Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Claims of Asylum: A European human rights challenge (2016-2020)**

This project, funded by the European Research Council (ERC), explores the social and legal experiences of asylum-seekers across Europe claiming international protection on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity (SOGI). Focusing on Germany, Italy and the UK as case studies, the project aims to determine how European asylum systems can treat asylum claims based on the claimant's SOGI more fairly.

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As well as updates on how the project is progressing, we may also send you information about other refugee studies related matters, including research and events at the University of Sussex and elsewhere.

We hope you find this information useful, but if you do not wish to receive future updates, please [unsubscribe from this list here](#).