



The SOGICA newsletter: Issue 3 (October 2017)

Welcome to the [SOGICA project](#) newsletter, with an update on our work since the last newsletter in July.

Call for participants

Our main news is that the fieldwork phase of the research is underway, and we have begun to hold interviews with asylum seekers, advocates and decision makers as part the project pilot. We are circulating a flier in [English](#) and [Italian](#) calling for project participants and would be grateful if our newsletter readers would pass it on to anyone who might be interested.

We are particularly keen to talk to asylum seekers or refugees claiming on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. We would also like to interview people who work with or support SOGI asylum seekers and refugees, including lawyers, service providers, judges and NGO staff. Interviews will be held on a strictly confidential basis and we will give potential interviewees [full information](#) about the research to help them make up their minds about whether to take part.

The fieldwork is taking place across Europe: [Carmelo Danisi](#) is leading the Italian case study and anyone who would like to contribute to the Italian case study is asked to contact Carmelo, who will be based at the University of Bologna. His email is c.danisi@sussex.ac.uk and his phone number is +39 3498052058. [Nina Held](#) is carrying out the German case study from Frankfurt, where the Goethe University is kindly hosting her and she can be reached on +49 1521 8059492 and at n.held@sussex.ac.uk. [Maira Dustin](#) remains at the University of Sussex and will be carrying out the UK case study. She can be reached at m.dustin@sussex.ac.uk / +44 (0)1273 873641. [Nuno Ferreira](#) will be carrying out field work at European and international level, and is keen to interview stakeholders in the European Union, Council of Europe, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and activists and experts

working at those levels. Nuno can be contacted on N.Ferreira@sussex.ac.uk and +44 (0)1273 678952.

Recent publications

All SOGICA team publications are [listed on the project website](#) and recent publications include:

Danisi C. ‘[Promoting Human Rights Through the EU External Action: An Empty “Vessel” for Sexual Minorities?](#)’, *European Foreign Affairs Review* 22, no. 3 (2017): 341–356

Dustin M. and Ferreira N., ‘Canada’s Guideline 9: improving SOGIE claims assessment?’, 2017 *Forced Migration Review* 56 (October), at <http://www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean.html> and SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3020950>

Held, N., [“They look at you like an insect that wants to be squashed”: An ethnographic account of the racialized sexual spaces of Manchester’s Gay Village](#), 2017 *Sexualities*, Vol 20, Issue 5-6, pp. 535 – 557.

Recent and forthcoming events

On 4 September, Nuno Ferreira gave a presentation on *Seeking asylum in Europe: Delving into sexual orientation and gender identity asylum claims*, at the [UACES 47th Annual Conference](#), Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland.

SOGICA members are participating in several events in the autumn, including a workshop at the [Sussex Rights and Justice Research Centre](#) in November, a Sussex University workshop for an edited collection and journal special issue on ‘Feminist and Queer Perspectives on Brexit’ also in November, and the [Queer Migration conference](#) at UCL in December.

Life stories

[New accounts](#) of LGBTIQ asylum seekers’ experiences have been posted on our website every week, most recently [the story of a Libyan refugee](#) in Italy who is now working to help other LGBTIQ refugees.

New database items

We've added many new items to the database, including new European case law such as the recent [Opinion of AG Wahl in C-473/16](#) and NGO resources, such as the film [The Abominable Crime](#) about the plight of Jamaican LGB asylum seekers. And a new addition is the compilation of [Italian case law on SOGI asylum](#) put together by Carmelo Danisi.

News from SOGICA [Project Friends](#) and elsewhere

- Information and a number of papers from the [COC Out and Proud conference](#) held on 5 and 6 October in the Netherlands are now accessible on the [SOGICA database](#).
- The latest Issue of GenIUS – the first Italian Journal on SOGI studies – was released this week. We thank the Editors-in-chief for announcing our Project and including our call for participants. <http://www.articolo29.it/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/genius-2017-02.pdf>
- The website www.refugeelegalaidinformation.org provides resources for legal aid practitioners all over the world who are helping refugees find substantive protection. A monthly newsletter [The International Refugee Rights Initiatives Refugee legal Aid Newsletter](#) is available with recent developments in the interpretation of refugee law and case law precedents, in addition to reports and helpful resources for legal aid providers.
- A new collection edited by Jude Boyles, [Psychological Therapies for Survivors of Torture: A human-rights approach with people seeking asylum](#), explores overarching issues such as interpreter mediated therapy, assessment, and working with trauma and shame. It also looks in detail at the particular needs of specific client groups such as LGBT survivors, women, separated young people, and families.
- 'Our friends in Bologna, the association Avvocatodistrada, have organised a series of trainings and information events on Homelessness and LGBT+. More details are available here (hyperlink: www.avvocatodistrada.it/bologna-3-incontri-di-formazione-e-informazione-su-homelessness-e-persone-lgbt/)
- On 27 September, the Move On Roundtable event on [Integrating migrants & refugees into the labour market](#) took place in London, providing insights into the ways in which the integration of refugees and migrants is held back, and what needs to be done to overcome these barriers.

- And finally, in early October, after many people mobilised against [the deportation of Nneka Obazee](#), it was reported that Virgin Air had refused to fly Nneka to Nigeria. Good news although we wait to hear the final outcome of Nneka's struggle for protection!

Getting involved

Information about getting involved, including how to sign up to receive future newsletters if you are not already on our mailing list, can be found on the [Get Involved](#) section of our website.

If you know of any items that should be included on our website or in our mailings, we would be very grateful if you would [send them to us](#). And please feel free to [email us](#) with any questions or suggestions.

Until our next newsletter in January, best wishes from [Nuno](#), [Carmelo](#), [Moira](#) and [Nina](#) at SOGICA

[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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Email us at info@sogica.org and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

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](#).

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