



The SOGICA newsletter: Issue 5 (19 February 2018)

Welcome to the [SOGICA project](#) newsletter.

Call for participants

The SOGICA team is now in the middle of the fieldwork year of the project. We have carried out approximately 40 interviews with asylum seekers, refugees, lawyers, NGO representatives and decision makers in Germany, Italy and the UK, as well as observing two tribunal appeals. We are still looking for people who would like to participate in our project, and from across the breadth of the LGBTQI+ spectrum so that our research can better understand the diversity of experiences of asylum based on sexual orientation and gender identity. We are particularly keen to get in touch with LGBTQI+ asylum seekers and refugees who would like to take part in a focus group. We also wish to interview decision-makers and observe tribunal appeals in Germany, Italy and the UK.

To help us reach more people, the [project poster and information sheet are now available on our website in Arabic, Farsi, French, Turkish and Urdu](#) as well as the original versions in English, German and Italian.

Please get in touch if you would like to participate or know someone who would, and please help us get the message out by circulating [information about our project to your contacts](#). We give potential interviewees full information about the research, including important issues like confidentiality, to help them make up their minds about whether they would like to take part.

Recent and forthcoming publications

The SOGICA team have a number of articles and book chapters coming out over the next few months, all listed on the [SOGICA website publications page](#).

In January, Nuno Ferreira was interviewed on [Newshour – BBC World Service](#) (at minute 18:21) about a [CJEU judgment](#) regarding evidence standards in sexual orientation asylum cases.

The latest issue of the [Canadian Journal of Women and the Law](#) is a special issue on sexuality-based asylum claims to commemorate the work of Professor Nicole LaViolette. It includes a paper by Janna Wessels titled '[Publicly manifested – fatefully determined – invariably discreet. The assessment of sexuality-based asylum claims in Germany and France](#)'.

Published on Free Movement in January, a guest post by S Chelvan argues that [Recent statistics on asylum grants to gay people represent a breakthrough rather than a breakdown in the system](#). The article responds to the UK government's publication of the first ['experimental' statistics on sexual orientation-based asylum claims](#) in November 2017.

'Rights of Passage', by stand-up, writer, actress and singer-songwriter [Clare Summerskill](#) is a verbatim play based entirely on interviews with LGBT asylum seekers in the UK. It's published by Tollington Press and costs £11 including P&P. You can order it at admin@claresummerskill.co.uk

Recent and forthcoming events

Since our last bulletin, we've given presentations about the project and our work at events including the [Queer migration, diaspora and asylum in Europe conference](#) in December and the Rainbow Pilgrims Symposium at Buckinghamshire earlier this month. Again, these are all listed on the [events page](#) of the website.

Our SOGICA researcher Carmelo will be involved, together with a few SOGICA friends, in the cycle of Seminars 'Migro perchè sono: Problematiche e storie dell'immigrazione LGBT', hosted at the University of Bologna – Department of Law under the supervision of Prof. F. Casolari. The cycle will start on 22 February 2018 and will end on 12 April 2018. Our researcher's participation is scheduled for the 9th of April 2018. [See the programme for further details, including registration details](#).

And a reminder that Nuno Ferreira will be giving his Professorial Lecture on Wednesday 21 March 2018, 6pm, at the University of Sussex, Falmer campus. The topic will be 'Sex, gender and sexuality in Europe: Sinking in quicksand?' If you'd like to attend please [register online](#).

Finally, we are proud to announce that the SOGICA team is supporting the organisation of the Conference 'Vulnerability and Asylum: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Claims', to be held on 18 May 2018, at the Forlì campus of the University of Bologna – Hall TH 15 (Viale Corridoni, 47100 Forlì). The event is promoted by the Department of Political and Social Sciences of the University of Bologna under the supervision of Prof. M. Balboni. Further information, including the final programme and speakers, will be available soon on the [website of the Bologna Department of Political and Social Sciences](#), and on the [SOGICA events page](#).

New website resources

We've added approximately 70 items to the [SOGICA database](#) since our last bulletin – including cases, statute, guidance, academic and NGO publications: items such as the new [Asylum Aid policy briefing on 'Sexual Borders'](#) and the [CJEU judgement F v Bevándorlási és Állampolgársági Hivatal](#).

And we continue to post regularly on Twitter and Facebook so please let us know if you have items we should be telling people about.

Other news

[The last Rites project](#), set up to create 'a new framework of respect for the rights of missing & dead refugees and migrants and bereaved family members', [is looking for](#)

[donations](#) to help provide support to refugees and migrants. The Project is also consulting widely on a ground-breaking new set of global principles and guidelines, in the form of a draft Protocol, aimed at giving practical effect to these rights. The [online consultation](#) will formally close on Friday 30 March 2018.

MigraBo LGBTI (Italy) has established an important partnership with Senegal Market to create wedding favours to support projects dedicated to LGBTI asylum seekers. If you would like to support this project, or for further information, please write to migrabolgbt@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/migrabolgbti

Getting involved

The Project's mailing list has grown to 800 individuals working on or supporting LGBTI asylum seekers and refugees in some capacity – mainly in Europe but also beyond. If you're reading this then you're probably already a subscriber but please encourage anyone you know who would be interested to join our mailing list.

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.

In the course of our fieldwork, we are meeting LGBTQI+ refugees and asylum seekers rebuilding their lives and looking for work, accommodation and a supportive environment. If you know of any resources or sources of support that we can pass on to people we meet or communicate through social media, please [email us](#).

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, 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](#).