



Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Claims of Asylum: A European human rights challenge – SOGICA

The SOGICA conference – 7-9 July 2020

Programme¹

Day 1: Tuesday 7 July

9.00-9.30 – Introduction by Prof Nuno Ferreira, SOGICA project

Facilitator: Mohammad Dalla (with live-streaming on Facebook)

9.30-10.30 – Keynote speech by Katrin Hugendubel, ILGA-Europe

Chair: Nina Held/ Facilitator: Mohammad Dalla (with live-streaming on Facebook)

11.00-12.15 Session 1 – International

Chair: Carmelo Danisi / Facilitator: Mohammad Dalla

- Silence Written in Policy: Global Compact on Refugees and LGBTIQ+ persons – Tina Dixon
- Filling the gaps? The role of UNHCR 'soft law' instruments in developing the EU framework on asylum claims based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity – Denise Venturi
- The Yogyakarta Principles plus 10: Advocacy opportunities at the national, regional and international level – Paul Dillane

11.00-12.15 Session 2 – Determination I

Chair: Chiara Scissa/ Facilitator: Magdalena Müssig

- LGBT claimants denied refugee status due to multi-layer marginalisation – Allan Briddock
- SOGI-related asylum claims in Greece and the legal implications arising from the specific protection needs of LGBTI person – Maria Mpasdeki and Dr. Zafeiris Tsiftzis
- What is the impact of international and national law on LGBTQI+ Syrian refugees in Turkey? – Ayşe Uzun

1-2.15 Session 3 – Identities I

Chair: Giorgio dell'Amico / Facilitator: Alba Trabant

- The Bisexuality Blind Spot: An exploration into asylum claims on the basis of persecution due to bisexual orientation in the Netherlands – Sofia D'Arcio
- Trans* and Inter* Persons in the Context of Migration/Flight – Prof Christel Baltes-Löhr
- Reality is not binary: Spotlighting the existing gaps in the EU and Italian asylum system for transgender applicants – Chiara Scissa and Elisabeth Cucco

¹ All times are British Standard Time (BST)

1-2.15 Session 4 – Europe

Chair: Denise Venturi / Facilitator: Magdalena Müssig

- How are SOGI related asylum claims legally adjudicated at domestic, EU and Council of Europe levels? – Edward Mutebi
- The protection of LGBTIQ asylum seekers: the evolution of the Jurisprudence of the two European Courts and the assessment of credibility – Gerardo Petrillo
- LGBTIQ+ refugees and social isolation during the Covid-19 pandemic in Germany – Dr Nina Held and Dr Mengia Tschalaer

1-2.15 Session 5 – Determination II

Chair: Nicholas Hersh/ Facilitator: Martin Guerin Kanouo Siegning

- Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. Immigration and Reception. Italian perspective – Mara Biancamano
- Asylum seekers and their status as refugees or as beneficiaries of international protection: the Italian approach – Ornella Ordituro
- Transcribing the margins: A community based research examining trans specificity in Dutch asylum procedure – Willemijn van Kempen

1-2.15 Workshop 1

Facilitator: Mohammad Dalla

The Experience of Simultaneity in Context of SOGI, Asylum and Society – Katja Schroder and Marlen Vahle

3-4.15 Session 6 – Credibility I

Chair: Barry O’Leary/ Facilitator: Esra Demirkol Colosio

- What is a credible narrative? The problematic utilization of credibility in SOGI asylum determination in European asylum courts – Dr Nicole Hoellerer and Dr Nick Gill
- The Essential is Invisible to the Eyes: Complexities Regarding the Concept of “Perceived Sexual Orientation” and its Legal Implications in Asylum Procedures Credibility – Lucas Ramon Mendos

3-4.15 Session 7 – Identities II

Chair: Moira Dustin / Facilitator: Rose Gordon-Orr

- Assessing the asylum claims of trans and gender non-conforming claimants – Maria Avgeri
- The Refugee Status Determination of Transgender Asylum-Seekers: A Queer Critique – Irene Manganini
- Challenges in the eligibility of lesbians as asylum claimants based on sexual orientation – Letícia Vieira da Silva

Day 2: Wednesday 8 July

9.30-10.30 – Keynote speech by Professor Emeritus Vitit Muntarbhorn of Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok; KBE; formerly UN Special Rapporteur, UN Independent Expert and member of UN Commissions of Inquiry on Human Rights

Chair: Carmelo Danisi/ Facilitator: Nuno Ferreira

11.00-12.15 Session 8 – Methods

Chair: Haris Eloy / Facilitator: Rose Gordon-Orr

- New approaches to study SOGI asylum claimants and refugees – Vitor Lopes Andrade
- A Digital Archive of LGBTIQ Oral Histories about Forced Migration – Renee Dixon
- Voice through the visual: exploring LGBT+ asylum seekers' narratives through photovoice – Paschal Gumadwong Bagonza

11.00-12.15 Session 9 – Credibility II

Chair: Mengia Tschalaer / Facilitator: Marie Pritchard

- Pride or Shame? LGBTI asylum in The Netherlands – Sabine Jansen
- The Emotional Journey and the DSSH model: a positive tool for credibility assessment – Dr S Chelvan
- Credibility assessment in asylum claims based on SO by the Greek Asylum Service – Sophia Zisakou

1-2.15 Session 10 – Support I

Chair: Ernesto Fiocchetto / Facilitator: Esra Demirkol Colosio

- Multiple Precarities: Reflections from SOGI Refugees applications to a Civil Society Protection Project in Turkey – Jade Cemre Erciyas and Ilksen Gürsoy
- Innovative and Intersectional Practices for Young LGBTQI Migrants, Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Sweden: The experience of two projects of RFSL Ungdom – Fernando Damazio dos Santos, Haris Eloy and Alexandra Politidis Palm

1-2.15 Session 11 – Reception

Chair: Sofia D'Arcio / Facilitator: Carmelo Danisi

- Identità in TransiTO. Reception and support for migrants and asylum seekers Trans – Letizia De-Coll' and Luca Falzea
- LGBTI+ migrants stranded in the Italian reception system – Rafael Pascoal
- If you leave, the blame's on you? A human rights-based perspective on LGBTIQ asylum seekers' entitlement to protection from violence in accommodation centres – Dr Petra Sussner

3-4.15 Session 12 – Country of Origin Information (COI)

Chair: Alexandra Politidis Palm/ Facilitator: Melody Greaves

- The importance of source assessment: Comparative analysis of the U.S. Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practice – Stephanie Huber
- Researching SOGI issues in the context of COI: example Iraq – Gabriele Roth
- The role of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and COI – Adriana Van Den Berg

3-4.15 Session 13 – Agency I

Chair: Vitor Lopes Andrade/ Facilitator: Martin Guerin Kanouo Siegning

- Cultural implications and social challenges in the support and assessment of asylum seekers in Italy – Dany Carnassale
- Queer asylum seekers in Paris: negotiating (non-) belonging in urban spaces – Florent Chossière
- Austrian Asylum Politics: Queer Asylum and Intersectional Mobilization in Times of Hypernormalization of Far Right Politics, Greenwashing & Homonationalism in Austria – Mag Mach

3-4.15 ‘This Is Who I Am’

Chair: Sebastian Aguirre/ Facilitator: Moira Dustin

Ice and Fire UK performance followed by panel discussion with Elceta Marsha Ennis, Stephina Gwetsa, Mazen Masoud, and Charity Matiya.

Day 3: Thursday 9 July

9.30-10.45 Session 14 – Activism

Chair: Fernando Damazio dos Santos / Facilitator: Alba Trabant

- The Right to Legal Assistance for LGBTIQ* Asylum Seekers in Germany & the Role of Volunteer Initiatives such as the Queer Refugee Law Clinic Berlin – Tina-Maleen Bölle
- Queer Sisterhood Project: the value of refugee-led support and advocacy – Renee Dixson and Tina Dixson
- LGBTQI+ asylum advocacy under “friendly” and “hostile” governments: lessons from the USA – Dr Siobhan McGuirk

9.30-10.45 Session 15 – Agency II

Chair: Jade Cemre Erciyas / Facilitator: Rose Gordon-Orr

- ‘Rainbow Statelessness’ - Between Sexual Citizenship and Legal Theory: Exploring the Statelessness-SOGIESC Nexus for LGBTIQ+ Asylum Seekers – Thomas McGee
- The role of social work in supporting SOGI asylum seekers and refugees – queering and decolonizing social work practice – Inka Söderström

11.00-12.15 Session 16 – Micro Rainbow panel

Chair: Anbid Zamen / Facilitator: Esra Demirkol Colosio

A holistic approach to integration of LGBTI refugees – Alana Eissa, Lara Goodwin and Barry O'Leary

11.00-12.15 Session 17 – Discretion

Chair: Leila Zadeh / Facilitator: Moira Dustin

- Developments in the last decade – Bojana Asanovic
- Why Heteronormativity Matters: The not so lost Requirement of Discretion in (Austrian) Asylum Law – Dr Petra Sussner
- The Concealment Controversy. Sexual orientation, discretion reasoning and the scope of refugee protection – Dr Janna Wessels

11.00-12.15 Session 18 – Support II

Chair: Siobhan McGuirk / Facilitator: Martin Guerin Kanouo Siegnig

- Best Practice in the reception of Trans Asylum seekers and Refugees in Italy: the case of Casa Caterina – Carolina Vesce and Valentina Coletta
- Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, Immigration and Reception. southern perspective, the Neapolitan case study – Dr Carmela Ferrara
- UK Legal aid reforms and their impact on SOGI asylum claims – Dr Jo Wilding

1-2.15 Session 19 – Religion

Chair: Vitor Lopes Andrade / Facilitator: Mohammad Dalla

- Religion and NGO support in the UK – Dr Moira Dustin
- The role of religion for identity and integration of LGBTIQ+ asylum seekers and refugees in Germany – Ernesto Fiocchetto
- Religious experiences during asylum seeking in the UK and its reflection within legal decision making – Claire Fletcher

1-2.15 Session 20 – Credibility III. Similar stereotypical constructions of sexual orientation in different European countries

Chair: Petra Sussner / Facilitator: Alba Trabant

- The UK: Excessive focus on articulation of ‘self-realisation’ and development of identity - Leila Zadeh
- The Netherlands: Assumptions of an emotional process of awareness, from shame to self-acceptance - Sabine Jansen
- Norway: Expectations of ‘self-actualisation’ and detailed reflections on one’s sexual orientation - Andrea Gustafsson Grønningsæter
- Sweden: Criteria in the Swedish credibility assessments of SOGIE asylum claims - Aino Gröndahl

1-2.15 Workshop 2

Facilitator: Marie Pritchard

- Working WITH LGBTIQ refugees and migrants, not on/above/about us! – Masha Beketova

1-2.15 SOGICA videos – screening and discussion

Chair: Nina Held / Facilitator: Nuno Ferreira

Screening followed by panel discussion with Mazen Masoud, Jayne Rowlands, and Anbid Zaman

3-4.15 Session 21 – Origins

Chair: Jade Cemre Erciyas / Facilitator: Nuno Ferreira

- A Gender-Sensitive Securitization of the Common European Asylum System? The EU List of "Safe Countries of Origin" and its Impact on LGBTI+ Asylum-Seekers – Amandine Le Bellec
- Any protection from abroad in times of pandemic and border closures? The ‘roulette game’ of people suffering persecution in countries of origin and transit – Dr Carmelo Danisi

3-4.15 Session 22 – Support III

Chair: Moira Dustin / Facilitator: Nina Held

- Canada's LGBTQ+ refugee sponsorship program - Nicholas Hersh
- Social Remittances and Transnational Activism amongst Transgender Asylum-Seekers in Europe and the United States – Isabel Soloaga
- Best Practice in the Resettlement of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex (LGBTI Refugees) – Paul Dillane

4.30-5.30 – Keynote speech by Victor Madrigal-Borloz, UN Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity

Chair: Nuno Ferreira / Facilitator: Mohammad Dalla (with live-streaming on Facebook)

5.30–6 Concluding comments – Prof Nuno Ferreira

Facilitator: Mohammad Dalla (with live-streaming on Facebook)



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