



## The SOGICA newsletter: Issue 17 (September 2022)

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

Two years on from the formal end date of the SOGICA project, we are emailing our subscribers with an update on activities – and a request for your help by completing a short survey about the impact the project has had.

### **SOGICA survey**

We are asking SOGICA friends and colleagues to help us by completing this [short survey](#) (four questions) before 28 October 2022. Your responses will help us assess the value of the SOGICA project, inform future research, and identify ways to continue to use the project findings to improve SOGI asylum. The survey can be completed anonymously and in just a few minutes. Thank you!

### **SOGICA publications in 2022 (so far...)**

- Danisi, C., Dustin, M., Ferreira, N., Held, N., and Querton, C. (eds.), '[Sexuality, Gender and Asylum: Refugees at a Crossroads](#)', Research Topic in *Frontiers in Human Dynamics*, 2022
- Danisi, C. and Ferreira, N., '[Legal Violence and \(In\)Visible Families: How Law Shapes and Erases Family Life in SOGI Asylum in Europe](#)', *Human Rights Law Review*, Volume 22, Issue 1, 2022, pp. 1-31
- Danisi, C. and Ferreira, N., 'Queering Asylum... or Human Rights in Europe?' (extended version), in *Annuario ADIM 2021*, Editoriale Scientifica, 2022, pp. 319-327
- Dustin, M. '[Pathways to Refugee Protection for Women: Victims of Violence or Genuine Lesbians?](#)', *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, July 2022
- Held, N., '["As queer refugees, we are out of category, we do not belong to one, or the other": LGBTIQ+ refugees' experiences in "ambivalent" queer spaces](#)', *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, Special Issue Queer Liberalisms and Marginal Mobility, 2022

- Ferreira, N., 'Better late than never? SOGI asylum claims and "late disclosure" through a Foucauldian lens', *Journal of International Law and Foreign Affairs* (forthcoming)
- Ferreira, N., "'Utterly unbelievable": The discourse of "fake" SOGI asylum claims as a form of epistemic injustice', *International Journal of Refugee Law* (forthcoming)

SOGICA contributed to the UK parliamentary 'Family migration' inquiry:

- Submission to the UK Parliament's Justice and Home Affairs Committee's '[Family migration](#)' inquiry, 2022

The project has also been mentioned in the media:

- Kimberley Brandon, '["You need to prove that you're gay": The reality for LGBTQ+ asylum seekers in the UK](#)', Metro, 6 June 2022
- Lily Wakefield, '[Lesbian asylum seeker told she could look "less mannish" to avoid persecution](#)', Pink News, 25 February 2022

All publications by the SOGICA team and individual members, including the SOGICA monograph, '[Queering asylum in Europe](#)', can be found on the SOGICA website [publications page](#). If you would like access to any of these publications and they are not publicly accessible, please [email us](#) and we will be happy to send them to you.

#### **SOGICA events in 2022 (so far...)**

- N. Ferreira, 'Queering Asylum in Europe: A short overview', in '[International protection and vulnerabilities](#)' conference, Nansen (Belgian UNHCR partner), 2022
- C. Danisi, *Richiedenti asilo alla prova dei loro "giudici": persecuzione, credibilità e fair procedures tra diritto internazionale dei rifugiati e diritti umani*, Giornata studi MEDius – Media, giustizia e sessualità, University of Trieste, Italy, 17 May 2022
- [The SOGICA Exhibition](#), first displayed in Brighton in the UK, was hosted by [Sala Borsa in Bologna](#) (Italy) from 16 May to 6 June 2022 to mark the celebrations for IDAHOT. We thank Sala Borsa and the Municipality of Bologna for hosting our exhibition and UNHCR - Italy for their support.
- C. Danisi and N. Ferreira, [Caffè con l'Autore – Queering Asylum in Europe](#), Forlì Campus — University of Bologna, 13 May 2022

- C. Danisi and N. Ferreira, 'LGBTQ+ Refugees and Asylum Seekers: Knowledge Gaps and Data Needs', virtual global roundtable organised by UCLA School of Law William Institute / The Promise Institute for Human Rights, USA, 25 February 2022. You can find the [report from this event](#) in our database.
- N. Ferreira, '[Equality and the UK asylum process](#)' inquiry, Women and Equalities Committee, 23 February 2022

Please visit the [events page](#) of the website for further information about events over the course of the SOGICA project.

### **SOGICA resources**

We are maintaining the [SOGICA website](#), including the project [database](#), which now has 1,350 academic and NGO articles, official reports, case law decisions and other items relevant to SOGI asylum.

The [Life Stories](#) section of our website has individual accounts of LGBTQI+ people claiming asylum. In this way, we hope to keep sight of the human cost of flawed asylum processes and provide a space for some of the people involved to share their experiences. If you are seeking international protection on sexual orientation or gender identity grounds, or have done so, feel free to send us contributions (by email to [info@sogica.org](mailto:info@sogica.org)) to be considered for publication on our website.

### **Other news, including from our Project Friends**

[Free to Be Me](#), from [the Lesbian Immigration Support Group \(LISG\)](#) was published in 2021. By means of a dozen first-person narratives, the book illustrates what women seeking asylum on grounds of SOGI can face, both in their home countries and here in UK; and shows what organisations like LISG can do to help them.

[FLaG – the Future of Legal Gender](#) – has published the final report of the project: [Abolishing legal sex status: The challenge and consequences of gender-related law reform](#). FLaG was a collaborative research project, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, that ran from May 2018 until April 2022. It explored, from a social justice perspective, the legal, social, and policy implications of reforming the current system in England & Wales which requires everyone to have a legal sex.

Rainbow Migration have launched their [No Pride In Detention](#) campaign, calling for an end to the detention of LGBTQI+ people and a time limit on all

immigration detention in the UK. They are supporting a research project by Dr Laura Harvey at the University of Brighton looking at [LGBTQI+ experiences of detention](#). Anyone who is LGBTQI+ and has been detained in the UK since September 2016 can contact Laura ([l.j.harvey@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:l.j.harvey@brighton.ac.uk) / 07857 089549) to take part in the research. If organisations would like the research info in a different language or format to share with service users please let Laura know.

[‘Trots of Schaamte? het vervolg’ \(‘Pride or Shame? the follow-up’\)](#) by Sabine Jansen/COC Nederland was published earlier this year. The report asks whether the way in which the credibility of sexual orientation (and gender identity) is assessed in the Netherlands has improved since the 2018 report ‘Trots of Schaamte?’ (‘Pride or Shame?’). The follow-up report is in Dutch, with an English summary on page 144. The full report will be translated into English when funding permits.

For our Italian friends, the Grande Colibrì launched a new training project aimed to support migrants, including SOGI asylum seekers and refugees, with language issues. Please find more info (in Italian) here:

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/inparoletue/> Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/inparoletue>.

#### **Finally ...**

Please keep in touch with us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), and please feel free to [email us](#) with any questions you have about the SOGICA project, or any news which you would like to share.

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

