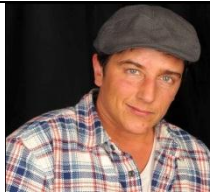


Twilight People Trans & Faith Symposium – Presenters & Sessions (in order of appearance ☺)



Surat-Shaan Knan

Surat-Shaan Knan works for Liberal Judaism and is an international campaigner for faith related LGBTQI+ issues. He is the founder and manager of the pioneering Lottery Heritage funded projects Rainbow Jews and Twilight People. Shaan is a proud member of the Stonewall Trans Advisory Group and has recently been involved in the AHRC funded project Ritual Reconstructed as well as Through a Queer Lens, supported by The Arts Council England. Shaan was profiled in 2014 as one of the [young Jewish queer pioneers](#).

linkedin.com/in/shaanknan @TwilightPeople2 www.twilightpeople.com



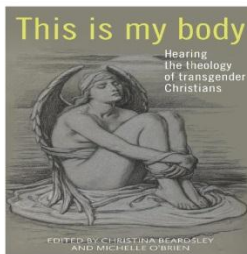
Leng Montgomery

Leng Montgomery is a memberships Assistant at Stonewall, and also a Trans inclusion specialist, to organisations and educational institutions. He has been profiled on the World Pride Power List as an Influencer and has been listed as ‘One To Watch’ for two years successively on the Independent’s Rainbow List. He’s recently spoken at the Stonewall Workplace Conference about Faith and has also taken part in OUR CLTR’s Worship Trans a collaborative project that explores trans identities and relationships with faith. This was featured in [The Huffington Post](#) in 2016.

@LengMonty <http://www.stonewall.org.uk/>

I’d like to talk about Stonewall’s trans inclusion journey, faith intentions and objectives, faith in the workplace and best practice surrounding that and I will also add that I am from a multi faith family and the importance of acceptance as well as intersectional role models – as that’s what I grew up with and I feel it’s been very beneficial.

BOOK LAUNCH – SYBILS (books will be for purchase at The Symposium)



MAY 2016

Much has been said and written about Trans people by theologians and church leaders, but little has been heard from Trans Christians themselves. This book collects the theological reflections of the Sibyls, a major spirituality group for transgender people and their allies. It offers a comprehensive review of existing theological, cultural and scientific literature, together with people’s experience of gender dysphoria that involves negotiating the boundaries between one’s identity and religious faith.

Rev Dr Christina Beardley is an Anglican priest and hospital chaplain. Michelle O'Brien has collaborated with Christina on theology and aspects of sexuality for several years. Together they have published several papers.

ORDER YOUR COPIES

Cheques for the special price of £10 (includes p&h) per copy to be made payable to: 'Cand Nixon Sibyls Book'

Please send cheques and completed order forms to: Cand Nixon (Sibyls Book), 'Sybilians, Friends, Trans, Genderless, 2020 66A,

Alternatively payment can be made to the account by credit transfer (reference with our name, sort code 20 18 43, account number 33002067 - please scan and email completed form to cand.nixon@ditbooks.com)

240 pp., Paperback, £10.00 £10.00

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The Sibyls is a UK-based confidential Christian spirituality group for transgender people, their partners and supporters. It seeks to fulfil the two great commandments of Jesus: to love God and to love one another. <http://sibyls.gndr.org.uk/>



Christina Beardsley, Revd Dr

Christina 'Tina' Beardsley was educated at the Universities of Sussex, Cambridge and Leeds. She has spent twenty-two years in parochial ministry and sixteen in healthcare chaplaincy – the last eight as Head of Multi-faith Chaplaincy at Chelsea & Westminster Hospital. She has published articles on practical theology, gender, sexuality and spirituality, and the biography *Unutterable Love* (Lutterworth, 2009). A member of the Sibyls and co-editor of the Sibyls' book **This is my Body: hearing the theology of transgender Christians** (DLT 2016), Tina writes and speaks about transgender inclusion in the Church and was a participant in the recent Twilight People exhibition.

<http://changingattitude.org.uk/category/blogs/christina-beardsley>

@tina_beardsley

'It was always about the hair', or, 'how to deal with 1 Corinthians 11:14 when you're transitioning 'male to female'- In this brief paper I reflect on an incident that happened early on in my transition, when I was on hormone therapy, but had not yet changed documents such as my passport: i.e. although presenting androgynously, with long hair, I was still working as a male hospital chaplain. At the time I was keeping a detailed diary in which I recorded an encounter with a Christian patient who was unhappy with my appearance and quoted at me 1 Corinthians 11:14, 'Does not nature itself teach you that if a man wears long hair it is a disgrace to him.' In fact, the man did not quote the verse accurately. He made it sound like a divine prohibition and an offense against God, but when I challenged him about that and tried to shift the conversation on he remained implacable. He refused to engage with me and would not shake my hand.



Susan Gilchrist

Susan Gilchrist, now retired, has taught in higher education for over 40 years. She is involved in reconciliation work in tribal conflicts; including research into reasons for them. She undertakes parallel research in gender dysphoria and she aims to help others who may learn from her experiences. She is Committee secretary for the Sibyls. She contributes to Government and NHS Advisory panels. She serves on the executive committee of the LGBTI Anglican Coalition and is a past co-chair of the Coalition. She has also had an advisory role in monitoring the Church of England Shared Conversations process on LGBTI matters.

www.tgdr.co.uk

Deuteronomy 22:5 and its Impact on Gender and Sexual Variation in The Christian Church - Different meanings have been applied to Deuteronomy 22:5 at different times. The most common theme is that of cross-dressing for sexual advantage and abuse. It is demonstrated that the principal purpose of Deuteronomy 22:5 was to enforce social differentiation in gender divided and discriminatory societies. Thus in Christianity where; as Paul states in Galatians 3:28, "All are as one in the Love of Christ", the prohibition of Deuteronomy 22:5 is no longer applicable and it should not be applied.

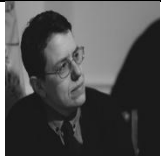


Zad El Bacha, Jimi Cullen (University of Oxford)

We are the co-founders of the Oxford-based Jewish, Arab, and Muslim Alliance. Through this group we aim to construct a new and positive avenue for communication and cooperation between JAM communities. We have been examining approaches to JAM experiences which are not founded on colonialist perspectives which we in the West have inherited from the period of European colonialism in the “East”. Zad is studying for a degree in Greco-Roman and Ancient Near-Eastern studies, whilst Jimi is undertaking DPhil research on historical linguistics.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/jamalliance/>

Decolonising gender in Jewish, Arab, and Muslim (JAM) communities - We will discuss the ways in which JAM ideas of gender do not necessarily correspond to Western ideas of gender, and the resulting different interpretations of JAM theological and cultural perspectives on transness and other gender issues. This will include discussion of gender diversity in the Torah and in Muslim tradition, as well as in other religious and cultural traditions of the Middle East, such as the Druze. Gender concepts that we will address will include potential non-binary interpretations, as well as how these identities may be accounted for within these faiths without resorting to a Western-colonial lens.



Dylan C. Parry Jones (Cardiff University)

I am a transman currently studying for a PhD in Theology and Religious Studies at Cardiff University and training to be an Anglican priest in the Church in Wales.

www.called2be.me

Transcending boundaries – insights from outsiders? - It is often the case that LGBTQIA+ thought and research is about LGBTQIA+ people and communities. This paper seeks to challenge this model and to explore the idea of LGBTQIA+ people not as subjects of research but as those with a different insight as researchers in other fields. Drawing on my own PhD research on theologies of liberation and reconciliation I will explore whether those whose gender identity falls outside the gender binary find themselves in a position to easier question and challenge other binaries. By examining the place and role of the researcher who is part of an ‘oppressed’ or minority group I will ask whether such a position can go beyond a theology of activism; or if such a position could be a voice in the periphery talking to the centre.



Margaret Greenfields, Prof

Margaret Greenfields She is currently a Research Fellow at IDRA (the Institute of Dispute Resolution, Africa located in the College of Law, UNISA) and Professor of Social Policy and Community Engagement and founder Director of the Institute for Diversity Research at Buckinghamshire New University. She is the Principal Investigator of the AHRC funded project Ritual Reconstructed.
@MGreenfields



Yvonne Wood - The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

An urban environment adviser, designer and artist. A Quaker for many years. Born and grew up male, presenting as male or female and slowly transitioning to myself. Part of the Sibyls Christian transgender group. Quakers in Britain is a Christian based worship tradition, based on silent worship, equality of ministry, lived faith, without creed or dogma. A faithful discipline grounded upon the Quaker testimonies to simplicity, peace, integrity and equality.

Being in-between: the spirituality of the transvestite in the context of Quaker faith and practice -

The transvestite, relating to male to female cross dressers, is a loaded and problematic term, usually associated with men, adopted for many years as the only way to identify. Society derides this group. Such individuals can find no validation or security in faith groups. These are non binary people, whose equivocal gender identity is permanent and constant, not just an occasional recreation, whose realisation is essentially spiritual. How do faith groups welcome these people, overcome transvestite preconceptions, acknowledge non binary identities and enable a simple openness about gender ambiguity? Especially for mature people who have been closeted for years. What does the Quaker approach to worship tell us about offering a spiritual home? Quakers see God manifest in everyone; in silent worship we can grow to know oneself without shame, bringing our 'true' gender to ministry. Can Quakers help to demystify transgender and faith, including the transvestite?



Jane Francesca Fae

Jane Fae is a feminist, journalist, campaigner on political and sexual liberty who also knows a bit about IT, the law and policing. Fae writes for national media, including the Guardian, Daily Mail and Independent, as well as GayStarNews, the Register and OpenDemocracy and Freedom in a Puritan Age and Index on Censorship. Her most recent book is *Taming the Beast*, an in-depth analysis of responses to concerns over online pornography and sexualisation. Jane is also a practising catholic who has contributed to internal church debate on the role of LGBT people within the congregation. She retains an unconventional interest in alternative belief systems, including the world of Faerie, which she sees as thought-provoking and a source of inspiration.

@janefae faerising.wordpress.com

Reclaiming Faerie: for trans, for feminism, for fluidity - A short history of the Faerie tradition in folklore: how Faerie has often provided an alternative to traditional religion that provides a space where classes and individuals who lack privilege are able to find inspiration and express themselves. In recent years, the Faerie tradition has also appealed to many in the trans community, both for its tradition of embracing change and transformation, and for its natural tendency to welcome the fluid over the fixed. This places it, often, in direct contrast to mainstream religion which asks believers to accept a more fixed, dogmatic view of the world. It empowers, where traditional creeds often disempower.

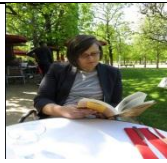


Sabah Choudrey

Sabah is a queer Muslim social justice fighter, working as a Trans Youth Worker with Gendered Intelligence, London. Sabah spoke at TEDx Brixton about being a hairy brown girl, an angry brown man and a queer brown person. One of the co-founders of Trans Pride Brighton, Sabah now works as a LGBTQ BAME Consultant and Writer.

www.sabahchoudrey.com @SabahChoudrey

Working for Inclusivity - In this workshop Sabah will be talking from personal experience about the buzzwords equality and diversity and what they really mean. Having recently published '**Inclusivity: Supporting BAME trans people**' with GIREs, Sabah will give opportunity for participants to talk about what inclusion means for their organisation, what challenges it brings up, and to find ways improve services and accessibility.



Sally Rush

I am married to an ftm trans man. I am a lay Free Church university chaplain and a Methodist local preacher. My M Litt study at Durham was into single parents within evangelical churches. When not working I enjoy the cinema, music and chilling with a good book and excellent glass of wine.

<http://sallyrush.blogspot.co.uk/>

The Partner's Story: a Narrative of Loss – this paper looks at the experience of the partners of trans people and particularly the narrative of loss related to their experience; a mix of personal and theological reflection - using the work of a range of theorists including academic work from Kristin Norwood and Tina Livingstone. It includes consideration of some of the pastoral implications of this narrative of loss which need to be thought about particularly in relation to naming ceremonies.

Ari Lev Ginsburg

Ari Ginsburg is a trans identified male and a practising Jew from Tuscon Arizona (USA) who has worked in the non-for-profit sector for over 30 years. He has a Judaic Studies major at The University of Arizona (Liberal Arts and Diversity & Gender Studies). [facebook.com/ari.ginsburg](https://www.facebook.com/ari.ginsburg)

Rituals and Rites of passage for transgender Jews - Drawing from his own experience, Ari will discuss how Jewish scriptures address trans issues, and which rituals and life cycle events are available in modern Judaism.



Jessica Hava Maden

I am transgender and come from the Ultra-Orthodox Jewish community where I feel the gender binaries are very rigid. My background has made it very difficult for me to finally accept myself.

<https://jessicatransgenderjewish.wordpress.com>



Peta Angwyn Evans

I am student clergy within the Metropolitan Community Church, and a freelance artist and writer. As a theologian, I am particularly interested in the way that non-traditional gender identity impacts the way our faith develops. As a person of non-binary gender, I have sought to bring together my gender journey and my faith journey within my artwork, to express the deep sense of journeying into new and uncharted ground, hand-in-hand with God.

The Art of Being Seen - 'Trans*Angels'

A creative workshop exploring the use of images/creative writing to claim sacred space for ourselves within the images and stories of our faith. Angels or divine messengers are a common image to many faith traditions, and occupy an 'in-between', or twilight, space – so they are an ideal place to start finding our own non-binary image within the rich art and poetic traditions of faith. Using my series of artworks 'Trans*Angels' I demonstrate how we can bring out the image our transgendered selves as part of the divine truth, and then participants will have opportunity to create their own trans angels.



Karl Rutledge, Dr (Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education)

Karl is currently training for ordained ministry in the Methodist Church, and is also a member of Stonewall's Trans Advisory Group. The former has led him into exploring what liberation means for LGBT+ people, as well as playing copious amounts of pool. His other academic interests include the interaction between the natural sciences and Christian theology, building on his background in mathematical physics. The Queen's Foundation is an ecumenical training college in Birmingham, preparing students for ordained ministry in the Anglican and Methodist Churches, as well as offering courses for independent students.

facebook.com/karl.rutledge

Towards a Theology of Trans Liberation - We explore key principles that a Christian theology of liberation for trans people needs to incorporate, through the lens of the Oscar-nominated film 'Room', and in conversation with other liberation theologies from minority groups that have helpful insights to share, such as Womanist Theology. Focusing particularly on other dimensions that impact on the experience of trans people, such as classism, cultural capital and misogyny, we consider images of Christ and understandings of the Eucharist that offer the potential to liberate trans people, freeing us to be able to flourish, and challenging discrimination in the church.

