



ANSO

Association of Nordic and Pol-Balt LGBTQ Student Organizations

calls for participants:

Gender Queer University: Questioning Norms in Higher Education

Study session

European Youth Centre, Strasbourg,

14th - 21st March 2010



Deadline for applications: 29th of January 2010



ANSO, Association of Nordic and Pol-Balt Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Student (LGBTQ) Organizations would like to invite you to a study session called ***Gender Queer University: Questioning Norms in Higher Education***, with the aim of creating knowledge and tools for working with gender, gender identity and gender expression in higher education. It will be held in **Strasbourg 14th - 21st March 2010**.

The aim of the study session is to strengthen LGBTQ and student activists in their work for equality by examining gender and transgender issues and existing norms in higher education.

ANSO would also like to address transgender and gender issues in higher education, which are often omitted in LGBTQ activism, yet very important. One of the main goals of our organization is to work on widely understood gender equality, meaning equality between all possible genders, not only the traditional female and male binary. This study session is an important step in that direction and we would like to invite inspired students and LGBTQ activists, eager to share and expand their work on gender and transgender issues to join for the week-long study session.

Objectives of the Study Session

- To explore a notion of gender (gender identities, gender expression, gender fluidity, transgender aspects, (de)construction of gender)
- To explore heteronormativity in higher education (existing norms, consequences and possible solutions)
- To examine access to higher education by gender variant students (inclusion, exclusion, equal treatment of students, literature used, toilets, etc.)
- To explore a notion of queer (creating a common understanding of queer, queer as identity, theory, strategy)
- To introduce queer pedagogy and norm critical approach



- To involve student unions in work on inclusion of gender variant students and work against heteronormativity at universities (examples, strategies, future ideas, cooperation between LGBTQ organizations and student unions, building alliances)
- To create strategies to counteract heteronormativity on personal, organizational, and institutional levels as well as discrimination on grounds of gender, and to create strategies and guidelines to work for gender equality at universities
- To include intersectional approach to LGBTQ student activism
- To enable participants to create new alliances and co-operation (student unions, LGBTQ organizations, other institutions)

Target Groups

The participants should come from either of the following (interconnected) groups:

- 1) European LGBTQ student activists or LGBTQ activists interested in student issues
- 2) Student union activists, equality officers etc.

When choosing participants we will try to ensure balance between the two groups.

We are seeking those who wish to gain knowledge on gender and transgender issues, norms, structures and consequences of heteronormativity. We are also seeking those who wish to share their knowledge and create new allies and partnerships in these fields. No prior knowledge on gender and transgender is required, but a keen interest in working on these issues is a must. Everyone should also be willing to keep an open mind, learn new things and be able to act as multipliers on a local level. We will try to cater to different level of experiences, but we expect participants to either have some experience of student politics **OR** work within LGBTQ organizations. Gender, transgender, and heteronormativity are going to be new issues for many, from both groups, and we will be exploring the concept in depths.

Participants should be able to work and communicate in English.



Priority will be given to participants who will be able to act as multipliers within their local student union or LGBTQ (student) organization.

Practical Information

Provided that the cheapest means of travel have been used, travel costs will be 100% reimbursed. A **50€** participation fee will be deducted from your travel reimbursement.

The study session will take place in the Council of Europe's European Youth Centre in Strasbourg, France.

Draft Program

	March 15 th	March 16 th	March 17 th	March 18 th	March 19 th	March 20 th
	<i>Introductions</i>	<i>Gender is omnipresent</i>	<i>Our place within higher education</i>	<i>Queering up pedagogy</i>	<i>Together we are stronger</i>	<i>We are ready to fight!</i>
9:00-10:30	Introductions	(TRANS)GENDER = what, how, why, when, and where	Heteronormativity in Higher Education and its consequences	Introduction to anti-oppressive pedagogy and norm critical approach	Strategies for more inclusive and safe universities	Action groups presentations
	Ground rules					
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break	Coffee break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break
11:00-12:30	Expectations & Motivations	Identity (-ies), expressions, performativity	Accessibility and inclusion	Intersectionality in our activist work	Lobbying	Action groups presentations
	Intro to Council of Europe					
12:30-14:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
14:00-15:30	„Organization fair“	Queer = How is it connected to us?	How do WE work towards better higher education?	Free time	Networking, Partnership, “The Big Plan”	Evaluations
15:30-16:00		Coffee Break	Coffee Break		Coffee Break	
16:00-17:00		Action groups	Action groups		Action groups	Closing
17:00-18:00		Home groups	Home groups		Home groups	Home groups
18:00-19:00	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner in the city	Dinner	Dinner
Evening	Game evening	Social evening	Social evening	Party in the city	Social evening	Farewell party



Application

Please find the online application form [here](#)¹. The application form must be submitted no later than 23:59 on the **29th of January**. Participants will be selected by the prep team on the 1st February and will be notified the following week.

If you have any questions, we will happily answer them here: studysession10@anso.dk

Your prep team,

Ann Kristin, Laurynas, Malou, Micah & Patrycja

¹ <https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dFltcVBENWFGVURhMFI2Q0RzU2ROUIE6MA>