Islamophobia and Homophobia
A One-Day Symposium

Programme

All talks are to be held at the Rutland and Gartree Suite (Charles Wilson 403/404), on the 4th floor of the Charles Wilson Building, University of Leicester.

Lunch and refreshments for speakers will be served in the Sparkenhoe and Goscote Suite (Charles Wilson 401/402). For other attendees: The David Wilson Library, close to the Charles Wilson Building, has a café on the ground floor selling food and hot drinks.

09:00-09:30 Arrival and Registration (Sparkenhoe and Goscote Suite)

09:30-09:45 Welcome and Introduction (Rutland and Gartree Suite)
Alberto Fernández Carbajal

09:45-10:45 Keynote Address (Rutland and Gartree Suite) Chair: Alberto Fernández Carbajal
Amanullah De Sondy — ‘Insider or Outsider: Exploring the Cases of Islamophobia and Homophobia’

10:45-11:15 Coffee Break (Refreshments for speakers at Sparkenhoe and Goscote Suite)

11:15-12:45 Sociology and Psychology Panel (Rutland and Gartree Suite) Chair: Peter Cherry
Asifa Siraj — ‘Exploring the Lives of British Pakistani Lesbians in the Closet’
Rusi Jaspal — ‘British Muslim Gay Men’s Experiences of Islamophobia and Homophobia Insights from Social Psychology’

12:45-14:00 Lunch break (Lunch for speakers at Sparkenhoe and Goscote Suite)

14:00-14:45 Film Session (Rutland and Gartree Suite) Chair: Aleardo Zanghellini
Peter Cherry — “I’d rather my brother were a bomber than a homo”: British Muslim Masculinities and Homonationalism in Sally El Hosaini’s My Brother the Devil (2012)

14:45-15:00 Break

15:00-16:30 Artist Panel (Rutland and Gartree Suite) Chair: Asifa Siraj
Tareq Sayyid Rajab de Montfort — ‘Wajahat al Rajul — The Grace of Men’
Asifa Lahore — ‘Britain’s First Out Muslim Drag Queen’

16:30-16:45 Coffee Break (Refreshments for speakers at Sparkenhoe and Goscote Suite)

16:45-17:30 Human Rights Plenary Paper (Rutland and Gartree Suite) Chair: Amanullah De Sondy
Aleardo Zanghellini — ‘Faith in Queerness: Approaching Sexual Precepts within and outside Islam’

17:30-18:00 Roundtable Discussion and Closing Remarks (Rutland and Gartree Suite)

18:30- Symposium Speakers’ Dinner (Saray Mangal, 3-5 Highfield St, Leicester LE2 1AB)
Speaker biographical notes

Peter Cherry recently completed his PhD at the University of Edinburgh on constructions of masculinity in literature and film by British writers and filmmakers of Muslim cultural heritage. Previously, Peter worked for a number of years as an English teacher in Istanbul. Building on this experience, he is currently proposing postdoctoral research on British literary and travel depictions of Turkey during the end of the Ottoman Empire and early years of the Turkish Republic. His work has been published by *The Journal of Commonwealth Literature*.

Tareq Sayyid Rajab de Montfort was born in 1989 in Kuwait to a Kuwaiti British mother with Meccan ancestry and a Basrawi father. He fled to Kuwait at the age of 17 after an early life educated in a prominent Islamic Museum. After graduating from University of the Arts he made a name (and reputation) for himself after his first solo exhibit ‘The Arab Unbound’ in London, which was noticed by Israel's *Haaretz News*, followed by a *Huffington Post* report. An ineffable artist working in multiple disciplines, with a paramount focus on the ‘Art of Being One’s Self’, de Montfort quickly gained a reputation as an outspoken and often misunderstood voice for the very subjects he addresses: masculinity and the femininity of man as a cross-cultural Anglo-Arab in today’s complex web of socio-economically and culturally confused global society. These subjects are part of his current creative enquiry.

Amanullah De Sondy is Senior Lecturer in Contemporary Islam at University College Cork (Ireland). He has taught at the Universities of Glasgow, Strathclyde, and Stirling, in Scotland, and also in Ithaca College and the University of Miami, in the USA. His first book, *The Crisis of Islamic Masculinities*, was published by Bloomsbury in January 2014. De Sondy connects the study of Islam to the key themes of gender, ethnicity, race, and pluralism. In his published works, he has focused especially on gender and sexuality in classical and contemporary Islam in relation to Islamic practice and the Qur’an. Additionally, De Sondy specialises in Muslims in Celtic lands (Scotland and Ireland)/Europe/Pakistan and Religious Education (RE) in high schools in these global locations.

Rusi Jaspal is Professor of Psychology and Sexual Health and Associate Director of Research at De Montfort University Leicester. He is also Deputy Director of the Mary Seacole Research Centre. Prof Jaspal’s research focuses on aspects of sexual identity, behaviour and health among gay and bisexual men, especially those of ethnic minority background.

Asifa Lahore is Britain’s first out Muslim drag queen, pushing the boundaries of what it means to be gay and Muslim. In 2014 Lahore came into the national spotlight when she was famously censored from discussing Islam and Homosexuality on BBC Free Speech. Later that year Lahore was nominated by readers of *The Independent* newspaper for their Rainbow List of most prominent LGBT people in Britain. In 2011, Lahore won the bronze medal of the annual Drag Idol UK competition to find the newest cabaret talent in the UK. Lahore featured in Channel 4’s documentary *Muslim Drag Queens* which aired in August 2015. 2015 saw Lahore become established as a leading figure within the ‘Gaysian’ community, receiving the prestigious LGBT award at the *Attitude Magazine* Pride Awards. Lahore was also a judge for the Independent's Rainbow List and has spoken at the Oxford Union.

Asifa Siraj is an Independent Researcher based in Scotland. Her research interests are based on Islam, gender and sexual identities. She is currently engaged in research that focuses on the intersections of faith, sexuality and gender in the lives of British/Pakistani Muslim lesbians.

Aleardo Zanghellini is Professor of Law and Social Theory at the University of Reading. He has broad interests in the area of law, gender and sexuality; law and literature; and legal, political and moral philosophy. He is the author of numerous articles in these areas. His monograph *The Sexual Constitution of Political Authority* was published by Routledge in 2015.