**Please find below call for papers for the session:**

**Decentering Allies: Negotiating Binaries in Solidarity to LGBT+ Subjects and Activisms**

**6th EGSC**

**Embodied Geographies of Differences: Trans\* Spaces, Identities and Solidarities**

**14th-19th September, Cadiz.**

**Session Chairs:**

Dr. Ruth Blatt

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Allies play an important role in virtually every fight to end oppression. Yet they are often criticized by those they are allied with for reinforcing binaries and recreating colonial models of saviorism that maintain their relative social power (Ahmed, 2004; Blair, 2021). Specifically, within LGBT+ struggles, allyship is negotiated and contested (Mathers, 2017; Spade, 2020; Mathers et al., 2015), raising questions as to the different interests, social and symbolic boundaries and discourses that produce this power relations.

Looking at allyship from a spatial perspective, this session explores allyship’s paradoxical nature in both strengthening and weakening social inequalities. The session will address the meaning of allyship for varied LGBT+ communities along lines of race, ability, class, and incarcerated status. The goal of the session is to advance a conceptualization of allyship that decenters the allies’ perspective and is sensitive to unequal structures of power and privilege. This in turn advances our conceptualization of allyship in relation to concepts such as homonormativity, care, activism, safe spaces, center/periphery divides and more, across diverse locations.

Relevant topics include but are not limited to:

* Allies and activism
* Allies and media
* Allies and institutional settings
* Allies and safe spaces
* Cisgender and transgender allyship
* Allies and LGBTQ+ subjectivities
* Allyship and the construction of queer spaces
* Allyship and nightlife
* Allyship and tourism
* Allyship and queer mobility and migration
* Allyship and geopolitics
* Representations of allies and allied
* Allyship from a post-colonial and non-Western perspective
* Non-colonizing approaches to allyship
* The meaning and impact of allyship in activist, online or mass media spaces or in institutional settings
* How different spaces enable LGBT+ subjects to cultivate cisgender and straight allies, while at the same time proactively shaping their own representation
* Productive and counter-productive spaces for queer allyship

Please send an abstract of 250 words, contact information (email and institutional affiliation), and a short bio by **March 27th, 2022** to ruth.blatt@gmail.com. Decisions letters will be sent by April 17th.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

**References**

Ahmed S (2004) Declarations of whiteness: The non-performativity of anti-racism. borderlands e-journal 3(2).

Blair K (2021) Empty Gestures: Performative Utterances and Allyship. Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism 35(2): 53-73.

Mathers LA, Sumerau JE and Ueno K (2015) “This isn’t just another gay group”: Privileging heterosexuality in a mixed-sexuality LGBTQ advocacy group. Journal of Contemporary ethnography 47(6): 834-864.

Mathers LAB (2017) Bathrooms, Boundaries, and Emotional Burdens: Cisgendering Interactions Through the Interpretation of Transgender Experience. Symbolic Interaction 40(3): 295-316.

Spade D (2020) Solidarity Not Charity: Mutual Aid for Mobilization and Survival. Social Text 38(1): 131-151.

Short biographical notes:

**Gilly Hartal**

Gilly Hartal is an assistant professor at the Gender Studies Program, Bar-Ilan University. Her research and teaching interests include geographies of sexualities and gender, queer theory, qualitative methodologies and specifically the production of spatial belonging through discourses of inclusion and exclusion along national, ethnic, gendered, class and sexual trajectories. Her current research focuses on political subjectivities of lesbian, bisexual and transgender women outside urban centers in Israel. She published in journals such as Urban Studies (2018, 2020); Social and Cultural Geography (2017, 2020), EPC: Politics and Space (2019); Journal of Homosexuality (2018); Gender, Place & Culture (2016); Sexualities (2016); ACME (2016) and more.

**Ruth Blatt**

Ruth Blatt is a doctoral candidate in the Gender Studies Program at Bar Ilan University, Israel. Her dissertation concerns the meanings and practices of allyship for advancing transgender justice. Her research examines the interface between members of LGBTQ communities and their straight/cisgender allies in the processes of advancing social justice. Her activism work includes advocating for all-gender bathrooms and reducing LGBTphobia online. She holds a Ph.D. in Organizational Behavior and has published research on in *The Academy of Management Review*, *Journal of Organizational Behavior*, *Journal of Management Inquiry*, and *Journal of Management*.