



Approaches to Inequalities: whose business is it?

A one day conference: Wednesday 20th September 2017

Call for papers

The third Approaches to Inequalities conference welcomes proposals for papers and posters that offer positive solutions to how we approach inequality and discrimination. Previously papers have come from practitioners, academics and public sector organisations and we would again encourage this diversity.

The topic for the 2017 conference was chosen in Autumn 2016, although we didn't know that Trump would be elected president we were post-Brexit and witnessing the rise of populism and the far-right, the Human Rights Act was under attack and the #BlackLivesMatter movement was actively protesting in the UK as well as in the US. Against this backdrop we were determined to host a conference that offered solutions, inspired with its optimism and was positive about human rights and chose the focus of 'whose business is it?'

The 'whose' is important because it is imbued with ideas of responsibility, allowing contributors to explore human rights at a structural, institutional, local or individual level. It's not about dismissing issues of equality, diversity and inclusion but about taking ownership of them.

The word 'business' was chosen because of its many and varied meanings and we hoped contributors would be playful with it, some even problematizing the term. In its most restrictive sense it can literally mean equality within a business setting or exploring the business case for inclusion, and we would welcome contributions with this focus. For those potential contributors in the academy, struggling with the marketisation of Further and Higher Education 'business' may have a different meaning, and we hope to explore this. Finally, in its broadest sense it can simply mean whether something is relevant to you – "it's none of your business" – and we would welcome contributions that explore how we ensure equality is a mainstream issue and not the concern of impacted minorities.

We hope contributors get a sense of just how broad, varied and inclusive we hope our 2017 conference will be, whilst retaining a common thread or flavour and we look forward to receiving contributions.

Proposals for papers should be around 500 words and posters 300 words. Proposals should be sent to: The Approaches to Inequalities Research Group (AIRgroup@Northampton.ac.uk) by midnight on 24th April 2017.