

Call for Papers and Workshops

XI Turku seminar for lesbian, gay and queer studies

October 20–21, 2016, University of Turku (UTU), Finland
Sirkkala campus, Kaivokatu 12, Turku

Queer Healings

Healing – both to heal and to be healed – is a powerful, ambivalent and transgressive concept. Healing makes appeals to and is informed by the concept of health, often as functional, wholesome and standardized. Despite its ambiguity, health seems omnipresent in Western societal ideologies and thoughts of public health, a seemingly unproblematic good to distribute as widely as possible. Health is also highly commercialized, subjective and unequal. Health and sickness are rife with symbolic, artistic and cultural meanings – with embodied consequences.

SQS – Society of Queer Studies in Finland invites abstracts and workshops from scholars and students for our eleventh seminar on lesbian, gay and queer studies to be held in University of Turku, Finland October 2016. Following the tradition of the Turku queer seminar, a wide variety of current topics, achievements and challenges both inside and out queer studies are under critical scrutiny. As a forum for scholars, students and activists with interests in gender and sexuality, the seminar itself has become a tradition of its own by promoting queer scholarship and studies; by facilitating both international and interdisciplinary networking. This year our organizing partners include Sociology, Gender Studies and Philosophy from the University of Turku and the research network Center for the Study of Bioethics (CSB) Finland.

This year we focus on the theme of Queer Healings, both in the meaning of to heal and to be healed. The theme includes the ways of thinking and acting in society, arts and culture both in the past and in the present. We focus on the healing technologies and the (liminal) spaces and cultures of healing. We invite critical inquiries concentrating on all kinds of questions relating to the varieties of sexuality and gender and the definitions, discussions and practices of health, sickness and well-being.

Suitable topics include (yet are not limited to):

- Queer theoretical approaches to healing
- Healing traditions and histories
- Queer cultures as times/spaces/practices/politics of healing
- Queer healers as characters or narratives
- Healing memories/memories of healing
- Arts/literature as depicting/facilitating/questioning healing
- Body healing/bodies beyond healing & definitions of health/normality
- Crip theory and questions of (dis)ability
- Medicalization
- Bioethics
- Biotechnologies
- Biopolitics
- Necropolitics

The academic program consists of workshops and keynote lectures. The keynote speakers are:

- **Lance Wahlert** (University of Pennsylvania)
- **Leena-Maija Rossi** (University of Jyväskylä)
- **Salla Sariola** (University of Turku, University of Oxford)
- **Julian Honkasalo** (University of Helsinki)

Follow our updates at www.sqshome.wordpress.com for the complete program. You can also find Queer Healings on Facebook via this link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/279868735699404/>.

Abstract Submission

We encourage presentations from all levels of the academia, embracing theme-appropriate entries from undergraduates to advanced researchers. We wish to receive contributions that problematize gender, sexuality and health (and/or apply queer studies perspective) from various disciplinary backgrounds.

Presentation abstracts are to be processed anonymously to ensure fair treatment. As the academic level of participants vary, we want to make sure the process is just, equal and also compatible with our mission of encouraging students to attend. Hence different academic levels have different evaluation criteria and abstracts are clustered based on the author's degree.

Please email your abstract of max. 300 words (approx. one page) to Tiia Sudenkaarne [tijun\(at\)utu.fi](mailto:tijun(at)utu.fi) no later than **Sunday August 28, 2016**. Make sure that you use the exact email address, NOT the common formatting firstname.surname.

Submit your abstract as a word-file (.doc) attachment without any identifiable characters or text included in the document other than the title of your abstract. The title is the link between you and your submission. Important: make sure the file name is the title of your abstract. In the cover email, clearly state the following:

- your name, contact info and affiliation
- the title of your abstract
- degree/degree to be obtained (Bachelor, Master, PhD Student, PhD)

Presentations (20 mins each) can be either in Finnish, English or Swedish. We wish to be able to include all theme-appropriate submissions. However, as the only queer research seminar in Finland, we reserve the right to prioritize abstracts with a queer studies perspective, if necessary. We also reserve the right to refuse abstracts that do not meet the evaluation criteria. All applicants will be notified by Friday September 2, 2016, including the conference program, alternative workshops info and practicalities.

In addition to presentation abstracts, we also warmly welcome suggestions for workshops (ideally consisting of 3–4 presenters). Last but not least we are open to suggestions for art and other alternative methods workshops, but please do keep in mind that our resources to facilitate are limited.

For further information, please contact Organizing Committee Chairs
Tiia Sudenkaarne, University of Turku, Practical Philosophy: [tijun\(at\)utu.fi](mailto:tijun(at)utu.fi)
Varpu Alasuutari, University of Turku, Gender Studies: [vaalal\(at\)utu.fi](mailto:vaalal(at)utu.fi)

Organizers: SQS – Society of Queer Studies in Finland; UTU Sociology; UTU Gender Studies; UTU Philosophy; Center for the Study of Bioethics Finland, Out of the Ordinary: Challenging Commonplace Concepts in Anglophone Literatures (UTU English)