

Hello Everyone,

Thank You for your continued interest in the Canadian Universities Queer Services Conference, held this year in Victoria, BC. The conference will be taking place from Thursday, Feb. 4th, to Sunday, Feb. 7th, with Friday and Saturday chock full of workshops, keynotes and events. The Positive Space Network (PSN) will be having their launch the same weekend, and will be participating in specific events. All events related to the positive space network launch will have (PSN) beside it. If you have any inquiries that haven't been addressed in this letter, please contact cuqscvictoria@gmail.com, and I will do my best to address them.

Full conference fees are \$100. Each event has also been priced separately for anyone who would like to attend, but cannot commit to a full weekend of workshops. Individual pricing- one workshop/keynote address is \$10 for students and \$15 for the community, either on Friday or Saturday. A full day pass (\$25 for students and \$35 for the community) doesn't include lunch, but does include 2 workshops, one keynote and an event, depending on the day. The Saturday night event ('shake your acronym') will be \$5 for anyone without a wristband. The Positive Space Network's workshops and events will be free to the public, as well as the book launch and creating connections.

Two interpreters are on staff, a Spanish translator as well as an American Sign Language translator. We may have a French translator as well, but will only be available for print translation after the conference.

Conference Schedule

Thursday, Feb 4th - Registration and Welcome Event:

Conference registration will be from 3pm to 9pm in the Michele Pujol Room (MPR) in the Students Union Building (there will be signs and volunteers). All receipts that have not been sent off will be given at that point. A wristband policy will be in effect for the duration of the conference, as a few events are either off campus, or are open to the public. The wristbands will ensure you only have to pay once, and you will not be admitted into any event without your wristband. Welcome packages will also be given out, and they will include bus passes for you to get around for the rest of the weekend.

*All events, other than the workshops, will be held in the student's union building (SUB), most likely in the Michele Pujol Room (MPR).

Welcome event: there will be refreshments and networking available. We have some games planned, but it will mainly be a situation to come in and say hello, and maybe rest your feet a bit.

Friday, Feb 5th: Keynote (Pamela Brown), 2 workshops, 1 breakfast, 1 lunch, 1 supper and an evening event.

- Breakfast at the 'QV' (downtown, corner of Fisgard and Douglas, right across from the entrance to Chinatown and 'the gates of harmonious interest): breakfast tickets (and maps) will be included in welcome packages. Breakfast consists of one breakfast (6 choices) and a large coffee (or juice/tea). Breakfast will be available from 7:00 to 9:30a.

- PSN Launch “Explore Your Space” in Cinecenta:
 - 9:15 - 9:45 Keynote: "The Pride That Binds Us" - Pamela Brown from Equity and Human Rights.
 - 9:45 - 11:15 Academic Panel and Discussion - Eli Manning from Social Work, Lisa Poole from Sociology, Lyn Davis from Nursing, and Maureen Bradley from Writing.
 - 11:30 - 12:30 Film and Discussion about ambient violence - "Tongues Untied," a participatory action research group from Women's Studies.

- Lunch in the MPR (12:30 – 1:30). A sandwich buffet will be offered for lunch, including salad and Dahl. There are both vegan and vegetarian options for each and every meal.

- Workshops (from 1:30-3:30): there are three workshops available per time slot. Certain hosts are still choosing their time slots, so all unassigned workshops will be posted below. The workshop rooms will be in various buildings across campus, and maps and guides will be provided.
 1. Polyamory

Intimate relationships are the foundation of family, community and of society as a whole. When we deconstruct pre-programmed ideas of how we relate to each other on an intimate level, eventually we change the way we feel and act towards everyone we relate to. Polyamory -- the practice of openly and honestly loving more than one person -- poses challenges for personal growth and communication that can also create an ideal background for challenging traditional relationship structures and set the stage for sex positive culture and social change

 2. Consent

This workshop will be led by members of UVic’s Anti-Violence Project. They will discuss consent and communication in sexual relationships. They will talk about how to keep yourself and others safe and healthy in situations of casual sex, at bars, and parties. They will also present some ideas of how you can encourage healthy sexuality among members of a queer organization.

 3. Religion and Queer Identity

This will be a panel discussion led by members of various religions about the relationship between religion/spirituality and queer identity, how they can be reconciled, the conflicts and challenges in navigating both queer and religious spaces, and what religion and spirituality can bring to the queer community.

- Break (3:30-5p): go and put your feet up.

- TransACTION dinner (5:30-7p) in the MPR: We do not know what TransACTION will be serving, but they are aware to provide a vegan option.
- Friday night Event – ‘Creating Connections’ (7-9p) in the MPR: a networking opportunity. This event takes place once a month in Victoria, every month without fail, where queer people in the community get together and hang out. There will be speed friending and other events, refreshments and speakers sharing their coming out stories.

Saturday, Feb. 6th: one breakfast, one keynote speaker, 2 workshops, one lunch, a book launch and a party.

- Breakfast at the ‘QV’: see Friday breakfast for full details.
- Keynote speaker Ivan E. Coyote (9:30-10:15 in MPR): Google this guy, absolutely awesome speaker out of Vancouver.

Workshops (10:30-12:30):

1. Asexuality

This workshop will discuss the nature of asexuality, what it means to identify as such, and the history of the asexuality community. It will look at the DSM’s treatment of asexuality, and what asexual advocates are trying to achieve now. It will also explore the relationship of the asexual community to the queer community, and pose questions of inclusion and exclusion.

2. Navigating the Medical System as a Trans Person with a Disability

Balancing medicalized intersectionality of being trans and having other medical concerns- While dealing with chronic illness, emergency room visits, finding specialists, managing chronic pain, devising self care strategies, medicating and healing is all work with enough challenges to themselves, trans people can have the added bonus of melded medical histories, separate medication regimes, converse surgical goals, and an entirely different relationship to taking out clothes off for doctor after doctor.

Being medicalized sucks, but is necessary for lots of us, whether dealing with disAbility, chronic illness, injury or "gender dysphoria [which of course holds its own? as to how medical problems get lumped into a group with mental health...], and mental health. How do we deal? What does self-advocacy look like? What other resources are available for advocacy? What does a self care management plan look like?

3. Community Organizing: How to Get Active

Workshop Outline: What does it take to start up a community on campus? What does "creating" a community really mean? How do we go about doing it in an effective, rewarding way?

This workshop will focus on community organizing and getting people out of their homes and active in groups. We will be looking at communication, space, purpose, image, membership development, and all of the fun (and not-so-fun) aspects of all that. There will be a focus on learning the tools to organize effectively (so, more impact for less work) and on how to navigate the inevitable pitfalls of being inclusive of a very diverse group of people. We will also talk about how to build these communities on college and university campuses and dealing with the added challenges of students' academic and work commitments. There will also be a section on institutional longevity (or, making sure that your group doesn't flop or die when you graduate), something that affects all community organizing efforts on campus.

- Lunch (12:30-1:30 in MPR): A pasta lunch will be provided, along with salad and vegetarian chili.

- Workshops (1:30-3:30): Unfortunately, we are unable to provide write ups for these workshops at this time. They still sound rather interesting without them...
 1. Activism and Social Justice
 2. Kink
 3. ?

- Community event – Book Launch (3:30-5:30 in the MPR): 'Who's your daddy', a compilation of essays about gay parenting. Speakers, refreshments and book signing will be available.

- Break (5:30 – 8p)

- Saturday Night Event (8p-12a) 'Shake Your Acronym' in Vertigo (in the student's union building): this is a joint CUQSC/PSN party, and is 19+ only. This will be a community event as well, but hold onto your wristbands, otherwise a \$5 fee applies.

- Saturday Night Event (7:30-?) at Serious Coffee on Broad (downtown - between Yates and View): This event will be open to all delegates who chose not to attend the Saturday night event.

Sunday, Feb 7th: one breakfast, bidding and round table.

- Breakfast at the 'QV' (7:30-noon)
- Bidding (10-1p): Will be held in rms B025, and B028, downstairs in the SUB.
- Round table discussion (12 – 2:30) in the MPR

What your conference fees cover:

Three breakfasts, 2 lunches and one dinner (and refreshments), 2 Keynote speakers, 4 workshops, three community events (creating connections, the book launch and the Saturday night party). Bus passes to get to/from the university are included in your welcome package, as well as maps of the city and the university.

Fees not included in conference registration

Your flight, transportation to/from the airport, and dinner (Friday's dinner will be covered).

Airport and transportation:

If you are flying into Victoria, please book with akal airporter to get into town. They are offering us a conference discount for groups of two or more. Average price is \$20 to get to your hotel, one way for one person. The trip from the Victoria airport is about 1 hr. The city bus does go to the airport, but the stop is far enough from the airport, and is awkward with luggage.

If you're flying into Vancouver, I suggest taking the pacific coach lines (PCL) into downtown Victoria. The charge is usually \$50 one way, but this includes your trip to the ferry, the ferry (\$15 but is included in bus price), and the trip from the ferry to downtown Victoria. The trip will take about 4hrs, with 1 1/2hrs on the ferry. Bring your cameras.

If you would like to take the city bus, please check the schedule at bctransit.com. The Victoria bus line has a pick up right outside of the ferry terminal, but there are several exchanges to downtown (see <http://bctransit.com/regions/vic/>). Please also refer to this site for information regarding bus service during your stay in Victoria, as transit is the main mode of transportation of the conference.

Accommodation:

Hotels: We are not currently offering conference pricing for hotels. We do suggest to stay at the Traveler's Inn on Douglas st. (there are three to chose from, and all are close to each other).They are close to the restaurant that is hosting all three breakfasts (QV). One kind sized bed room goes for about \$60 before taxes.

Hostels: We are working with the ocean island backpackers' inn as a cheaper version of a hotel. If you are interested in staying at the hostel, please contact Julianne with the names of all included in your party, and how long you will be staying. They have beds available for \$20/person/night, have a full kitchen and fridges in every room, and a full bar.

Billeting: our options are very limited, and are first come first serve. Victoria is a very populated area and there aren't many extra couches to go around. If you're interested, please fill out the form on the cuqsc.org site and we will get back to you by Feb. 1st, 2010.

Rabbits and Saturday night coffee house/party:

Just so you know, there is a substantial rabbit population on campus. SO if you have an aversion to rabbits, please take note of this when booking your tickets.

Also, the Saturday night event is 19+ only. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, so we will be offering a coffee house downtown at the same time as the party on campus.