Is Gender Still Relevant?

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University of Bradford

POSTER ABSTRACTS

POSTER 1: Negotiating Harmony, Negotiating Identities: Gay Men Influencing Their Partner's Health Through Social Control , Debbie Braybrook, Steve Robertson, Alan White and Kate Milnes, University of Leeds

The beneficial effects of marriage and partnerships on health have long been noted in the literature, but most studies considering partner involvement focus on heterosexual spouses. In doing so, there is a continued fixation on traditional gender regimes in health-related influence attempts (i.e. social control). Given the privileged position that such relationships put individuals in to influence their partner's health and help-seeking practices, it is important not only to consider heterosexual couples, but also couples of other sexualities. This poster draws on empirical data from in-depth interviews to investigate the health-related social control exerted by partnered gay men, and how they make attempts to affect their partner's health and help-seeking practices. Furthermore, why partners attempt to influence each other's health, and reactions and feelings due to such attempts, are explored. The results feed into an emerging theory of 'negotiated harmony', in which maintaining health, identity and autonomy are entwined in the joint endeavour of orchestrating harmonious partnered living. In relation, the explanations provided for social control are not automatically gendered. Instead the narratives of participants in this study fed into the development of an alternative framework for understanding health-related social control in couple relationships; one that perhaps extends beyond gendered divisions.

POSTER 2: Gendering Early Bronze Age Artefacts – Assumptions, Myths and Guesswork
Debbie Hallam, University of Bradford.

My current research is primarily to investigate a tradition of enigmatic vessels known as pygmy cups, which are found in Early Bronze Age graves across the British Isles and which date to c. 2000 -1400 cal. BC thus enjoying a fairly prolonged currency.

With a focus on the North of England and by taking a holistic approach, all elements concerning the deposition of cups into the burial environment are being analysed to understand the prevailing behaviours around funerary practices.

As a consequence of carrying out an in depth analysis of grave goods associated with both the cups and remains, it has become clear that much of what was written by the Antiquarians and active local societies and individuals at the close of the Victorian era has endured and shaped our beliefs regarding male and female artefacts. Assumptions about gender were made using artefact evidence often without reference to any osteological investigation, and prior to skeletal remains being disposed of.

In writing the Thesis, I have challenged a number of these presuppositions, such as jet and amber adornments were made for women and martial items for men. One of the unplanned and unexpected objectives of my research is to force a rethink with regards to the accepted typologies, which have mostly been designed by men. I ask the question if it would be a different result if designed by a woman.

POSTER 3: The Curator's Egg 2.0: Does gender need to be higher on the Museum Agenda? Yasmin Khan

Can today's museums really be seen as beacons for upholding values such as social justice, inclusivity and wellbeing if their internal operations tell a different story? Using the metaphor of the 'Curator's Egg', gender issues in museums can be explored within three co-existing realms: (1) operational activities, (2) the *raison d'etre* of the collections and programme, and (3) the public interface/visitor engagement. The key issues pervading the operational sphere include (a) governance and patriarchy, (b) leadership development, c) feminisation of the workforce, (d) the gender salary gap, (e) work-life balance, (f) staff attrition Vs ossification and (g) attitudes/self-awareness.

POSTER 4: Constructing Ideas of Femininity: A Context-rich Exploration of Young Girls Advertising Experiences
Francesca Morosi, Nottingham Trent University

The research explores how pre-adolescent girls interact with representations of femininity in advertising messages, through an in-depth, mixed-methods and mainly qualitative approach with a purposive sample of primary school girls (age 8-11).

The study evolves through three major stages: preliminary, main and follow-up.

In the preliminary stage, the use of questionnaire, group sessions and projective techniques provided standardised information about girls' life context, body image, personality, media habits and their embodiment of femininity (N=37). In the main stage, two rounds of peer-to-peer phenomenological interviews prompted by adverts elicitation were used to gain insight into girls' response and interaction with adverts (N=31 first round; N=21 second round). In the final stage 16 participants took part in follow-up interviews, for clarification and amplification of themes emerging from the analysis.

The phenomenological interviewing provides insights into girls' reception of adverts in their own terms and their own words, while the contextualisation of participants' advertising experiences is able to illuminate on contextual factors affecting girls' critical abilities towards ideals of femininity presented in advertising and other media.

Through a process of triangulation and systematic focused comparison, the analysis reveals how girls' response to idealised portrayals of femininity in adverts is deeply intertwined with their broader media consumption. The main results indicate that, even a in a fairly homogeneous group of girls – as far as social-economic background and age - there is a fundamental difference in the way different sub-groups of girls perceive and respond to representations of femininity within adverts. In particular, by grouping the girls according to their lower or higher embodiment of stereotypical femininity, the analysis suggests that girls' response to (femininity portrayals in) adverts is highly reflective of their actual or

aspirational embodiment of femininity.

The study provides a valid basis to comprehend participants' interaction and negotiation with different media's portrayals of femininity in view of their particular world and frame of reference.

POSTER 5: The Changing role of female and male archaeologists in Cyprus over the last decades.
Elena S. Prokopiou , Department of Antiquities, Cyprus

The Department of Antiquities, Ministry of Communications and Works, Cyprus, is a project co-beneficiary to the European Lifelong Learning Programme „Discovering the Archaeologists of Europe 2006-2008 and 2012-2014". An important aspect dealt with by the above project concerns issues related to gender. This paper aims to highlight such issues with regard to the role of professional archaeologists according to their gender. Considering that women represent two thirds of the professional archaeologists in Cyprus, this paper examines how the roles have changed over the last decades.

POSTER 6: Hide & Seek: The Archaeology of Childhood in the Neolithic Near East   Joanne McNicholls, University of Bradford

I am an MA student with the University of Bradford and I have been given the opportunity to present my current research aims for my dissertation. This gives me an opportunity to explore these themes with the conference attendees and perhaps gain more ideas.

The book "An archaeology of Childhood: children, gender and material culture" by Jean Eva Baxter attempts to provide a methodological approach to studying the archaeology of children. She states that children are an active component of any culture but remain largely under-investigated in archaeology. My dissertation will use Baxter's approach in interpreting evidence of burials of children and infants and associated grave goods in the Later Neolithic period of the Middle East.

Children generally represent a significant percentage of the demographic make-up of many cultures and yet there are relatively few references to childhood in the bulk of archaeological publications. 'Childhood' is often stated as being a modern western construct that bears no relation to lives in the past. So can we think about a childhood in the past or is childhood a modern luxury? All cultures however, have children that through a period of socialization and dependence become adult members of society. What can the life of a child tell us about a particular culture?

Children are often buried differently to adults, for example the "tots in pots" burials (skeletal remains buried in pottery bowls) found across many sites of this period such as the Tell el- Kerkh Cemetery in Syria. I will examine the evidence of child burials, their contexts and possible burial associations. There are also many examples of cranial modification in this period and I will ask how this may have affected childhood identity.

Many assumptions are made about past societies on a gendered basis, but this is problematic when the largest percentage of any given society is a child/infant whose gender cannot be ascertained from skeletal remains, for example 79 out of 162 aged skeletons at Tell el-Kerkh cannot be sexed. Indeed can childhood in this period be thought about in gendered terms? Gender and age are often closely related, with a gender being determined at milestones in a life cycle.