



University of Brighton

**Association for Events Management Education (AEME) Annual
Conference
with Open Road Carnival Project**

Event Principles and Practices: A level playing field?

1 & 2 July 2021
Brighton (and available online)

Call for Papers

We welcome presentations and other contributions to this conference that explore links between events principles and practices with particular reference to (although not limited to) access, belonging, participation and empowerment. The 2021 conference intends to provide a platform to further our understanding of the impacts of class, gender, ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation, religious priorities and others on the production and consumption of events, festivals, carnivals, celebrations and spectacles.

We also invite papers on wider aspects of international events, festivals and carnivals. As with previous conferences we welcome contributions from various academic disciplines and practices. We also encourage poster submissions.

Please plan for a 20-minute presentation. There will be time for questions afterwards.

General guidelines

- Submissions should be in English.
- They should contain your name/s, institutional affiliation/s, address/es, e-mail, and the title of your paper/ contribution to the conference.
- Abstract/summary of your contribution to the conference of no more than 250 words.
- Your abstract/summary of your contribution to the conference should specify the question or issue that you are addressing, the context in which it arises and has significance, an outline of the enquiry/practice itself, and the outcome.
- Please make clear the connection between your contribution to the conference and the theme of the conference.
- The completed form should be sent to M.Curtis3@brighton.ac.uk and MW146@brighton.ac.uk with AEME 2021 ABSTRACT in the subject line of the email.

The deadline for the submission of abstracts is Tuesday 6 April 2021.

AEME Annual Conference 1 & 2 July 2021, Brighton (& online)

Details of your contribution

Box will expand as you type – please list all contributors

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Abstract/your contribution to the conference (max. 250 words):

Herek (2002) states that the LGBTQI+ community travel to LGBTQI+ events, so that they can celebrate with likeminded people, free of prejudice and violence. These events create safe spaces where people can escape the realities of everyday life (Pritchard et al., 2000b). Drag events, a staple of the LGBTQI+ community, were once identified as underground, taboo and perverse events attended mainly by gay males. However, over the last decade, this art form has exploded and gained undeniable acceptance and popularity, mainly due to RuPaul (BBC, 2018). RuPaul's Drag Race (RPDR) has been a catalyst that has 'proliferated' and 'professionalised' drag culture globally (LeMaster, 2015). With drag breaking boundaries, becoming a global phenomenon and being adopted by mainstream society, there has been an increase in live drag events across the UK. This paper explores this evolving audience dynamic from the perspective of drag performers, utilising a qualitative research approach, through an online qualitative questionnaire and semi-structured interviews. The data was collected from drag artists who have performed at drag events in the UK. The findings suggest that whilst RPDR has propelled drag culture into the mainstream, it has also narrowed the public perception of what 'drag' is. Drag events are reaching new audiences, supporting the LGBTQI+ community by creating safe spaces to celebrate all things queer. Performers have varying perceptions on this changing audience and what this might mean for the future of drag artists and drag events. However, they acknowledged that this new audience is ultimately supporting the growth of drag events.

1. RuPaul's drag race has led to drag becoming mainstream and an increase in events

2. drag events reach new audiences, creating safe spaces for all things queer, supporting the LGBT community
3. the effect of the changing demographics on drag culture. The public's perception of drag has been narrowed, positive and negative impacts from a performance perspective

Implications for the future of drag.

Key words for your paper (max x5): Drag; Drag Events, LGBTQI+, drag performers, safe spaces

Please describe your contribution to the AEME 2021 conference (tick all that apply):

Please tick the most appropriate option/s.

- Research paper
- Theoretical paper
- Applied paper
- Educational paper
- Reflection on practice
- Sharing ideas and/or experience
- Practical session
- In person
- Pre-recorded
- Other, please specify: ...

Key Dates

Deadline for abstract submission: **Tuesday 6 April 2021**

Notification of acceptance: **Friday 7 May 2021**

Registration deadline: **Monday 7 June 2021**