



# Feminist Utopias & Constitutionalism

*Re-imagining feminist futures*

Workshop Zine 2024



# The Workshop



**Funded by Northern Bridge and Gender and Law at Durham, the two-day workshop was a hands-on opportunity to engage in feminist methodologies of knowledge production applied to contemporary feminist issues.**

**Using the popular 2023 Barbie film as a starting point, the event was directed towards critically engaging with what makes a feminist utopia; specifically inviting imaginings beyond and against the liberal feminist framework of the film.**

**Working together, we crafted manifestos, constitutions (and this zine!) for our hoped-for feminist future**



Page 2



Barbie, Feminist  
Utopias &  
Constitutionalism

# The Social Event



**Drawing on the childhood imagination of playing with dolls, our social event allowed each attendee to dress a (second-hand) Barbie in their image.**

**As ice-breakers these dolls were used in role-plays where attendees parodied the habitual (and often hierarchy-enforcing) practices of academic conferences.**



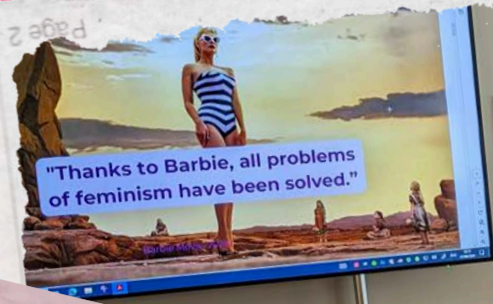
# Speakers & Facilitators

**Dr. Ruth Houghton**  
Newcastle University

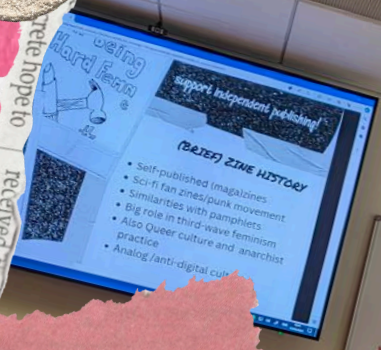
**Prof. Aoife O'Donoghue**  
Queen's University Belfast



**Dr. Katucha Bento**  
The University of Edinburgh



**Dr. Opemiposi (Ope) Adegbulu**  
The University of Edinburgh



**Joy Twemlow**  
Durham University





# Feminist Constitutions and Manifestos



**Drawing on their own research on the role of feminist manifestos in constitution-making, Dr. Houghton and Prof. O'Donoghue outlined the method of manifesto writing as a precursor to constitutional change. Participants then worked together to craft their own manifestos before reflecting on how to move from this manifesto to constitution.**

**Participants were encouraged to question the political and legal constraints of constitution-drafting in modern society, and the role of legal text and legal language in these processes.**

**After drafting the manifestos and constitutions, participants used their Barbies to act out a ceremonial process to endorse their drafted artefacts.**

**The manifestos and constitutions drafts make up the remaining pages of this zine.**



# Endorsement Ceremonies

mbw marshmallows now

October

- Everybody has the right to
- Borders do not exclude
- Everybody has the right to
- Knowledge should not be a
- The International Students ensures the share of Knowledge and represents the student community's interests

GO WITH THE FLOW

ALL NATIONS shall be FREE!

Global citizenship

STUDENT

offer concrete hope to

received their shots longer, those who tested

we found that vaccinated n

International Students queer presentism

and kinship

Communities, whether in real life, digital spaces or

Borderless, global, queer community

NOT THOMAS

Wc, the GIRLS, the GAYS & the THEYS

Along with OUR COMMUNITIES in which we are FREE to Feel Joy

- Using our AGENCY for SELF-EXPRESSION, EXPLORATION & TERMINATION.
- Herby DESTROY the CIS-TEM, EXPLOITMIVE BINARIES & PATRIARCHY
- And DECLARE the RIGHT to GOOD SEX & GOOD VIBES





Go wild



International Students

queer presentism



VISAS are exclusionary, create boundaries and hierarchies.

Communities, whether in real life, digital spaces or elsewhere, are beautiful

borderless, global, queer community





*leftist*  
The right stuff



The international

THE BASICS

marshmallows. (students)

now

Beyond Borders

Funded PhDs

New grants

Support for early-career

Constitution

- Every body has the right to freely move.
- Borders do not exclude. **FREE**
- Everybody has the right to education.
- Knowledge should not be commodified.
- The International Students Assembly ensures the share of knowledge and represents the student community's interests



THE COLLAPSE



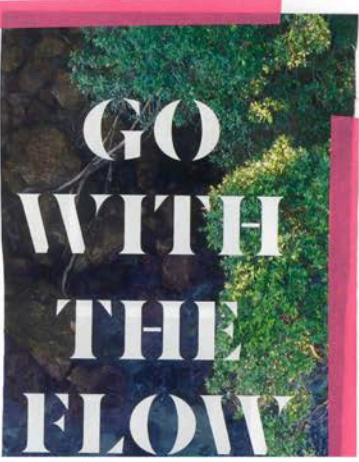
Global visionaries



ALL NATIONS shall be FREE!



Cross-generational creativity



WE: the girls, the gays, & the  
they's

Queer ♥



Self-expression,  
exploration & determination



friends in sweaty clubs,

FUCK THE CIS-TEM



BINARY

PATRIARCHY

L<sub>1</sub>

O<sub>1</sub>

V<sub>4</sub>

E<sub>1</sub>

congregating with the  
people / places that bring you  
joy and allow you to be your-  
self w/o fear / limitation

sex

GOod

VobE [s]

We, the GIRLS, the GAYS & the THEYS  
- Along with OUR COMMUNITIES  
in which we are FREE to FEEL  
\* JOY \*



- Using our AGENCY for SELF-  
EXPRESSION, EXPLORATION &  
DETERMINATION



- Hereby DESTROY the CIS-TEM,  
EXPLOITATIVE BINARIES & the  
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- And DECLARE the RIGHT to  
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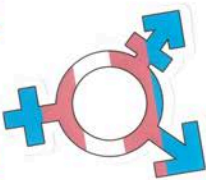


Great balls

# Earthlings



# 1312



ONE DAY, Earthlings will express themselves, using their agency unburdened by exploitative binaries and dance to the queer techno beat with joy.

# Agency / Expression

limited ideal of "appropriate" professional / "exploitative" → binary, west-centric, sexist



# QUEER TECHNO CULTURE !!



# We, the Earthlings,

for dismantling structural systems of oppression and capitalist structures

Chardonnay

# EAT

# DRINK



for everyone to be FREE



for ourselves & other living beings



for a respectful use of nature

EAT, DRINK,  
Eco-Friendly

the highest form of health & well-being

We care for the common good & the State cares for us!



Constituent power: diverse council of  
Community: queer ravers earthenings  
Change: remove criminal laws / social  
practices that target groups that  
are perceived as threatening the  
hegemony

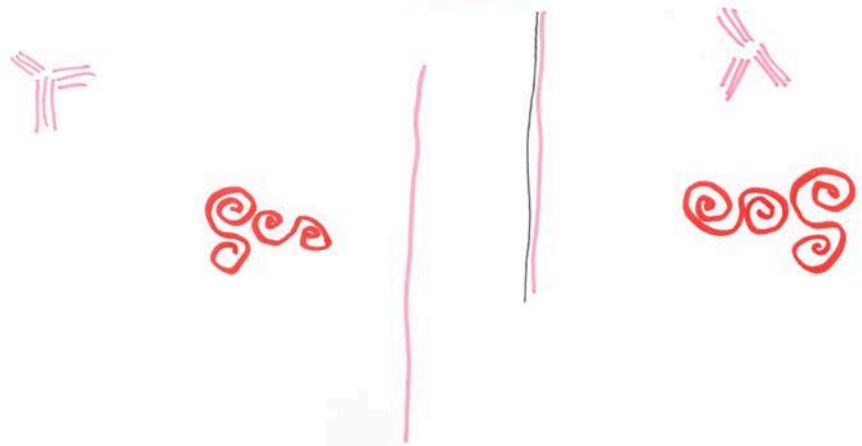
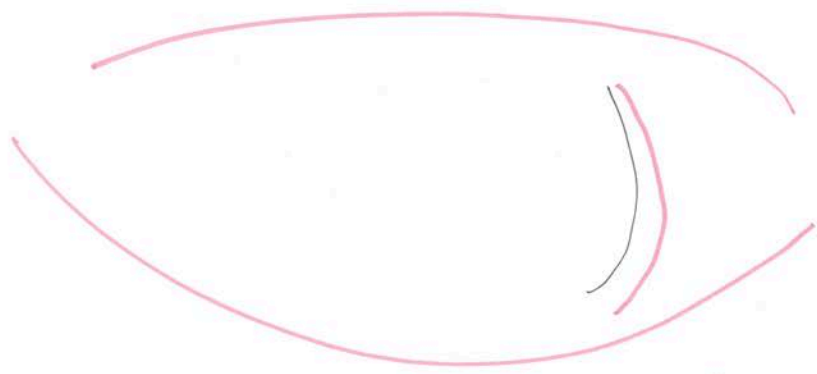
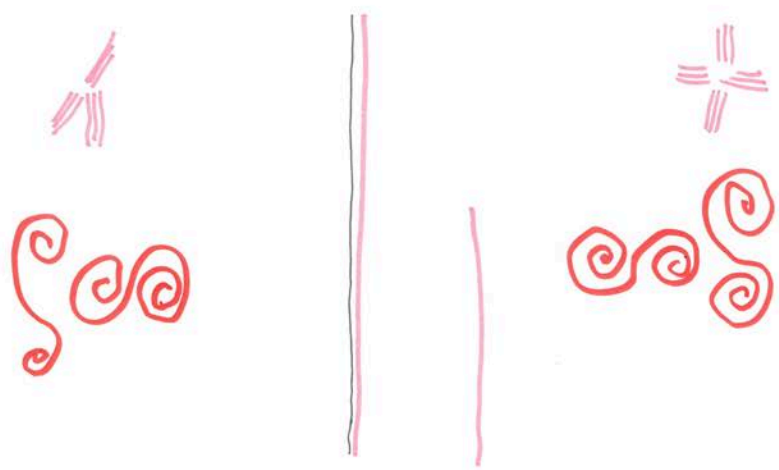
Public/private divide: disrupt divide &  
focus on community / communal shared  
space

Rights: Kinship, self-determination, expres  
→



Simon, right to rave, not disrupt, right to  
leisure of consensual pleasure, right to be  
kind & safe in vulnerability, freedom of  
expression







# *Workshop Organisers*

**Anurag Deb**

Queen's University Belfast

**Belén Mattos-Castaneda**

Durham University

**Bethany McShepherd**

Newcastle University

**Daniela Suarez Vargas**

Queen's University Belfast

**Joy Twemlow**

Durham University

