

Call for papers for a half-day workshop on 'Trans studies at a crossroad: decolonisation, anti-gender politics and the future'

In celebration of the trans people in politics from the Global South report launch

Hosted at the School of the Social and Political Sciences, University of Glasgow, in collaboration with Glasgow Lab for Intersex, Non-binary and Trans Studies (GLINTS).

Over the years, trans activism and scholarship from the Global South have criticised the dominance of Western, white trans studies frameworks, which do not quite capture the diversity of how trans communities across the world negotiate with questions of identities and embodiments. Largely understood through the lens of decolonising trans studies, such interventions point to the limits to binary gender frameworks, the continuing implications of coloniality on our understanding of trans identities and the examination of the contemporary post-colonial landscape that witnesses some forms of trans recognition and inclusion, at the expense of others.

The recent years have also witnessed the mainstreaming of decoloniality as a framework, with concerns raised around the flattening of non-Western trans lives into a monolith, inadequate addressal of power differentials within trans communities in the Global South, (re) consolidation of cis-hetero patriarchal norms through an uncritical embrace of tradition. In the current context, with the rise of authoritarianism and gender conservatism across the world over, it is all the more pertinent for decolonial perspectives on trans lives to grapple with interlocking systems of oppression and how they differently shape liveability in the context of trans lives in the Global South, even as we continue to be critical of the unilateral imposition of Western trans studies frameworks.

In continuing these lines of inquiry, we welcome submissions for papers on topics including, but not limited to:

- Intersectional perspectives on trans lives in the Global South
- Trans visibility, representation, and community development in the Global South
- Trans kinship, friendship and care networks in the Global South
- Trans immigrants from the Global South
- Anti-trans politics in the Global South
- Trans history and archives from the Global South
- Critical trans perspective on nationalism and authoritarianism in the Global South
- Trans futures in the Global South
- Trans people from the Global South as knowledge producers (e.g., life-writing, performance by trans people)
- Decolonial trans studies perspectives on epistemology and methodology

- Knowledge exchange between trans studies and other academic fields (e.g., intersex studies, anti-caste studies, race studies, disability studies, class studies)

The deadline for abstract submission is 3rd May 2026. The abstract should be under 300 words, with a brief author bio. Kindly send your submissions to the xuqing.feng@glasgow.ac.uk, with the subject title '**trans studies at a crossroads-2026.**' Decisions will be communicated by mid-May. Limited funding may be available on a competitive basis to support travel within the UK. If you have any queries, please reach out to xuqing.feng@glasgow.ac.uk or inbox.rhea@gmail.com.

The conference will be organised (in the morning) on the occasion of the **launch of the Global Report on Trans People in Politics in the Global South** (in the afternoon) on 18th June 2026. We encourage your participation in the launch. Please reach out to us for the sign-up link if you are interested.