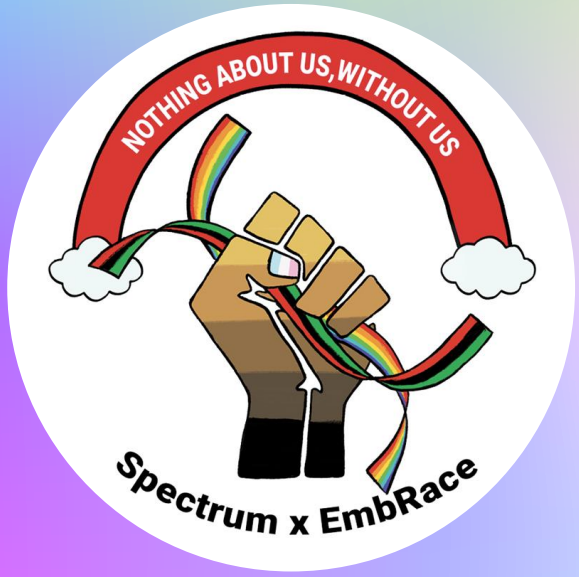
LSE THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE



NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US

Ethnic Minority and LGBTQIA+ Voices Out Loud and Proud

SPECTRUM EMBRACE CO-CONFERENCE

Wednesday 4 June 2025

Designed by Andrew Crane

Spectrum

Spectrum was founded in May 2008 by three staff members (Sarah Bailey, Chris Connelly, and Gillian Urquhart) and is LSE's officially recognised LGBTQIA+ staff network. Spectrum builds on LSE's rich legacy of LGBTQIA+ activism – including the founding of the UK Gay Liberation Front on campus in 1970 and the preservation of one of Britain's largest LGBTQ+ archives in the LSE Library.

Spectrum's mission is anchored in three enduring aims: **representation, education, and social support**. As a representative voice in policy discussions, Spectrum ensures LGBTQIA+ staff are represented throughout School-wide decision-making and formal consultations. In addition to ensuring representation, Spectrum fosters a vibrant, supportive, and inclusive community for LGBTQIA+ staff by offering regular social events and networking opportunities.

Run by a dedicated volunteer committee of LGBTQIA+ staff, Spectrum plays a central role in shaping LSE's inclusion initiatives. From coordinating participation in London Pride (and proudly continued every year since) and Trans+ Pride March to organising Pride Month activities and wider events, the committee ensures that LGBTQIA+ voices are heard and celebrated throughout the year.

Spectrum is more than a staff network; it's a vital, visible part of LSE's community. Through advocacy, education, and connection, it continues to **shape a more inclusive future for everyone at LSE.**

EmbRace is LSE's staff network for Ethnic minority staff. Established in 2010 by Daniel Beckley, EmbRace works to challenge structural inequalities, promote racial equity, and foster a supportive environment where ethnic minority staff can thrive both personally and professionally.

Our mission is grounded in three core pillars: r**epresentation, development and cultural awareness**. We advocate for ethnic minority staff across LSE, working together with senior leadership and key decision-makers to influence policies and strategies such as the Race Equity Action Plan and ensure that racial equity remains a strategic and institutional priority. We recognise that race does not exist in isolation, but intersects with other identities such as gender, sexuality and disability. By acknowledging this, we strive to build an inclusive culture where everyone's experiences are respected and valued.

Through initiatives like the **FAIR Recruitment Advisor** programme, we collaborate with the school, which provides training for staff volunteers to serve on recruitment panels and help ensure fairness, transparency and inclusion at every stage of hiring. Our **EMpower** mentoring scheme supports the professional development of ethnic minority by building confidence, leadership, and community. We also celebrate cultural heritage and identity through events, awareness campaigns, and collaborations with other staff networks – fostering collective action across LSE.

Led by a committee of staff volunteers, EmbRace is more than a staff network – it is a catalyst for meaningful change. We are proud to contribute to shaping a future where everyone at LSE feels seen, heard and valued. **Change belongs to all of us.**

EmbRace

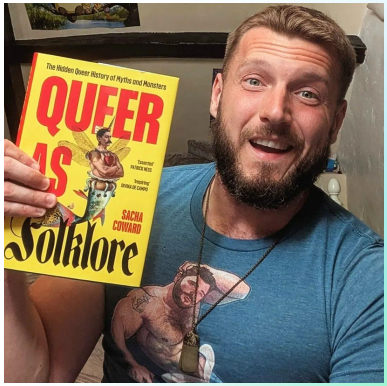
Agenda

- 9 - 10
  Registration, teas, coffee and a light breakfast
- 10 - 10:15
  Opening speeches and welcome
- 10:15 - 11:15
  Panel 1: Historical belongings and unbelongings with Sacha Coward, Dr Anna Sulan Masing and Kay O'Neill (chair)
- 11:15 - 11:30
  Tea, coffee, and a book sale!
- 11:30 - 12:30
  Panel 2: Activism and organising: where are we now? with Joselene Peres, Anne Onuswuri, Manny Valery, and Professor Bryan Roberts (chair)
- 12:30 - 13:15
  Lunch
- 13:30 - 14:45
  Panel 3: Lego play workshop: Building solidarities for utopian futures with Whitney Williams and Zaynab Gibbs (facilitators)
- 14:45 - 16:00
  Keynote speech and reflections with Dr Shola Mos-Shogbamimu and Professor Hakan Seckinelgin (chair)
- 16:00 - 18:00
  Post-conference social and intersectional drag show with Shivani Dave, at George IV pub 1st floor

Welcome

Sacha Coward

he/him



Sacha Coward has worked in museums and heritage for over 10 years. For the past three years, he has been freelancing as an historian, public speaker, tour guide and researcher. He has run LGBTQ+ focused tours for museums, cemeteries, archives, and cities around the world. Sacha is passionate about queer history, mythology, folklore and storytelling in all their many forms. *Queer As Folklore* is his first book and Sunday Times bestseller. Sacha will speak at the panel about historical belongings and unbelongings which will be followed by an opportunity to buy *Queer as Folklore* and to have it personally signed during the coffee break.

Instagram: @sachacoward

Dr Anna Sulan Masing

she/her



Dr Anna Sulan Masing is an academic, poet and journalist. She co-founded SOURCED, a public research platform that explores our global food and drink systems; and is co-founder and editor-in-chief of Cheese magazine. Her debut book, *Chinese And Any Other Asian*, was published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson in February 2025. Her work has been shortlisted at the Guild of Food Writers and Fortnum & Mason Food Awards. She has spoken at various symposiums around the world on the topic of drinks, sustainability, heritage, gender and identity. Her doctorate investigated storytelling practices of the Iban, a South East Asian indigenous people of which Anna Sulan is part of. Her PhD looked at how those practices migrated, and how identity changes when space and location changes.

Instagram: @annasulan

Panel 1

Joselene Peres

she/they



Donate to UK Black Pride here!

Joselene Peres is an experienced EDI specialist and a passionate social justice advocate with a rich background in higher education, social housing, media, and community leadership. Born under apartheid South Africa, Jo's lifelong commitment to equity and LGBTQ+ rights spans over two decades of impactful work. They lead inclusive strategies, serve as a Board of trustees for UK Black Pride and the Kaleidoscope Trust, and amplify marginalised voices through storytelling — most notably via their pandemic-era podcast and as Associate Producer of 1946: The Mistranslation that Shifted Culture.

Instagram: @ukblackpride @kaleidoscope_t @1946themovie

Anne Onuswuri

they/them



Anne Onwusiri is a committed and passionate advocate for diversity and inclusivity. They founded 'Black Girls Ruck', a community network and initiative aimed at increasing the involvement of Black women and non binary people in rugby and addressing issues of racial and gender equity in sports. Alongside their work with Black Girls Ruck, Anne is a key figure at Stonewall, where they play a crucial role in advancing LGBTQ+ rights, notably through initiatives like the Young Leaders Programme, empowering young LGBTQ+ individuals to become future advocates and leaders in the community. Anne Onwusiri's multifaceted efforts reflect a deep commitment to creating inclusive spaces where everyone can thrive. Through their leadership and vision, they continue to focus on driving meaningful change in the realm of social justice.

Instagram: @blackgirlsruck

Panel 2

Manny Valery

he/him



Manny Valery has 10+ years of leading Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion initiatives across academia and the private sector. Manny is an LSE alumnus, having obtained an MSc in Information Systems and Digital Innovation 2023, where he researched improving governance in big tech and AI incidents. In tandem, Manny was a member of LSE's LGBTQ+ Steering Committee and was President of the LGBTQ+ Society for 200 members, which received the gold award for active engagement from LSESU. Prior to LSE, Manny was a technology consultant at IBM based in USA, and worked with local IBM executives to lead various EDI initiatives, including the first local Diversity Summit. Manny is a first-generation Caribbean-American (Jamaican and Haitian) from Brooklyn, NY.

Building solidarities for utopian futures

Lego has been the chosen toy for children for generations but we think that Lego is ageless. In this workshop, we will be engaging in out-of-the-(Lego)-box thinking and asking you to build structures that represent your thoughts and ideas about how we can build solidarities for utopian futures. The word utopia was coined in 1516 from Ancient Greek by Sir Thomas More for his Latin text *Utopia*. It literally translates to 'no place' and originally meant any non-existent society. Over time utopia has more commonly come to be understood as an **imagined place or society where everything is perfect or considerably better than society as it currently is.**

Meet your facilitators:

Lego play workshop



Whitney Williams (she/her) supports the financial and administrative operations of LSE's Extended Education department, home to the School's Summer School and Global Programmes. She has a background spanning higher education, non-profits, and hospitality, and enjoys creating inclusive, feel-good spaces through events, communications, and cultural programming. In a utopia, this would look like creating spaces that embrace uniqueness and all of the ways our lives can be enriched by staying open to the perspectives of others.



Zaynab Gibbs (she/her) joined LSE in February this year as a Programme Coordinator in the Department of Management. Zaynab is also a member of Spectrum. Zaynab loves Lego for its endless building possibilities and its non-prescriptiveness which encourages tapping into individual creativity. Professionally from an arts education and arts admin background, creativity and imagination are two things Zaynab is certain should be central to any dream world or utopia.

Dr Shola Mos-Shogbamimu

she/her



Keynote speech

Dr Shola Mos-Shogbamimu is a British born and Nigerian political and women's rights activist, taught intersectional feminism to female refugees and asylum seekers; scrutinizes government policies from a gender and diversity inclusion perspective; and co-organises women's marches and social campaigns. She is also a New York Attorney and Solicitor of England and Wales with broad expertise in the financial services industry, writer, public speaker and political commentator featured in mainstream and online media. She founded the Women in Leadership publication as a platform to drive positive change on topical issues that impact women globally through inspiring personal leadership journeys; and established She@LawTalks to promote women and BAME leadership in the legal profession through universities and secondary schools. An academic enthusiast, she has an Executive MBA (Cambridge); PhD (Birkbeck); LLM (London School of Economics and Political Science); MA (Westminster) and LLB Hons (Buckingham University).

Instagram: @sholamos1

Shivani Dave

they/them



Intersectional drag show

Shiv is dynamic drag king mixing politics and humour, bending gender and perception they have a number of alias's they have performed under — including Dishi Sumac and Chai La-They. Whether they are sticking it to 'The Man' or using drag to highlight the inequality people from multiple marginalised backgrounds experience, their work is rooted in a foundation of entertainment and education. Outside of drag, Shiv's work focuses on challenging institutional structures of oppression and community building. Expect camp/ butch realness and for them to flirt with you, yes… *you*.

Instagram: @shiviscamp

Thank you

A massive thank you to everyone involved in the planning and delivery of the conference. In particular we would like to thank:

Alex Wright
Andrew Crane
Anne Onuswuri
Professor Bryan Roberts
Dr Anna Sulan Masing
Professor Hakan Seckinelgin
Dr Shola Mos-Shogbamimu
Jennifer Ho
Joselene Peres
Joss Harrison
Kay O'Neill
LSE Catering
LSE Design Unit team
LSE EDI team
LSE Estates team
LSE Security team
Manny Valery
Nermin Abdulla
Sacha Coward
Shivani Dave
Whitney Williams
Yvonne Olusoga
Zaynab Gibbs

Join Spectrum:

Join EmbRace:

Seriously Join us