

B Camminga Report

This was my first time attending ALMS but after applying and being accepted I was very pleased to see the active representation of people from the Global South. I was also particularly happy to see that the Gay and Lesbian Memory in Action Archives (GALA) had a stall and two papers at the conference. In all, I enjoyed the interactions I got to have with fellow participants and the openness to questions and critique generally. Much of the engagements I had were challenging and thought-provoking. I will say though that, as with most of these conferences, there continues to be an element or contingent of cis white men who deem it consistently necessary to tell those who aren't cis white men how we can do better, be more theoretical or "look queerer". This is not the fault of the conference but to say it happens and happened, although perhaps less so than other conferences. I really appreciated the hands-on sessions with smaller engagements and more personal interactions, especially the arts-based global tables. I especially enjoyed the willingness of some archives to talk about their methods and openness to exchange around ideas, resources and public access. I think these are critical questions facing newer trans archives globally, and the openness of older archives to conversation, advice and support was wonderful to see. Especially given the current political climate regarding trans rights and politics. Can I also just say, a massive thank you for servicing only veggie food. For those of us who get lunch anxiety because the veggie food always runs out, this was such a welcome gesture. I very much look forward to attending the next ALMS.