

Eleanor Armstrong

Queering memory came at a great time for in my research – it gave me a break from the data collection I was doing in London, it introduced me to a whole new range of researchers and texts that I could use in my piece, and it brought me back together with some fantastic queer museum colleagues I already have.

I have three particular highlights of the conference I would like to highlight. Firstly, I chaired a session on the Thursday of the conference, which was great. I think that chairing is a very important role, and I took great care to provide the best experience possible for my panellists, giving them questions on their work rather than people rambling about their own thoughts. I was told by a number of participants at the conference afterwards that they had really enjoyed my chairing, so I'm pleased I got this professional experience.

Secondly, I got to (re)meet a number of fantastic colleagues from across Europe – Chris at the Schwules Museum who will be talking at the tours I give at the V&A later in July; Veronica who leads and archive I've followed online in London; Sean who I was running a pub quiz for at a museum in London but hadn't met before; Sophie who I'll be organising a workshop with in Vienna in 2020, and Claire who was over from Australia for the summer, as they had been in 2019. I also got to meet other PhD students who work in similar areas to mine and hear about their struggles, and we have decided to form a small network which will be supportive and incredibly helpful to us all going forward. Meeting researchers in the Twinning Cities events was also a space for reflection on collaboration, and afterwards I had wonderful conversations with researchers from Mexico, Argentina, Istanbul and Beijing over the coffee break.

Finally, my talk was a good space for exploring some ideas I'm working through for my PhD at the moment. I was able to attempt to synthesise some ideas, showing a link between who is in STEM, how we show them in museums, and what this suggests about the future. While it wasn't perfect, I feel the presentation amongst other Queer researchers gave me space to explore as I might not have been able to elsewhere.

Thank you so much for having me it was a great conference!

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