

Personal account of the participation at the **Queering Memory ALMS Conference Berlin 2019**
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The Queering Memory ALMS conference in Berlin offered an overwhelming menu of the most relevant and contemporary queer ALMS topics, speakers and opportunities, that covered an impressive spectrum of approaches, communities and issues.

Excellent organization and spirit of cooperation orchestrated by the Magnus Hirschfeld Gesellschaft and partners, created the space of inclusiveness and enthusiasm enjoyed by the organizers, participants and supporters alike, and the excitement was palpable in the air and inspiring throughout the conference.

The city of Berlin, as well as the venues [Schwules Museum Berlin](#) for the opening reception and initial tours, and [Haus der Kulturen der Welt](#) for the rest of the conferences, provided warmly hospitable, pleasant and efficient venues for the conference.

The open and welcoming atmosphere of discussion, as well as the focused dedication to queering memory work welcomed the audience's many commendations, as well as one particular concern that the black communities and some world regions were underrepresented despite the commendable effort by the organizers and sponsors.

Throughout the conference it was clear that with up to six parallel sessions at any one time, there will be some frustration due to missing a multitude of relevant and intriguing presentations and topics. Despite such impossible choices, one could often hear the colleagues in between the sessions retelling each other the contents and impressions from the other session, and this has proven to be a good conversation ice breaker.

The author visited the following sessions: Digital praxis #1 Public/private partnership & queer ownership, Migration and diaspora, Collective activist archives in motion, Archival geographies: documenting queer lives within/beyond cities, Café Global chaired by Hannes Hacke, Archives of the moving image, Queer archives as centres of visibility, Queering political memory: antifascism, liberalism & the left in queer archives, film Sao Paulo in Hi-Fi, and the closing event. In between the sessions, and in the evenings, there were many talks and discussions on the conference margins, as well as discussions about the possible cooperation and exchanges.

It is difficult to note which of the sessions was more interesting or relevant. Possibly the strongest impression remained after the Café Global chaired by Hannes Hacke due to the more personal interaction with the presenters on the topics which felt very relevant and immediate, and were commonly superbly presented by the passionate presenters. The other very inspiring session was about the Archival geographies: documenting queer lives within/beyond cities.

The good feel and success of the conference in Berlin, as well as its seamless flow, encouraged a few of the participating organization to respond to the call by the organizers to put forth the candidatures to organize the next ALMS conference in 2022.

The commendations, concerns and general suggestions voiced by participants would become a part of the vademecum for the organizers of the next LAMS conference. They will have to face a particularly challenging task to match or surpass the high standard of the Berlin's take on queering memory.