

Report Tonči Batalic

Working on queer an/archives in a small town in a frame of a small art/activist NGO, queerANarchive, is quite often a solitary work. The opportunity to meet people from all over the world in one space and get to know about all the different initiatives that they presented was a really empowering experience.

Both at presentations and public discussions, as at occasions of informal and more personal chats, the conference was a place where queer memory and queer archives were thought about and discussed from a variety of positions and backgrounds, from grassroots activist initiatives to academia and public institutions. The variety of presenters and their backgrounds contributed to a variety of experiences and knowledge shared, stressing the importance of openness and inclusivity that can always be extended and done better.

The art/work I did so far, coming from a personal perspective, mostly concerned gay histories in local context. On the one hand the conference was an opportunity to put it in a much wider context, but also to think of how to connect my art/research to other invisible and erased histories, to question the visibility and accessibility of queer archives and to further think of relations of archives and the potential of archival practices.

All together the conference was much needed event, very inspirational and I would say it should happen every year.