



ALMS Berlin 2019 Feedback

I had a wonderful time in Berlin at the LGBTQ ALMS Queering Memory conference. It was interesting to meet people from all over the world including representatives of Somali, French, Russian, South African and Hungarian LGBTQ+ people amongst many others. The intergenerational range of speakers and attendees fostered learning, the sharing of information and working practices. It was an honour to present my paper 'Whose Beloved Community' as part of the 'VIDEO AS A METHOD OF ARCHIVAL SELF-DOCUMENTATION' panel. The responses from the attendees demonstrated a willingness to understand and support the need to diversify archives, by supporting black queer and women's archives generally.

The workshops I attended included 'BLACK QUEER ARTS AS ARCHIVE, LOST & SALVAGED ARCHIVES AND LETTERS: Disasters, Discoveries & Rescues', 'ERASURE AND INCLUSIVITY PRACTICE' and the 'CAFÉ GLOBAL discussions'. The mix of academics, performers, community activists and people working in archives, museums, libraries and special collections made for vibrant and inspiring conversations. Many connections were made and I look forward to the results of these collaborations in the future. A key recognition was that more support is needed for those working and living in oppressive and hostile environments, where LGBTQ+ rights are not supported. I'm sure everyone went away with more ideas. I know I did!

The diversity in the range of visual entertainment was very welcome. I saw some wonderfully thought provoking documentaries including 'LAM' by Bao-Chau Nguyen and 'AFTERIMAGES' by Karol Radziszewski. Rose Collis's 'MUSIC & STORYTELLING PERFORMANCE' was a breath taking personal memoir, reminding us of the powerful personal stories behind archives. She even had us singing along!

I felt really looked after by the hardworking staff. The venue was beautiful and it was a joy to sit in the sun sharing mealtimes with everyone. I met many dedicated and brave people working to unearth, capture and preserve archives and our stories, so just want to say thank you to the LGBTQ Archives, Libraries, Museums and Special Collections Queering Memory team for a fabulous three days.

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