



LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX IN YA

**Young Adult Literature
Conference**

3 - 7 May, 2021

Online



**UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Welcome everyone to the Let's Talk about Sex in YA conference!

The programme below details the times of our Keynote speakers, the Roundtable Q&A sessions, our Guest Lectures, and our Social Events. We have tried to cover a wide range of times, also to consider the different time zones, and planned plenty of breaks so we don't get 'over-zoomed'! Please note that all times shown are BST.

Conference updates can be found on our website,
<https://www.letstalkaboutsexinya.co.uk/>

You can also follow us on Twitter [@LTASYAconf](https://twitter.com/LTASYAconf) where we're using #YASexy to talk about the conference.

Cheeky emojis are also accepted!



NOW FOR THE SERIOUS BIT ...

Please be aware that we use **trigger and content warnings** across the whole conference. This is an incredibly sensitive topic that needs to be handled with care and kindness. We have a number of panels that are specifically focussed on violent and traumatic topics, but we also have papers that address very delicate issues, spread throughout the conference. Therefore, we ask that you remain aware and please take time to step away from any content that feels particularly triggering or overwhelming for you.

Please be professional, respectful, and empathetic in the way you communicate with others, and refrain from using discriminatory or abusive language - doing so will result in immediate and permanent removal from a live event and a ban on attending the rest of the conference (this includes access to pre-recorded talks). You can find our code of conduct [here](#)



DAY 1 – MAY 3

9.45 – 10.00 Welcome

10.00 – 11.00 Keynote Speaker: Professor Kim Reynolds

The Literary Sweet Spot: Sex in US and UK YA Fiction, 1975-1995

14.00 – 15.00 Roundtable 1: Disability

This panel considers representation; attitudinal barriers;
stereotypes; ableism; activism

Speakers: Audrey Coussy; Amy Ryder

Chair: Elizabeth Leung, IT: Jodie Coates

19.00 – 20.00 Roundtable 2: Fantasy

This panel considers fantasy literature; science fiction;
gender; sexual desire

Speakers: Corinne Matthews; Leah Phillips; Stephanie Lyttle;

Luca Sarti; Carrie Spencer

Chair: Madeleine Hunter, IT: Nic Hilton





DAY 2 - MAY 4

09.00 - 10.00 Roundtable 3: The Politics of sex

This panel considers taboo; censorship; control; power

Speakers: Emma O'Brien; Ritwika Roy; Reham Almutairi;

Hiroe Suzuki; Agnieszka Kocznur

Chair: Stella Pryce, IT: Lisa Kazianka

16.00 - 17.00 Roundtable 4: Non-fiction, pedagogy and librarianship

This panel considers reading YA; readership; sex education;

informational books; writing sex in YA

Speakers: Dalila Forni; Kenneth Kidd; Sylvia Hehir; Victoria

Bovalino; Åse Marie Ommundsen

Chair: Meghanne Flynn, IT: Gabriel Duckels

19.00 - 20.00 - Guest Workshop: Dr Leah Philips and Dr Melanie Ramdarshan Bold

Meet/Cute: Build-A-Character - Sexy Edition with Adolescent Identities

21.00 - 22.00 Roundtable 5: Queer 1

This panel considers representation; sexualities; queerness;

LGBTQ+ identities; intimacy

Speakers: Taylor Allgeier-Follett; Charles Worrall; Kristie Escob

Emma Reay; Erica Gillingham

Chair: Odhran O'Donoghue, IT: Gabriel Duckels





DAY 3 – MAY 5

09.00 - 10.00 Roundtable 6: Cognitive Approaches

This panel considers cognitive narratology; sexual cognition;
being; memory; cognitive theory

Speakers: Vera Veldhuizen; Karen Coats; Jane O'Hanlon;
Kathleen Moran

Chair: Patricia Kennon, IT: Nic Hilton

13.00 - 14.00 Roundtable 7: Rape culture and consent

This panel considers rape; sexual assault; representation of rape;
media representations; consent; control

Speakers: Jennifer Mooney; Elizabeth Little; Ann Alston

Chair: Carla Plieth, IT: Lisa Kazianka

18.00 - 19.00 Guest Lecture: Stacy Collins and Dr Yolanda Hood

Librarians in Conversation





DAY 4 – MAY 6

11.00 - 12.00 Roundtable 8: Queer 2

This panel considers LGBTQ+; sexualities; queerness; queer theory

Speakers: Odhan O'Donoghue; Mark McBeth; Sarah Mokrzycki;
Jenna Spiering; Kate Kedley

Chair: Gabriel Duckels, IT: Madeleine Hunter

15.00 - 16.00 Roundtable 9: Abuse

This panel considers sexual assault; power; control; trauma;
representations of abuse; sexual violence

Speakers: Sarah Minslow; Stefanie Jakobi; Amy Naylor;
Carla Plieth; Aline Ferreira

Chair: Jodie Coates, IT: Lisa Kazianka

19.00 - 20.00 Social Event: Murder Mystery with Emma Reay and Nic Hilton





DAY 5 – MAY 7

08.00 – 09.00 Roundtable 10: Desire

This panel considers love; attraction; romance; desirability

Speakers: Yolanda Hood; Jordan Rawlings; Alison Waller;

Meghanne Flynn; Guilherme Magri

Chair: Ritwika Roy, IT: Lisa Kazianka

13.00 – 14.00 Roundtable 11: Female sexuality and sexual agency

This panel considers power; feminism; agency; representation; periods

Speakers: Andrea Davidson; Dawn Sardella-Ayres;

Tita Kyrtsakas; Jennifer Smith; Annika Herb

Chair: Sarah Hardstaff, IT: Nic Hilton

16.00 – 17.00 Keynote Speaker: Dr Lydia Kokkola

Desiring Bodies: Reading the Adolescent Body





A LITTLE EXTRA TREAT

Saturday 8 May

10.00 - 11.00 Guest Lecture: Dr Lisa Chu Shen

Femininity and Masculinity in Contemporary Chinese Children's
Literature

Tuesday 11 May

16.00 - 17.00 Author Talk: Abdi Nazemian

Abdi Nazemian is an Iranian-American author, screenwriter, and producer. His literary works include *The Authentics* (2017) and *Like a Love Story* (2019). He has worked on several film and TV projects including *Call Me By Your Name*, *The Quiet*, and *The Artists Name*.





THE BIG FINISH

We would like to thank everyone taking part in this conference and making this such an exciting event! It has been a particularly difficult year for us all and we are so pleased that you stuck with us for so long after our in-person conference had to be postponed and eventually moved online – a big thank you for your patience and enthusiasm!

We also want to say that our work here is not done – this conference is just the beginning of what we hope will continue to be a really exciting and progressive discussion about sex in YA. There are so many areas we still need to consider and others that need to be taken even further. We hope that in holding this conference and by continuing to provide a community to discuss these topics we can promote and facilitate real change in how sex in YA is addressed and how it is handled pedagogically. We hope you will continue along with us.

We also welcome any feedback, which you can send via e-mail to letstalkaboutsexinya@gmail.com!

#YASexy!

