ATHE’s LGBTQ Focus Group invites session proposals for ATHE 2018, which will convene in Boston, MA. The conference theme, “Theatres of Revolution: Performance, Pedagogy, and Protest,” refers to Boston as the backdrop of the American Revolution.

200 years after the American Revolution, a group of Bostonians founded Gay Community News, a publication that highlighted activist efforts across the United States and helped produce the sense of a national gay and lesbian movement. The LGBTQ Focus Group is interested in how performance has helped imagine LGBTQ publics in US and transnational contexts. What is the relationship of LGBTQ performance to social change? Is queer world-making a kind of revolution? What kinds of revolutions do LGBTQ theater and performance imagine?

Queering the conference theme, the LGBTQ Focus Group also invites sessions that consider what it means to be revolting—that is, disgusting, abhorrent, offensive, unattractive. How have queer bodies been imagined as revolting? How might causing others to be revolted be a revolution?

Possible topics include but are not limited to: • LGBTQ protest and/as performance • Sexuality, gender, and the culture wars
• Queerness and/as abjection
• Sexual revolutions past and present
• Performances of hetero- and homonationalism
• Theatre intended to revolt/offend
• Performances of outrage/outrageous performance
• Ugliness and the grotesque in performance
• LGBTQ protest and pedagogy
• LGBTQ pedagogy/mentorship as revolutionary and/or revolting

The LGBTQ Focus Group is especially interested in sessions that attend to the ways in which gender, race, class, and ability intersect with sexuality. Sessions may focus on theory and criticism, pedagogy, or praxis, or may stage a dialogue between people working across these areas.

The LGBTQ Focus Group encourages session organizers to include people from different institutions and at different stages of their careers in their session proposals.

How to submit a Proposal:
• Completed session proposals are to be submitted through the ATHE webpage (www.athe.org) by . Please fill in all required fields on the submission form, as incomplete proposals will not be accepted. ATHE will be making a concerted effort across the conference this year to use less audio-visual support. If you still intend on requesting audio-visual support, please make this request on the proposal form. Please note that proposing a panel does not guarantee acceptance to the conference, as the ATHE conference committee ultimately determines how many conference sessions the LGBTQ Focus Group will have.

• If you have an idea for a session and would like to
recruit additional participants, I encourage you to share your idea with me via email at lisa.a.sloan@gmail.com no later than . I will distribute your session ideas to the LGBTQ Focus Group membership and beyond to recruit additional participants. Of course, you are also welcome to circulate your ideas through the ATHE webpage (http://www.athe.org/ members/group.aspx?id=130353) and/or the LGBTQ Focus Group’s facebook page (https://).

• If you plan on coordinating a multidisciplinary session (a session that is proposed across multiple focus groups), please reach out to me at lisa.a.sloan@gmail.com no later than . Multidisciplinary sessions must be sponsored by two focus groups, so please be sure to be in touch with the other focus group you would like to work with, too.

• As you consider which sessions you would like to be a part of, please note that individuals are not to attach themselves to more than two proposals, as ATHE limits participation to two panels within the conference. I hope you will join us in Boston for ATHE 2018!

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