

# STEM, LGBTQ & YOU 2026

Friday 27st February – 09:30–17:00

## 9:30 – Sign in opens

10:00 – Welcome to STEM, LGBTQ & You 2026 – Avery Cunningham (Chair) & Rebekah Roebuck (Vice Chair)

10:15 – ThermoFisher Scientific Introduction – Alex Mao-Cook

10:30 – Namkeen Peshawri – Talk: STEM, Inclusion, and Trans Visibility

10:30 – Dr. Dominic Galliano – Workshop: Bring ALL of You into Your Talks

11:00 – Dr. Evan Wroe – Talk: Many Hands: Co-creating Queer Science through a community zine

## 11:30 – Break

11:45 – Dr. Evan Wroe – Workshop: A thousand queer science zines!

12:00 – Rue Ball – Talk: Doing science for the LGBTQ community

12:30 – Keynote Speaker: Pogy Murray Whitham – Talk: Engineering Equity: The Power of Inclusion Moments

## 13:30 – Lunch Break

14:30 – Michael Armstrong – Talk: Monitoring the Quality of TV Subtitles

14:30 – Dr. Katherine Holmes – Workshop: Yass, and... STEM-Improv!

15:00 – Aneurin Hooper – Talk: Transitioning at Work: Navigating the Journey in Industry

## 15:30 – Break

15:45 – Eve Armstrong – Workshop: Exploring LGBTQ+ Identities Through the Natural World

16:00 – Dr. Robin Hayward – Talk: Bringing identity to science and engagement

16:30 – oSTEM and Closing Session – Avery Cunningham (Chair) & Rebekah Roebuck (Vice Chair)

**End of Conference & Social – The Physician, Birmingham B15 3DH**

# Talks









# STEM, LGBTQ & You 2026

## Rue Ball cont.

diagnosing prostate cancer in trans women and non-binary people with a prostate.

Rue's interactive talk will discuss how science can address the needs of the LGBTQ community, using her experience researching, teaching and caring for trans and gender diverse people and their bodies.

## Dr Robin Hayward

they/them

Talk: Bringing identity to science and engagement

Dr Robin Hayward is a science communicator, designer, and ecologist, specialising in the realms of trees and forests.

Working at the University of Leeds, Robin supports the creation and communication of new biodiverse woodlands across the north of England, drawing from a background in rainforest restoration research and retrospectively valuable procrastination online. Working independently, Robin performs science shows, trains researchers in public engagement, and designs nature-inspired pride pins. Having learnt from past successes, they still spend a lot of time procrastinating online.



This talk will explore the role of identity in the way that we conduct and communicate science, drawing from Robin's personal experiences in the field and from their work to create an LGBTQ+ inclusive toolkit for safe and equitable fieldwork.

# STEM, LGBTQ & You 2026

**Dr Evan Wroe**

he/they

Talk: Many Hands: Co-creating  
Queer Science through a  
community zine



Evan (he/they) is a  
biophotoelectrochemist, folk musician

solarpunk writer. He spends his days looking at cyanobacteria under the microscope, trying to understand how and why they share electricity, and his nights thinking about what else we could learn from them about how to live together well. Recently they've been wondering what queer science could be, making zines and digging in seedlings at the local community farm.

Inspired by a previous STEM, LGBTQ and You conference, me and my friend/colleague comrade Robin Scullion began thinking about what Queer Science meant... Was it just Queer People Doing Science? Or was there something more to it? We had loads of ideas, and it turns out so did our queer friends and colleagues in and around science. So we did what any self-respecting queer with a big question and no clear way to answer it would do: we made a zine. Here we analyse the zine in form and content, and identify themes, common threads, synergies and frictions that arose from contributions to the zine. We find that respondents hold diverse, complementary and contradictory ideas about what Queer Science could be.





# Workshops



# STEM, LGBTQ & You 2026

## **Dr Dominic Galliano**

he/him / they/them

### Workshop: Bringing ALL of You into Your Talks

Dom is a specialist in research culture, engaged research, and equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI), with a particular interest in how systems and people interact –

and how even small interventions can lead to meaningful change. They bring extensive experience working across the academic ecosystem, supporting universities, funders, and learned societies to embed inclusive and reflective practices through evaluation and strategic change. A passionate LGBTQ+ in STEM advocate, they are widely recognised for their thought leadership and lived experience in this space, having advised the Institute of Physics, Royal Society of Chemistry and Royal Astronomical Society on their LGBTQ+ programme (2015–2023).



Often in academic settings we need to hide aspects of ourselves, this is compounded in STEM where sometimes the focus is on the research rather than the researcher. As LGBTQ+ folks in STEM, bringing elements of ourselves have the added layer around feeling safe. With this talk I'll explore how you slowly bring ALL elements of you into STEM settings using Engagement and Outreach as a stepping stone. We'll explore contexts, levels of comforts, and help you define where and how you can bring more of you into your STEM contexts

# STEM, LGBTQ & You 2026

**Dr Katherine Holmes**

they/them

Workshop: Yass, and... STEM-  
Improv!

Katherine is a maths and science communicator, trainer, founder of the STEM-Improv Network and an LGBTQIA+ rights activist. Katherine's facilitation specialises in techniques from improv drama, both for community-building efforts within LGBTQ+ networks and for science communication training. Katherine identifies as Asexual, Aromantic, Agender and Genderfluid and focuses on raising visibility and leading inclusion initiatives for the asexual, aromantic, and agender communities both within and outside of STEM. Their collaborations include various organisations such as the Department of Science, Innovation and Technology, Imperial College London's IQ and I600 networks, the Proud Science Alliance, Pride in STEM, oSTEM, QED and many more.

[katherineholmespublic.wordpress.com](https://katherineholmespublic.wordpress.com)

[Linkedin: linkedin.com/in/dr-katherine-h-592380223](https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-katherine-h-592380223)



Welcome to an introductory improv workshop where we will play games inspired by you and your STEM passions! Together, we will build confidence and science communication skills while having fun in a supportive, safe space.

No experience required! This session covers the basics of improv and safety tools to get you started.

# STEM, LGBTQ & You 2026

**EVE armstrong**

she/they

Workshop: Queer Nature:  
Exploring LGBTQ+ Identities  
Through the Natural World



Eve is an experienced educator who enjoys engaging with young people in out-of-the-classroom learning opportunities with a focus on allowing them to grow and learn by finding connections with and empathy for the natural world. They are currently the Education Outreach Officer at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh where she inspires school age pupils across Scotland about the wonders and importance of plants. This work includes helping young people to explore the intersection of stories, identity, language, and nature which has been inspired by her own experiences exploring identity.

Eve will be sharing her work creating and running Queer Nature workshops for LGBTQ+ support groups in high schools. Join them to hear about how they encourage young people to see parallels in plants to their own lived experiences as well as providing ways for us all to find comfort in and express ourselves through the natural world. This session will encourage you to take part in hands-on activities and reflect on the intersections of nature and LGBTQ+ identities.



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