

It is useful to understand and construct the binary definitions of sex and gender in order to be able to understand why it is important to take them apart again. Unfortunately, in the time allotted for workshop presentations, it would be difficult to first present definitions of sex and gender within the binary framework to a group of participants to whom these definitions may be new, and then to deconstruct those same definitions. The limitations of the workshop time frame do not allow for the exploration of some of the more complex theoretical approaches to queer or feminist theorizing around the deconstruction of sex, gender, and the sex/gender and nature/culture binaries, despite the fact that this deconstruction may be part of the underlying motivations for some of the organizing around the Positive Space Campaign. For some, it is in the complexities found from the deconstruction of sex and gender that their identities are rooted most profoundly.

A few days after Brock University hosted its annual open house for secondary school students interested in attending the university, an email came through the Positive Space email inbox from a visiting student who attended the open house and noticed the Positive Space Campaign posters around campus. The student expressed interest and excitement in the campaign, explaining that he hoped to be able to get involved in the initiative so that he could help out others who might be struggling with their identities on campus. This email serves as a reminder that despite the constraining limitations to the disruption of heteronormative space, the Positive Space Campaign *can* have an impact. Julie Podmore writes that “[q]ueer politics places a great deal of emphasis on ‘becoming visible’ as queer subjects. While the primary objective is to be visible to a mainstream public, a secondary aim is to be more visible to each other” (347).

Visibility is central to the disruption of homophobia and heteronormativity on the university campus. The spaces taken up by the Positive Space Campaign at Brock University have the potential to be expansive and fluid, and ultimately radical. The extent to which this potential is realized is constrained by the fact that the number of resources and spaces available for LGBTQ students, staff, and faculty remains low. The Positive Space Campaign is only the beginning of this process, and as a result, the Positive Space Campaign can create the illusion of inclusivity within an institution. Nevertheless, Positive Spaces are imagined spaces that challenge and change people’s conceptions of queer identities and conceptions of space.

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RAGHAB NEPAL

Friend to Be

When you cover yourself under the veil
 Hiding thoughts to your inner soul
 And cry the pain which you conceal
 Remember there lay this friend to hold.
 I know your feelings and your pangs.
 So to the thunders I pray for your name,
 For your smile, I can renounce this world.
 But remember, Raghav be my name.

Raghav Nepal was born in Kathmandu, Nepal.