

Dilemmas in the Public Services Conference 10th – 11th September 2018

University of Northampton

Call for Papers

Dr Kimberley Hill and Dr Melanie Crofts

Stream Title: Striving for Gender Equality within Public Services

Gender equality is a fundamental human right. It is essential that women are provided with equal access to essential public services, including education, housing and healthcare. However, there is still a huge amount of work to be done to overcome gender disparities.

Research suggests that women remain hugely disadvantaged, with cuts to public services disproportionately affecting women. In addition to this, women are continually under-represented in senior positions within both public and private sector. The gender pay gap also remains stubbornly high and allegations of sexual harassment continue.

The aims of this stream are to discuss gender disparities, sexual violence and discrimination within public services. This includes defining and challenging existing conceptions of empowerment and dominant discourses relating to gender equality. Too often research and discourses around gender equality view women as primary changemakers and problem solvers, which ignores the role of historical, engrained disadvantages and institutional discrimination.

We would welcome papers which showcase research and activism around gender inequalities, particularly if they have implications for transforming organisational policies, procedures and structures within public services.

Some suggested topics are:

- Challenging discourses around gender and empowerment.
- Tackling sexual violence and harassment in public services.
- Approaches for changing institutional structures within public services to address gender inequality.
- Understanding the role that activism plays in addressing gender inequality in public services.
- Considering how organisational cultures within public services can be changed.
- Debating whether the law is effective in addressing gender inequality, including equal pay.

We will consider all abstracts submitted which relate broadly to the stream theme.

Please email a 500 word abstract to Kimberley (Kimberley.hill@northampton.ac.uk) by no later than **30th March 2018**.

Thank you, we look forward to receiving your abstract.