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**PHD CANDIDATE: SAM SPERRING**  
*SUPERVISOR: DR KATRINA SCHLUNKE*

The University of Technology Sydney  
15 Broadway, Ultimo NSW 2007 AUSTRALIA  
Telephone: (02) 9514 2000  
Web: <http://www.uts.edu.au>

**BELONGING IN DIFFERENCE:  
QUEER COMMUNITY ANTAGONISM AND THE POLITICS OF EXCLUSION**

**INVITATION LETTER**

Hello,

My name is Sam Sperring and I am a postgraduate student at the University of Technology, Sydney. I'm seeking participants aged 18 years and above, who identify as queer, and partake in queer rights related activism (of whatever scale), to participate in my research study.

This project seeks to question the productive effects of antagonism within Inner West Sydney and interstate queer activist communities. It aims to explore the linkages and disconnects between contemporary queer politics / ethics (as they manifest in the communities and alongside US based queer theory), and current activist practice. Rethinking popular notions of community (as unity-based), it posits queer community as an ongoing relation of diversity that is made manifest through disagreement and disunity. Moreover, it questions the extent to which antagonism encourages new forms of politics within queer community, and if these politics might hold fruitful rather than noxious consequences.

Your participation will involve an interview of up to one hour, on one or more occasions, about your experiences within queer activist communities. You may also choose to make a video diary, or to record your own thoughts in text or via audio if that suits you better.

This study is being conducted as the basis for the degree of Doctorate of Philosophy (Communication) at The University of Technology, Sydney, taking place under the supervision of Dr Katrina Schlunke.

If you are interested in participating, I would be glad if you would contact me via email.

You are under no obligation to participate in this research.

Yours sincerely,

Sam Sperring  
samantha.c.sperring@student.uts.edu.au

**NOTE:**

This study has been approved by the University of Technology, Sydney Human Research Ethics Committee. If you have any complaints or reservations about any aspect of your participation in this research that you cannot resolve with the researcher, you may contact the Ethics Committee through the Research Ethics Officer (ph: 02 9514 9772; [research.ethics@uts.edu.au](mailto:research.ethics@uts.edu.au)), and quote the UTS HREC reference number: 2014000343. Any complaint you make will be treated in confidence and investigated fully and you will be informed of the outcome.