

**The 5<sup>th</sup> International Singles Studies Conference  
Final Program (8/7/26)**

**Date:** July 8th, 2026

**Time:** 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM BST

**Location:** Rooms G.04-G.06, 50 George Square, University of Edinburgh, EH8 9JU

**In-Person Room Locations**

Please check the room number for your session

**Room 1:** G.06

[Alex Fisher: Room 1 \(G.06\) - Virtual Access | Room 1 \(G.06\) - Virtual Access](#)

**Room 2:** G.05

[Alex Fisher: Room 2 \(G.05\) - Virtual Access | Room 2 \(G.05\) - Virtual Access](#)

**Room 3:** G.04

Opening and Closing Remarks and Quiet Room During Sessions

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| IN-PERSON SESSIONS |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| Time               | Room 1 (G.06)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Room 2 (G.05)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                    | <a href="#">Alex Fisher: Room 1 (G.06) - Virtual Access   Room 1 (G.06) - Virtual Access</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <a href="#">Alex Fisher: Room 2 (G.05) - Virtual Access   Room 2 (G.05) - Virtual Access</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 9:00-9:15          | Welcoming Remarks – Room G.04                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Session 1          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 9:15-10:30         | Singleness: Moving Beyond the Romantic Love Narrative                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Singlehood and Intersectional Identities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                    | <p><b>Chair:</b> Kinneret Lahad, Tel Aviv University</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Dries Van Gasse, University of Antwerp<br/><b>Title:</b> Situationships in Singlehood: Performative Laboratories of Liminal Love</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Elise ‘t Hoen, University of Antwerp<br/><b>Title:</b> Relationship Histories and Heterogeneity in Singlehood: Attachment, Personality, and Single Trajectories</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Ea Høg Utoft, Radboud University<br/><b>Title:</b> Conceptualizing 'Single-Pet Lives': An Empirical Study of Singles' Relationships With their Pets</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Alicia Denby, Manchester Metropolitan University<br/><b>Title:</b> A Sisterhood for Single Women: Intimacy and Acquaintanceship in Online ‘Girlhood’ Communities</p> | <p><b>Chair:</b> Yuthika Girme, Simon Fraser University</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Yuthika Girme, Simon Fraser University<br/><b>Title:</b> Is Single/Coupled Status a Salient Social Identity?</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Shay Bramson, Hebrew University of Jerusalem<br/><b>Title:</b> Re-evaluating the Partnership Premium among Gay Men: Loneliness and Social Connectedness in Longitudinal Data</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Keren Eisen, Hebrew University of Jerusalem<br/><b>Title:</b> Choosing Singlehood: A Gendered Cross-National Analysis</p> |
| 10:30-11:00        | Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

| Session 2   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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|             | Norms, Narratives, and Motivations of Single People                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Singlehood and the Politics of Family                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 11:00-12:15 | <p><b>Chair: Elaine Hoan, University of Toronto</b></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Elaine Hoan, University of Toronto<br/> <b>Title:</b> Who Signs Up for Singlehood and Romantic Relationship Studies? Examining Volunteer Bias in Online Recruitment</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Laura Hawkins, University of Toronto<br/> <b>Title:</b> Singles' Motivations for (Not) Partnering Predict Their Goals in Singlehood</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Tayler Wells, University of Toronto<br/> <b>Title:</b> Happily Ever After? Singles' Expectations of Romantic Relationships are Associated With Singlehood Satisfaction and Future Romantic Outcomes</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Alexandra N. Fisher, University of Edinburgh<br/> <b>Title:</b> Thinking About Unhappy Couples Increases Appreciation of Being Single</p> | <p><b>Chair: Zhe Zhang, Vanderbilt University</b></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Shahar Lifshitz, Bar Ilan Law School<br/> <b>Title:</b> Single Motherhood without Biology: Surrogacy, Singlehood, and Structural Discrimination in Contemporary Parenthood Law</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Ari Engelberg, Jerusalem Multidisciplinary College<br/> <b>Title:</b> Single, Religious, and Modern: Negotiating the Moral Meaning of Singlehood in Orthodox Jewish Communities</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Zhe Zhang, Vanderbilt University<br/> <b>Title:</b> Are Pro-Family Policies Anti-Single? Examining State Family Policies and Single Adults' Well-Being in the United States</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Elke Claessens, University of Antwerp<br/> <b>Title:</b> Singlehood as a Private Risk in Liberal Welfare States: A Comparative View of Mexico, USA and UK</p> |
| 12:15-1:30  | Lunch Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

| Session 3: Data Blitz |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| 1:30-2:45             | <b>Navigating Singlehood: Relationship Expectations, Well-Being, and Lived Experiences</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Stigma and Social Perceptions of Singlehood</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                       | <p><b>Chairs:</b> Elina Moreno, University of Toronto</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Victoria Martins Mendonça, Simon Fraser University,<br/> <b>Title:</b> Triggering and Buffering Attachment Insecurities: The Role of Close Others in Singlehood</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Kenneth Tan, Singapore Management University<br/> <b>Title:</b> The Role of Paradox Mindsets in Relationship Receptivity and Formation for Singles</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> YingYi HE &amp; Chin Ming HUI, The Chinese University of Hong Kong<br/> <b>Title:</b> What Are the Prerequisites for Romantic Relationships?: A Cross-Cultural Study of China and the United States</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Sydney Wicks, University of Mississippi<br/> <b>Title:</b> Experiences of Ostracism Among Single and Coupled Adults</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Xiaohui Deng, The University of Edinburgh<br/> <b>Title:</b> Unhappily Single? Towards a More Accurately Estimated Association Between Romantic Relationship Status and Life Satisfaction</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Burdett Kwon, Simon Fraser University<br/> <b>Title:</b> Is It Possible to Prime Relationship Pedestal Beliefs?</p> | <p><b>Chair:</b> Yan Zhan, University of Salamanca Campus Unamuno</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Yan Zhan, University of Salamanca Campus Unamuno<br/> <b>Title:</b> Symbolic Violence and Stigmatization in Social Media: The Case of Highly Educated Older Single Women on Douyin, a Chinese Short-Video Platform</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Laura Robberecht, University of Antwerp<br/> <b>Title:</b> The Construction and Validation of the Gendered Singlehood Perception Scale (GSPS)</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Craig Wynne, University of the District of Columbia<br/> <b>Title:</b> Single Women Are Evil: Amatonormativity in Our Disney Films</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Margot Bracke, University of Antwerp, Belgium<br/> <b>Title:</b> Perceived Ability to Partner: A Dual Perspective from Singles and Close Friends</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Sofiya Kazlovich, University of Edinburgh<br/> <b>Title:</b> Who Internalizes Singlehood Stigma? A Latent Profile Approach</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Marika Rullo, University of Siena; Daniela Di Santo, University of Pisa; Emilio Visintin, University of Ferrara; Giulia Amicone, Apsicologa; Calogero Lo Destro, Mercatorum University; Stefano Passini, University of Bologna</p> |

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|           | <p><b>Presenter:</b> Elina Moreno, University of Toronto</p> <p><b>Title:</b> Riding Solo: Exploring Self-Expansion in Singlehood</p> | <p><b>Title:</b> #SingleAndProud? Effects of Online Singlehood Norms on Self-Definition</p> |
| 2:45-3:00 | <b>Break</b>                                                                                                                          |                                                                                             |

| Session 4   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| 3:00 - 4:15 | <b>Singlehood, Stigma, and Singlism</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Community and Cultural Expectations of Single People</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|             | <p><b>Chair:</b> Jenny Paterson, Northumbria University</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Elyakim Kislev, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel<br/> <b>Title:</b> Internal vs. External Determinants: Disentangling the Effect of Singlism and the Lived Experience of Singlehood on Singles' Subjective Well-Being</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Hannah Dupuis, Simon Fraser University<br/> <b>Title:</b> Double-Edged Singlehood: The Interplay Between Social Support and Discrimination in Singlehood</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Brittany Dennett, Simon Fraser University<br/> <b>Title:</b> Is Singlism Different Across the World? Assessing Singlism in the United States, Canada, and Hong Kong</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Jenny Paterson, Northumbria University<br/> <b>Title:</b> Exploring Prejudice Reduction Strategies to Reduce Singlism</p> | <p><b>Chair:</b> Geoff MacDonald, University of Toronto</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Madilene B. Landicho, University of the Philippines Diliman<br/> <b>Title:</b> Being Good and (but) Single: Negotiating Gender Expectations and Stigma around Being a Single Woman in Select Philippine Communities</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Talya Menashe, Hebrew University of Jerusalem<br/> <b>Title:</b> Evaluating Singlehood: Trait Attributions and their Links to Subjective Well-Being in the United States</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Geoff MacDonald, University of Toronto<br/> <b>Title:</b> The Conflicting Associations of Filial Piety Beliefs with Chinese Singles' Well-Being</p> |
| 4:15-4:30   | <b>Concluding Remarks - Room G.04</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

## Virtual Only Panels

All virtual panels will be hosted in the same link:

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/343600710346413?p=2Fc0FfwmX8Zj8TJxJv>

Meeting ID: 343 600 710 346 413

Passcode: Eu62ib29

**Date: July 8th, 2026**

**Time: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM BST**

| Virtual Session 1 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| Time              | Single Women and Gender                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 8:00 - 9:15 BST   | <p><b>Chair:</b> Madhurima Dasgupta, Ashadi Wisdom Campus, Sri Lanka, Åbo-Akademi University, Finland</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Madhuparna Sen, University of Cambridge<br/><b>Title:</b> ‘Creating’ Defiant Personhoods: Ethnographic Insights on Single Women’s Use of Social Media from Mumbai, India</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Madhurima Dasgupta, Ashadi Wisdom Campus, Sri Lanka, Åbo-Akademi University, Finland<br/><b>Title:</b> Challenges Involved as Single Women in India: Selected Cases From Kolkata, West Bengal</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Kimberly Martinez Phillips, York University<br/><b>Title:</b> Coloniality, capitalism, and patriarchy: childfree, never-married Black women and women of color on the rise</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Natilie Williams, College of DuPage &amp; Kris Marsh, University of Maryland - College Park<br/><b>Title:</b> Single in Black sisterhood and the Kendrick Lamar GNX Concerts</p> |
| Virtual Session 2 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Time              | Companionship and Intimacy within the Context of Contemporary Singleness                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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| 9:15 - 10:30 BST | <p><b>Chair:</b> Manvendra Singh, Banaras Hindu University, India</p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> Mridula Manglam, University of Allahabad<br/> <b>Title:</b> The Politics of Intimacy: Comradely Love as Collective Care</p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> Magdalena Kotus, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland<br/> <b>Title:</b> To Have or Not Have a Companion Animal? A Qualitative Exploration of the Role of Companion Animals in Single Adults' Well-Being</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Manvendra Singh &amp; Shabana Bano, Banaras Hindu University, India<br/> <b>Title:</b> Transition Into Singlehood: Grief, Attachment Styles, and Trauma Vulnerability Following Romantic Dissolution Among Indian Adults</p> |
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| Virtual Session 3 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| Time              | Law and Politics of Singlehood                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 11:00 - 12:15 BST | <p><b>Chair:</b> Allison Tait, University of Richmond; Linda C. McClain, Boston University</p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> Naomi Cahn, University of Virginia; Chao-ju Chen, National Taiwan University<br/> <b>Title:</b> Solo Aging and the Law: On Life and Death</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Allison Tait, University of Richmond; Linda C. McClain, Boston University<br/> <b>Title:</b> From New Women to Single Ladies: A Typology of Marriage and Nonmarriage</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Suzanne Kim, Rutgers University Law School<br/> <b>Title:</b> Work, Families, and Singlehood</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Joan DelFattore, University of Delaware<br/> <b>Title:</b> Replacing Family Privilege with Individual Patient Choice: A Victory for LGBTQ+ Activism in the U.S.</p> |

| Virtual Session 4 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| Time              | Masculinities, Men and Singlehood                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 1:30 - 2:30 BST   | <p><b>Chair:</b> Ketaki Chowkhani, Manipal Academy of Higher Education</p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> Ketaki Chowkhani, Manipal Academy of Higher Education<br/> <b>Title:</b> Media Discourses Around Single Men in India</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Wojciech Podsiadłowski, University of Warsaw<br/> <b>Title:</b> Unwanted Celibacy: The Role of Attachment and Masculine Discrepancy Stress</p> |



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|  | <p><b>Presenter:</b> Kimcraig, Brandeis University</p> <p><b>Title:</b> Bare Branches and Clashing Doors: Masculinity, Morality, and the Marriage Economy in Contemporary China</p> |
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| Virtual Session 5 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| Time              | Social Change and Singlehood: Policy, Rights, and Reform                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 3:00 - 4:15 BST   | <p><b>Chair:</b> Erin Lavender-Stott, South Dakota State University</p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> Wayne Corneil, University of Ottawa<br/> <b>Title:</b> Canadian Study on the Well-Being of Solo Retirees</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Giulia Amicone, Apsicologa<br/> <b>Title:</b> Reproductive Justice and Singlehood: Challenging the Stigma of the Biological Clock</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Erin Lavender-Stott, South Dakota State University<br/> <b>Title:</b> Widowhood Well-Being as a Type of Singlehood</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Bella DePaulo, University of California at Santa Barbara<br/> <b>Title:</b> The Emerging Field of Singlehood Studies</p> |