

(Families) Beyond the Binary

Workshop with and presentation by **Susie Bower Brown**

Tuesday April, 28, 2026, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Lucerne

We are enthusiastic to welcome Dr. Susie Bower-Brown, lecturer in Social Psychology at UCL, to our Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Lucerne. Susie's interdisciplinary research focuses on LGBTQ+ identities and diverse family forms. She is currently leading the three-year project 'Family Beyond the Binary', focusing on non-binary people's expectations and experiences of family life in the UK. This multi-method study will focus on different kinds of families (including biological, legal, and chosen families). Overall, the project aims to contribute to reducing stigma and improving well-being in non-binary communities.

Program

12:15	Joint lunch (invited by the 'Queer Families in Switzerland'-project)
13:30 – 15:30	Workshop 'Researching Beyond the Binary'
16:15 – 17:45	Presentation in Departmental Research Colloquium
18:00	Joint dinner (optional, on personal expenses)

Workshop 'Researching Beyond the Binary' (entrance Café Baloo, room 1.507)

This workshop invites researchers to reflect on possibilities and challenges of researching beyond the binary. As a shared point of departure, we will read Susie Bower-Brown's (2022) article, "Beyond Mum and Dad: Gendered Assumptions about Parenting and the Experiences of Trans and/or Non-Binary Parents in the UK." Building on this text, we will leave plenty of room for exchange and discussion. Possible questions include: How can researchers reach non-binary people in qualitative and quantitative studies? How can we work with rather than merely about non-binary participants in ethical and collaborative ways? And what parallels or differences emerge when considering the experiences and challenges of non-binary people—such as in family formation or parenting—across contexts like the UK and Switzerland? Due to its intimate format, the workshop welcomes participants to bring their own experiences, questions, and methodological struggles related to researching beyond the binary.

Colloquium Presentation 'Family Beyond the Binary: A Community-Focused Project Exploring Non-Binary Family Life' (main entrance, third floor, room 3.B48)

This presentation introduces Family Beyond the Binary, a new community-focused research project exploring non-binary people's experiences of family life. Non-binary identities are increasingly visible, yet we have little research on how non-binary people define and experience family life. This project addresses this gap, offering an in-depth examination of the family experiences of non-binary people in the UK. The presentation will first reflect on Susie's previous research with trans and non-binary parents, which examined their experiences of navigating parenting spaces and negotiating gender norms. It will then consider how the findings from this research informed the design of Family Beyond the Binary. The presentation will also outline the project's participatory methodology, collaboration with a national community organisation, and the planned analyses and outputs for both academic and non-academic audiences.

Registration

Please register with Leo Valentin Theissing (they/them) and Carole Ammann (she/her) (info@queerefamilien-forschung.ch) **by Monday, April 20**, if you would like to participate in the workshop and/or attend the colloquium lecture **online**.

