

**Project: 'Queer Lives: Barriers from cradle to elderly care - An Oral History'**

Respondent: Rachel Jardine

Year of Birth: 2001

Age:

Connection to project: Local Knowledge

Date of Interview: 05/11/2024

Interviewer: Rachel Kelly

Recording Agreement: Yes

Information & Consent: Yes

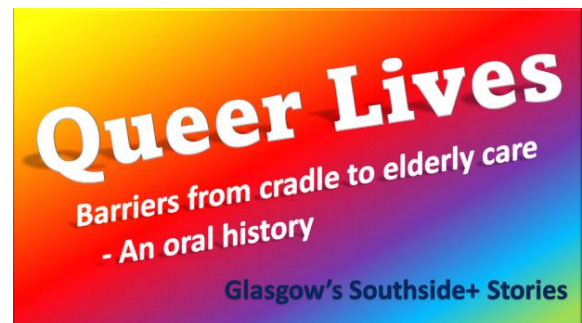
Photographic Images: Yes (Number of: 2 )

Length of Interview: 01.07.43

Location of Interview: Respondent's home, Glasgow

Recording Equipment: Zoom H4n (internal mics)

**Glasgow's Southside+ Stories**



Time (from: mins/secs)	Description	Transcribed Extract (from- to: mins/secs)
00.30	<b><i>Can you tell me where you were born and where did you grow up?</i></b>	
	"Paisley."	00.36
00.37	<b><i>Where do you live now?</i></b>	
	"Glasgow."	00.38
00.42-	<b><i>We've used the term queer in an attempt to be as inclusive as possible but we appreciate that not everyone would use this term to describe themselves or an aspect of themselves, is there a term you would prefer me to use throughout the course of the interview?</i></b>	
	"I think queer is a word I would use to describe myself."	00.55-01.02
01.03	<b><i>Do you have any pronouns that you would use?</i></b>	
	"She/her."	01.06
01.07	<b><i>Would you mind telling me if you have come out as queer?</i></b>	
	"Kind of, half and half I would say, although my closest friends they all know, but maybe not wider, not all of my family directly know, I'm sure they can guess, but not formally."	01.12-01.34
01.37	<b><i>How does that make you feel?</i></b>	
	"I think maybe before it was a bit like I was thinking oh I don't know like how this makes me feel, or makes me feel like I'm hiding away or not showing myself but I've come to realise that those people who I haven't formally come out to do know and I don't have to really tell them and I know that if and when I tell them it wouldn't be out of pocket, it wouldn't seem like I was springing this big surprise, I know that all the people around me love me anyway, so they wouldn't change anything. It is something that does play on my brain a wee bit that I do need to come out formally come out to everyone and will that be a scary thing, will that be validating and I've just really come to realise that it doesn't really matter what anyone else is thinking, it's more just like me and the people I interact with and how I interact with them, making sure I'm not diluting myself or shying away, like I'm just myself in front of everyone and if there's information they don't know about me that doesn't change what's the truth."	01.38-03.17

03.22	<b><i>What was your experience growing up as a queer person?</i></b>	
	<p>"I feel like my queer journey has come a lot like in more recent years. I'm 23 and I was in a relationship from the ages of 14-22 with a boy from my school. I had this with that relationship, both of us were queer, we came out to each other, but we didn't really look like we were queer, so in school it was like a safety blanket of like we don't look gay so we're not, so I kind of got away with no bullying, no targeting, no name-calling or a little name-calling, but it's only really since I've left this relationship where I've been able to interact in the world more openly queer, more visibly queer, which is a weird thing to say because I've always been queer. On the bullying side of it I feel like I had a good life growing up in that way, but also it was on the outside, what you can see on the outside and not what's going on in the inside."</p>	03.23-06.21
06.30	<b><i>Did you see anybody else experience prejudice at school?</i></b>	
	<p>"Yes a lot. I had my safety blanket but a lot of my friends experienced that directly, asking oh you play football oh you're a lesbian, you dress like this, you hang about with these people are you gay. It's all these short hand insults, although it's not an insult to say are you a lesbian or whatever but it is hurtful to someone especially in early high school when they're trying to understand who they are, that comes across and makes someone feel uncomfortable. If any of that happened in front of me or about the people I cared about I tried to make sure to push them off and in the nicest way possible try to shame them like why would you ask someone that just because she does this doesn't mean this or because he does this doesn't mean that."</p>	06.31-08.02
10.13	<b><i>Was there any support for people in that situation at school?</i></b>	
	<p>"I think that schools like mine who didn't have any set way to go about things like bullying you leaned heavily on the teachers who supported you and that could be guidance teachers that have the job to support you or that could be just teachers that you are drawn towards. I feel like a lot of the support that existed was through the teachers that supported you. There was an english teacher, Miss Moffat, that I really got on with and she really got on with a lot of students and she'd be the one that you'd go to, she'd stand up for people, she did so much for people in my school, especially if they were going through hard times, personal things, if those people were victims of people's hatred they'd go to her and also listen to someone like me who could let her know what was going on with others saying nasty things. She just has this presence to fight for the students and people she cared for."</p>	10.29-12.20
12.27-12.28	<b><i>How would you like to see things going forward for queer people in terms of the school environment?</i></b>	
	<p>"I think the harm from school is because of miss education or no education of queer life and what it really means. Education is the way forward. You need to tell people about queer life and bringing in queer education in the curriculum and making sure that it's more across the board and not just certain schools or certain teachers. I think it should be an integrated education system with queer knowledge embedded in it. Encouraging kindness and accepting gender sexuality and disability, just everything."</p>	12.29-13.43
15.30	<b><i>What was your experience of being queer at university?</i></b>	
	<p>"I think my experience at university was a lot more positive than school. I got into university the same year that I left high school. I realised that I needed to go head first, I needed to put my all into this and although that was an academic confidence it was also personal confidence like if I'm going to speak and talk in these classes about the things I care about and are personal to me and university taught me that I'm able to express myself in a way that's right for me and to not put myself into a place like I'm supposed</p>	16.09-17.39

	to act in a way they're telling me to act and I think that mind-set bled into my queer identity and the ways I could express myself."	
17.55	<b><i>I believe you're an illustrator, have you did any other jobs?</i></b>	
	<p>"I was in sixth year at school and I worked at Glasgow Airport in the Holiday Inn for 9 months and I had an okay income from that, then when I went into university in 2019 and finished first year in 2020, towards the end of first year that's when I became an illustrator and with being at uni and having S.A.S. and the illustration work it allowed me to stay myself until this point where it's just a job.</p> <p>It wasn't until I got into uni that I started getting into illustration and the sexual health. I listened to podcasts and watched Hannah Witton on You Tube, she's still a big name in sexual health and I think inspired a lot of people like me to get into sexual health and I decided that I would make my own Instagram account so that I could interact on an account that was separate from my personal account. I had a drawing app on my phone and started drawing on it and realised I could draw the things I was talking about and gave me a way of using art for educational purposes and expression. When I started it this was just for fun and now it's what I do for a living."</p>	18.09-1902
19.03	<b><i>Can you tell me a bit about what you do?</i></b>	
	<p>"I'm a sexual health illustrator but to put that a bit more creative. I think there's lots of different ways that I get involved in sexual health like sphere by writing blogs and even doing things like this. That's me exercising the things that I care about. So I say I'm a sexual health illustrator more broadly but it's all educational stuff. I do a lot of work with Brooke which are a sexual health charity mostly based in England and Wales but they're the U.K's leading young persons' sexual health charity. I'm currently working on an easy-read accessible image bank specifically for people with additional support needs but it's also for everyone, it's accessible information and I think sexual health illustrator just means giving everyone access to information that they didn't have and that's my philosophy in all the work that I do."</p>	19.07-20.39
24.58-25.09	<b><i>Do you believe that there is such a thing as an L.G.B.T.Q+ community which implies a coherent identity based solely on a shared orientation or gender identity?</i></b>	
	<p>"My instincts and my feelings towards it really are that the friendships that I have with people who are also queer are far deeper than the friendships that I have with other people who aren't queer but I don't think that it necessarily defines the relationship. But it's more encompassing, more like it's the knowledge that they understand you and your side, the way you live your life and the things that you do. To be honest I do think that queer as the queer community feels somewhere where anyone queer could go if you speak about it in a physical sense. If I knew where an event was going on near me in a community space I'd know that if I turned up it wouldn't feel wrong, I wouldn't feel out of place. There's going to be that shared ground. So yes I do feel like it's a community."</p>	25.18-26.58
26.59	<b><i>Do you think all queer people have similar perspectives towards the various definitions of gender identity?</i></b>	
	<p>"No, I don't think that we do. I think that is something that deeply impacts a lot of people. When there's not a cohesive understanding of something that's when it becomes broken and that's when the cracks fill and the hatred comes in because of the misunderstandings. I think it's extremely harmful to think about. I always think about it. I've been to so many trans rallies and stuff this year and every day there's more trans information and it's so consuming, and so hurtful and upsetting to think that people like groups that support each other and echo that you're not wrong, your queerness is great</p>	27.06-28.48

	to then decide who gets the pass as being correct or not. It doesn't sit right with me and it's one of the worst things to think about how people that may stand up for you in some ways don't stand up for you in other ways. It's hard, very hard."	
28.54	<b><i>How are you socialising as a queer person?</i></b>	
	"I feel like a lot of my queer life and sometimes I think that this language isn't completely helpful, but I think it makes more sense for me and my own experience but like to say I've only been more visibly queer in the last couple of years isn't a wrong statement for me. In the last couple of years I feel like I've interacted a lot more with queer spaces. I've been attending Queer Theory, a cabaret club, more recently, things like going to Pride with my friends. I think those are public things, you meet more people or you're watching someone new but I think the heart of my socialising is just every day, meeting up with a friend or sitting in your friend's flat and watching something on the T.V. I feel like that's a good example of socialising to me. It's just small things but it's more the meaning behind them. Care and love is at the heart of my socialising."	29.00-32.14
32.40	<b><i>Have you faced any healthcare issues due to being queer?</i></b>	
	"I have not. The things that I have accessed healthcare for have not involved my sexuality at all."	32.47-32.59
33.02	<b><i>Do you think there are enough healthcare services available for queer people?</i></b>	
	"I don't think there's enough healthcare services available for everyone but I think that obviously there's parts of healthcare that affect queer people more in different ways, I'm thinking of pregnancy and death and stuff and historically how it was for queer people if they get in a relationship and things like who goes where and in what rooms. I'm thinking about trans people especially in wards in hospitals that have shared rooms or single-sexed rooms. There's so much else and I hear about it quite a lot. I've got friends in healthcare and my mum works in a hospital and I hear direct stories about hospitals and what happens in them."	33.10-35.13
35.14	<b><i>Do you ever think about healthcare and your future as you age?</i></b>	
	"I do think about it, not because of me personally, but more like I have my granny who's 92 and I think about how long I've got and it gives me a better perspective of it to be that age and she's got more wisdom than anyone I know. So I do think about ageing a lot but I do link it to queerness too and being a queer person over time and there's this direction with the government and their stance on queerness and trans and access to everything trans existing. It feels difficult to see where it will end up and how people will be treated and the way that the government and tabloids and this wrong sense of opinion in the U.K. about it being a phase or being something that kids don't know what they're on about. It's like some of the opinion in the U.K. is harmful because queer people have always existed and always will. I do think about ageing but I think about how I'm setting the right thought to ageing as I get older, realising I am who I am and I will always be that because there were people before me who have done that. There is older queer people who exist, there's young queer people that exist."	35.22-39.49
40.00	<b><i>What do you think are the barriers to elder care for queer people could potentially be?</i></b>	
	"I don't think I could answer this in an educated way but I think even things like personal opinion sometimes are out of personal prejudice and would impact someone's personal care."	40.05-41.27
42.00	<b><i>How do you feel about a queer only care home?</i></b>	

	<p>"I did volunteering with a charity called Just Like Us who do school talks in schools across the U.K. for queer people delivered by queer people to schools, you tell them your queer story, give them a little bit of information about what queer means. So I was at this volunteering thing and we were talking and I think one of the people who attended, her uncle who is 50, he is queer and he discussing with this person who was at the event about care homes and people he knows who are queer in care homes and I think the idea of a queer care home is so lovely and beautiful, it makes so much sense and to have queer spaces. Queer spaces have to exist in all aspects and in care homes. It makes me smile so much to think about the care that would happen there."</p>	42.10-44.33
44.34	<p><b><i>Do you think there are enough opportunities or not for the generations of queer people to come together and talk?</i></b></p>	
	<p>"I think a lot of interactions I've had across things like age, faith, disability or gender. These all happen because I pursue them and I think that takes a lot for a person to do. I think I've got to a point that I don't really think I'm doing it and reaching out to people like can I come to this thing or just turning up to spaces I've never been to. I think there is opportunity there but I think it doesn't happen that often and when it does, not all the people you'd want to be there, are there. For loads of reasons there are a lot of barriers accessing inter-generational spaces."</p>	44.46-46.22
46.25	<p><b><i>Can you think of any legislation that has brought more rights for queer people?</i></b></p>	
	<p>"I think marriage is a big one. I think that started a kind of conversation. That's the first one coming into my head. This came in when I was at high school and changed some knowledge on queerness and knowledge of queer policy. There is now guidance on gay men giving blood who had previously been excluded from doing this. There is also I.V.F."</p>	46.32-47.54
47.55	<p><b><i>Can you think of any legislation that has diminished or rolled back the rights of queer people?</i></b></p>	
	<p>"The recent one about stopping under-18 trans people from accessing puberty blockers and hormones. It angered me so much, I was reading everything I could and finding out what they were saying, why they'd done it and off the back of that there was a rally. The news came out at 10am and there was a rally at 5pm. I'd attended that. I think that's the big one right now. Every day there is just more and more bad legislation put in place."</p>	48.10-50.22
51.40	<p><b><i>Do you feel that the general public are supportive about equal rights for queer people?</i></b></p>	
	<p>"I'd like to think that they are. I think day to day that the interactions that you have with other people in the world, like when you go shopping, you're walking down the street, or in the park, or you're interacting with people online or Facebook or other social medias, generally yes, people do think well of queer people and don't directly seek out their hatred or seek out a way to exercise their hatred."</p>	51.46-52.50
54.46	<p><b><i>What are your hopes for the future of gay rights in Scotland?</i></b></p>	
	<p>"Not to withdraw rights from people, but have more rights, especially for trans people. Much as I will champion and celebrate my queerness and my sexuality, I will continue to be fighting. It's from a place of love from me but it's also such anger that I just hope that the future of politics in Scotland include trans people and standing up for their rights on everything they're trying to roll back and re-invest in the Gender Reform Act from 2023."</p>	55.06-57.36
59.14	<p><b><i>Can you give any positive portrayals of queer people in the arts?</i></b></p>	
	<p>"The first thing that's coming to mind is Heart-stopper, the T.V. series by Netflix. The Just Like Us charity I volunteer for and Brooke that I also work</p>	59.33 - 01.02.07

	for, we talk about Heartstopper all the time. I think what's most positive about Heartstopper is its like tenderness and care and accuracy. I think it does a really good job at being realistic with the ways that relationships come about, and in particular, queer relationships and how to navigate that and their first relationship and also about that inkling that they are. So I think it does a really good gentle job but it also does the hard part of it, like coming out to someone you love, or coming out to your parents, or be going to school and interacting at school. It shows it all. It's on its third season, so you've got from ages 14 - 17, so you've got that gentle I like you, you like me kind of relationship then this really complex like we're together, we can go out and we don't need to keep it a secret, I'm out to people and we can go out with our friends. It's just like a beautiful lovely portrayal of awareness."	
01.02.08	<b><i>Can you think of any positive portrayals in social media?</i></b>	
	"I think social media is very good. People can post their own stuff. So, for me I could name queer people I look up to, these big people that have got hundreds of followers. It could be a character from Heartstopper or a celebrity that is on this movie or something, but to me the people that I think about are people like every day, the girl from school that posts a picture of friend, that's what I think about. That's what I interact with a lot more on social media, people like my friends at school."	01.02.18 - 01.03.27
01.03.28	<b><i>Can you give me any examples of negative portrayals in the arts/media?</i></b>	
	"I feel that I don't put those words together in my head the negative portrayals. I think there's a lot of discourse, personally I don't use Twitter or X, but I use X and Twitter has always been a place that continues to come up with these big ideas, start picking on people, like stirring things like with negative portrayals of queer people like actors on movies, like they'd like it to be a straight actor playing a queer character. The negativity comes from the discourse around that."	01.03.30 - 01.05.22
01.06.12	<b><i>That's all my questions Rachel, have I missed anything or is there anything else you would like to add?</i></b>	
	"I'm glad that I'm able to do something like this to get my thoughts and opinions out and be part of this bank, that's how I think about it, evidence of a queer person that lived here and my ideas of growing up and getting older and I really appreciate this opportunity and I feel proud to be able to speak about my queerness and not shy away from it. I wouldn't want my life to be any different."	01.06.33 - 01.07.42
01.07.43	<b><i>Thank you.</i></b>	
