

**Project: 'Queer Lives: Barriers from Cradle to Elder Care – An Oral History'**

Respondent: Rachel Jardine

Year of Birth:

Age:

Connection to project: Local Knowledge

Date of Interview: 29/11/2024

Interviewer: Dr Sue Morrison

Recording Agreement: Yes/ No

Information & Consent: Yes/ No

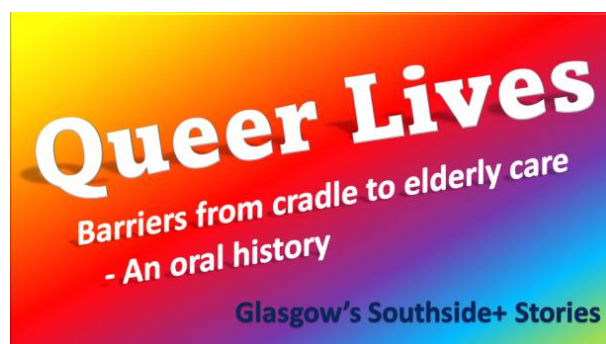
Photographic Images: Yes/ No (Number of: )

Length of Interview: 01.10.31

Location of Interview: Marie Trust, Glasgow

Recording Equipment: Video/Zoom H4n (internal mics)

**Glasgow's Southside+ Stories**



Time (from: mins/secs)	Description	Transcribed Extract (from- to: mins/secs)
00.28	<b><i>Where did you grow up?</i></b>	
	I grew up in Paisley.	00.29
00.32	<b><i>Where do you live now?</i></b>	
	I live in the Southside of Glasgow.	00.34
00.41	<b><i>We ask everyone if they have any particular pronouns they prefer?</i></b>	
	I use she/her	00.50
00.54	<b><i>Have you come out as queer?</i></b>	
	I'd say yes, like I'm very accepting of myself, like I think that's actually the key, the key of coming out being comfortable of who you are, understanding yourself. In a more formal sense, I've not come out to everyone in my life. But that doesn't make me feel bad, it also doesn't make me feel like I'm pretending to any of these people; I'm just myself and if I've not outright said 'I'm queer', it doesn't change my queerness at all. I have been thinking about it a lot more, but there's still some people I'm not out to, but that doesn't change how I think about myself and the way that I interact with the world.	01.02-02.12
02.13	<b><i>Can I ask if there's a specific reason regarding people you've not told?</i></b>	
	Sometimes I think that coming out is a big event; it doesn't feel like me, it doesn't feel like how I would do things. I would rather in my day-to-day life come out, like smaller things, I'd rather bring it up in bits than get to the end and be like, here's all this stuff. I'd rather it was done gradually and that's how I kind of feel with people I've not come out to. Sometimes I think, oh maybe I should sit them down and be like 'I'm queer', but that doesn't feel right for me. The people I've not come out to are very close to me, like my mum and dad, my gran or granny, aunties and uncles, actually all the people that are close to me in age, so I'm left with people that aren't close to me in age.	02.17-03.36
04.25	<b><i>When did you first have questions about your sexuality?</i></b>	
	I've been thinking about this and my queerness and I can't pick a point; I've always felt queer. Queerness is the way that I live, it's not like, just my sexuality, it's like, I have always been queer, the things that I like, the way that I like them, the people I'm friends with, but the actual questioning was probably around puberty age but maybe closer to 17/18, where I was becoming more	04.40-06.28

	comfortable.	
06.29	<b><i>Do you think your sexuality has placed any barriers on your education?</i></b>	
	I would say, no. In high school I was in a long-term relationship with a boy from my school and even though it looked like it was straight, it wasn't straight. On the outside I didn't seem queer just because of the way I looked in the relationship I was in. So, the school environment was quite positive for me as a person; I had this safety blanket that meant I kind of got away with having to deal with direct bullying about my sexuality. So, for me I had a kind of a safety pass in school, and in university as well. University made me more comfortable to express myself in the way that I wanted to; physically, as a person, I was more confident in myself and University gave me a space to talk about sexual health or gender or sexuality in an academic setting, so that actually is more of a positive thing for me in education that way.	06.33-09.02
09.12	<b><i>Do you think wearing a uniform at school held you back in any way?</i></b>	
	At school our uniform was quite bad, it was brown and yellow, so I think people kind of played with it so it wasn't the main part of the uniform; so personal expression did fall into part of your uniform. I remember seeing a picture recently of me in an art class, and I had loafers on, tights, a skirt, shirt and tie, and I had this green jumper on and a patchwork jacket, and I kind of saw it as not secretly coming out but privately coming out, like coming out to myself. So, I saw this photo and I thought, 'oh my god, I'm so queer'.	09.27-10.45
11.13	<b><i>What kind of clothes did you like wearing?</i></b>	
	When I became 18 and started going to pubs and clubs, meeting new people at uni and stuff like that, I was wearing skirts, short dresses, heels, loads of make-up, normal haircut; I just very like blended in with everyone but it didn't change who I was, how I acted, I was still me. I had a coming-of-age moment, and I can decide that's what I want to do, and the clothes that I wear are so different from what I wore then but they're still me, in a sense. I wear dungarees; they make me feel comfortable.	11.33-13.16
13.55	<b><i>You mentioned you had a boyfriend at school, how long were you seeing him for?</i></b>	
	Maybe from 13/14 to 22, which is a long time but a really lovely time. We were so open with each other and were open about our sexuality to each other. We are still good friends to this day. I was very open with him about my sexuality. It came up yesterday as well; I had a commission about dating and it was titled 'Moments of Validation', about my moments of validation as a single queer person, and it was just about different parts, like selecting queer on dating apps or going on first dates, or talking about queerness on dates, and I illustrated this. There were eight images, and I posted it, and he was one of the first people to see it and straight away he shared it on his own Instagram, and he was like 'this is lovely', and he tagged me in it and stuff. I don't know how to sum up but there is this insane level of acceptance, to have someone that I spent so long with, to then support me.	13.58-18.37
22.32	<b><i>How did you go about getting on the dating scene?</i></b>	
	It was a difficult decision to make but once I took the time and realised that, maybe it is the right time, and the first thing I did was making profiles on dating apps. I downloaded Hinge and Tinder. It's completely different from dating, the actual flirting, the intention, it's so different and I didn't know how to do it really, still don't really. Having a dating app was almost like having an acceptance of myself, the acceptance of what I wanted and that was just feeling more comfortable with myself, it wasn't people I was pursuing, it wasn't using the people to make myself comfortable, but enjoying the time with someone and	23.22-26.00

	then just realising what it meant to me, and every interaction was special. I feel that's how I got into dating, which was through the dating apps.	
26.04	<b><i>What was your first date like?</i></b>	
	I was really nervous, completely nervous, but it just felt like a burst, just like comfort, just being able to do something that I hadn't done before with someone that I was attracted to and was able to flirt with, and it being a woman as well was just like so fun, and just felt so natural and normal for me. Obviously, I had nerves but once I started speaking to her, and as the night went on and we went to pubs and stuff, it just felt, in a natural way, comfortable to me, and it was stepping out of my comfort zone. There was a moment when we were walking between pubs and I was holding her hand walking up the street and I was like, 'oh my god, I'm doing this right now, I'm on a date right now', those kind of thoughts. It was fun, and it was a really good time as well.	26.17-27.49
28.24	<b><i>Is there a gay scene in Glasgow right now?</i></b>	
	I really think there is. There is a physical gay scene; there's loads of queer pubs, like Polo, Corset Club, Katie's Bar; there's even like queer nights. I've even been to 'Queer Theory', like a cabaret show, and a club night as well. There's also Ponyboy. I went to Queer Theory and Ponyboy on the same night a couple of weeks ago. Ponyboy is more catered towards trans-people and run by trans-people. There's also venues that just pop up somewhere and you go there. I go to a life-drawing class called queer life-drawing. There's always something going on.	28.34-30.00
30.59	<b><i>Do you feel as comfortable going into a straight bar as you do in a queer venue?</i></b>	
	I think I have quite similar levels of anxiety around them; if it's somewhere I haven't been before I'd feel nervous anyway, but I would know I'd feel more comfortable going into a queer venue than I would going into a straight venue. It's the fear that something could happen if you went in there, or for any hate to be directed towards you. That's why I would feel nervous of going into a new place; you don't know who the people that are there are, and I'd think and feel more comfortable in a queer space, and hoping the people that were there would be accepting of me beyond just my sexuality.	31.08-32.57.
33.02	<b><i>As a queer person walking down the street do you feel vulnerable?</i></b>	
	Not in Glasgow and not around where I live either. Walking down the street, there's so many queer people around and I know that for a fact. The census came out this year and the gender and sexuality and, it put up all the stats, as accurately for the people who were happy enough to put their sexuality on the census, but even at that, the numbers are four percent of the population, and you can get all the data from each area. I think Glasgow is like seven percent. If I'm leaving the house I don't feel like I'm going to be targeted but I do think that can change depending on who I'm with, like, if I was with a partner I might be more nervous, just because it was more visible if I'm holding hands with her, walking down the street. It's like we are more of a target than I would be just walking alone.	33.12-34.54
34.55	<b><i>Have you ever experienced any negativity?</i></b>	
	Not really no, not personally. I'm thinking of the person I went out with after joining the dating app, she got shouted at as we were walking down the street holding hands. It wasn't about us, it was about her, mentioned her hair, being quite pushy. I was like let's get away from here they're pestering you. That was hard because she'd been targeted based on her appearance.	35.03-36.44
36.49	<b><i>You mentioned a pub you wouldn't go into, are there many others like that?</i></b>	
	Probably yes. It's probably the same for anyone in any other city, there are places where you're like, 'oh I would never go in there'. There are some old man pubs	37.01-39.14

	that I wouldn't go in, and the fancy floral cocktail bars, I wouldn't go there. So, there's definitely places I would go and places I wouldn't.	
39.43	<b><i>When you left university, did you have a career path in mind?</i></b>	
	I started University in 2019 and started illustration in early 2020. I worked freelance along with attending Uni, so when I left uni, this was the start of my career. I'm still quite early in my career, only four years, and the workload and building clients and stuff was enough to do beside uni without it impacting a work-uni life balance. I work on this project called 'Brooke', and I work with other clients and know what opportunities that might be around in the future. So for me right now, I know that's where my future is, in sexual illustration, and also I would love, like it's been my idea that I wanted since high school, and at career meetings I would say I wanted to do a masters in gender studies, and they were like, you need to do under-grad studies first and I was like, 'okay, I'll do under-grad studies'. So, it was my dream, and it really does feel like a dream, and I haven't changed my mind; I would still like to do a masters in gender studies at some point because I love research. My academic interests lie in gender study and sexuality; I just find it fascinating so far, it's like a building industry and it feels quite open; I feel like, there's always room for more, more perspectives.	39.58-42.18
42.25	<b><i>Have you hit any obstacles in the workplace because of your sexuality?</i></b>	
	No, and I think that's because of the area that I work in. Sexual health has to be very open, has to be very direct, but direct about what it wants and needs in sexual health and everyone deserves the same access. The core values of my industry mean it goes hand in hand with queerness and who you are. My industry is more like, women-focussed. There are a lot of women in sexual health and there's a lot of queer women in sexual health. My industry in sexual health works with my queerness. It makes me more confident in my ability to work and advocate a bigger picture of sexual health in my work.	42.28-44.08
44.09-44.16	<b><i>Do you think there's enough information on sexual health out there that's available specifically for queer people?</i></b>	
	No. When I think about school, sex-ed wasn't accessible, it wasn't given to classes equally; if you had a different teacher you got a different lesson, and because it was so short and not discussed, meant it left out a lot of the basics and left out the basics of queer sexual health, and that can be harmful if you needed support. If you're a young person, you're not getting good access to information and that's obviously very, very harmful. My interests were sexual awareness, relationships and queerness, but as soon as I mentioned this it was like, 'no, we don't want you to do that'. Education on the whole should be like, an enjoyable experience, it should be fun to learn, but that's also counter-productive by them bringing in their own bias prejudice; it makes it so bad. To me, sexual education has to be inclusive.	44.27-46.50
47.33	<b><i>How would like to see sex education in schools changed?</i></b>	
	It's interesting because I don't fully know what it's like in schools now. I've been out of school for five years so it's weird to think about the concept of it now in schools. There's also the Government's stance on sex education, the power to withdraw/remove it or build upon it and change it. There's not a complete curriculum for sex-ed in Scotland. Like the T.I.E. campaign for queerness to be included in sex-education and that has been really great, and they have done a whole lot of sex-ed and queer education in Scotland, but I wonder, how does it happen in schools...	47.35-49.55
50.41-51.42	<b><i>Did you experience any issues around transgender in relation to your friends and fellow pupils when you were young?</i></b>	
	Not in my school really. There was a trans-man who was a couple of years above me in school but transitioned outside of school. I think at school people don't want to be a target and that's why they don't come out at school. I know there's	50.43-52.38

	been trans people at my school, but that's been at a later stage and I think that's because of the school environment and the attitude of teachers.	
53.00	<b><i>What is your opinion of L.G.B.T. rights at the moment?</i></b>	
	A good piece of queer rights at the moment and the first thing that came into my head is equal marriage and that was 2014, ten years ago. Then I think about bills and laws. Some of it protects us and some of it completely contradicts the bits that protected us. I get really, really frustrated thinking about under 18s not being able to access trans health care, like puberty blockers, and how that impacts on trans kids, first and foremost. Every day it's just like another thing directed at trans people. It's very much in the media, like H.I.V. and Aids were targeted towards queer people and gay men, it is just the same misinformation for nothing, and you can see it happening, you're using the same tactics. A trans person is no different from anyone else and it just makes me really annoyed just thinking of L.G.B.T.Q. rights and hitting away at trans-people, and that impacts trans people so directly, and that impacts queer people as well. Queerness is this community but everyone needs to be there for each other. Any legislation that hurts, takes away from a trans-person, and that's impacting other people, not just queer people.	53.27-57.34
57.45	<b><i>Do you think L.G.B.T.Q.+ community is a homogeneous group?</i></b>	
	I think it's not. To me, I do find a community in queer people. I think the relationships I have are, like deeper and understanding, and that's not everyone; it's just like my friends, my queer friends, that I'm close to, they do feel deeper but that's to do with friendship. There are people in the queer community, the L.G.B.T.Q. community, that don't have this idea that we're all on the same struggle, it all links, it's all recycled hatred and everyone's a target with that. I think there's a lot of different opinions within the community, which make it harder to say that, just because you're, like, L.G.B.T. in any way, that you have shared beliefs. To me, yes, there is like, a community, like, more broadly, but when I think about the ways I might differ from these people. Obviously, our queerness is a thing we still have in common but that doesn't mean anything else.	57.46-59.52
1.00.03	<b><i>Have you ever thought about what might happen when you get older?</i></b>	
	I'm think of my Granny and how she's 92, and her ageing. She's really shaped how I think about ageing in, like, personality and being yourself. My Granny is herself, she's so herself and she always will be. She's so witty, she's so quick and when I think of her ageing, she's so happy. She's the Matriarch, she's the reason we're all here.	1.00.18 - 1.02.10
1.02.77 -	<b><i>Do you think there are issues regarding elder care for queer people?</i></b>	
	I think it can have a lot to do with people's perceptions of, maybe the care systems, or people that work in care, of elderly and that they might have their identities stripped in care. Mentally, they might not be able to care for themselves and might have to have someone making decisions for them. I think care systems and people who work in care have certain bias about elderly and autonomy and their identity, but I think a queer elderly person is just like anyone else is. A queer person is a queer person, no matter what age they are.	1.02.49 - 1.04.40
1.04.54	<b><i>Is there anything that you'd like to add or discuss?</i></b>	
	I feel that this has been like, all my life, and my illustrations are my life. My most recent commissions were like, here's my moments of validation as a single queer person, and it's so inter-twined and sometimes when I'm talking about my life and it encompasses everything and I'm like, my queerness isn't the whole part of me but it is a massive part of me and does impact my life, and through this [Queer Lives] project, I've found the Southside community, and new opportunities, and lets me speak about myself and queerness on a whole, like, in new ways. It's just so lovely.	1.04.56 - 1.06.42

1.06.43	<b><i>What are your hopes for the future?</i></b>	
	<p>I just would be hopeful that everyone could get on with their lives and not let it be a massive thing. I think directly, that a lot of my drive for change right now just feels like a drive for protest. I feel like I'm protesting against the government stance and some of the U.K. population on their stance on trans people. I feel that right now we need to keep fighting. No-one's requiring me to do anything; I just feel I can't step back and it would feel completely wrong to take a step back, because if you've still got one part of the community still fighting for their rights, and other people have got most of their rights, you've still got a fight; you have to continue to make change. I just wish that would stop, that people would just be able to live their lives; like, acceptance of trans-people is so base-level, it gets me so angry of the state of the country and that hatred towards trans-people. Trans health care is so required, it's a very key part of a lot of people's transition, and so that's a continued fight. It's not what I want for the future of queerness, but like I want us to continue that and then get to a point where people are able to do what they want and what they actually need to do. Trans-people just want to live, we don't want to be targeted with abuse ever, no-one wants that, but I see a fight because that has to happen, but I want it to get to a place where you're able to just get on with life and access what you need to access, do what you need to do and be with who you want to be with. I hope it's a positive. Personally, I feel my future is really nice.</p>	1.06.50 - 1.10.31
1.10.41	Thank you, Rachel; it's been a pleasure.	
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