Gender has benefited Archaeology by problematizing andro- and ethnocentric knowledge production in past studies.

This session will offer the chance to engage with recent debates in anthropological and critical (feminist) theory, to explore how and to what extent gender can be explored in the archaeological record. Gender can be used as a relational framework, as one way among many that people form connections with one another. The session will explore how different bodies are understood, giving attention to signifying systems – that is, the way societies represent and articulate rules of social relationships and organization, creating meaning through hierarchies of difference based on practices of inclusion/exclusion.

Key questions:
• Has the scope of gender theory been widened far enough?
• What is the potential of gender as an analytical tool?