**10th Equality, Diversity and Inclusion International Conference**

**28-30 June, 2017, Brunel Business School, London.**

Submitted Stream title**: Watching the Martian invaders: Implications for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

**Stream Convenors:**

Barbara Myers Irene Ryan Judith K. Pringle

Gender & Diversity Research Group

Auckland University of Technology,

Aotearoa New Zealand

Barbara.myers@aut.ac.nz Irene.ryan@aut.ac.nz Judith.pringle@aut.ac.nz

*I live at the edge of the universe,*

*Like everyone else. Sometimes I think*

*congratulations are in order:*

*I look out to the stars*

*and my eye merely blinks a little,*

*my voice settles for a sigh.*

*But my whole pleasure is the inconspicuous;*

*I love the unimportant thing.*

*I go down to the Twilight Arcade*

*and watch the Martian invaders,*

*already appalled by our language,*

*pointing at what they want.*

Bill Manhire, (1991)

We are inspired by this poem from New Zealand poet Bill Manhire (1991) to provide a point of entry into our stream “Watching the Martian Invaders: Implications for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.” For those living at the edge as we do in New Zealand, observing Trumpland and Brexit from afar, we could be complacent, and even self-congratulatory at our luck of geographic location. Similarly for those living in spaces at the centre (hooks 1984; 2000) who are part of the dominant social groups.

We observe the ‘Martian invaders’ who oftentimes challenge local beliefs, cultural norms or plunder physical resources. As we watch these cycles of appropriation, domination and oppression in a ‘post truth’ world, do we continue to be observers sighing from a distance’, or do we use our privileged voices to document and challenge inequalities?

We invite submissions from those EDI scholars wishing to engage with more than a sigh to be a critic and conscience of society, as part of our responsibility as university academics. No matter where we are positioned in society, at the edge in the borders or centrally, we can make a choice. Do we sit back and observe, or do we take a more proactive and explicit approach to inequality and adversity?

We invite challenges; thinking and experiences from outside of our self-imposed borders and silos; be they psychological, political, geographic or disciplinary. We challenge our colleagues to move from passive enquiry to active critique, perhaps including all phases of action to bring about equality, diversity and inclusion. We invite papers from across disciplines and methodologies to address issues that matter to you. Papers may be conceptual, empirical, practitioner based articles and reports or creative-storytelling, poetry and performance. We encourage you to engage in a process of analysing self or giving voice to others’ experiences of living in the borderlands (Anzaldúa, 1987).

Submissions from doctoral students, early career academics as well as more established researchers are particularly welcomed.

**Key Words**:

Disruption, complacency, visibility, voice, inequality, borders, academic activism.

**Abstracts/papers:**

Submissions to the conference should be in the form of extended abstract (approximately 500 words (plus references)) for the April 28 deadline. However, acceptance will be subject to submitting at least a developmental paper (3000-5000 words) in time for the second round of reviews by 15th May, 2017.

Abstracts and papers should be submitted electronically at:

<http://www.edi-conference.org/>

**References**

Anzaldúa, Gloria E. (1987). *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*. San Francisco, CA; Aunt Lute Books

hooks, bell (1984; 2000). *Feminist Theory:* *From Margin to Centre.* Cambridge, MA: South End Press.

Manhire, Bill (1991*).* 'Milky Way Bar' in Milky Way Bar. Wellington: Victoria University Press.