



Urban Talks

2023

# Safer Space and Queer Nightlife

## The politics of vulnerability and control in 'post-neoliberal' London

2023

### Jamie Hakim

Since the late-2010s a new generation of queer clubs have emerged in London that can be distinguished from the capital's commercial gay scene through their explicit embrace of politics. Central to these politics is the desire to create nightclubs that are 'safer spaces' for queer people – specifically trans and femme folk as well as queer people-of-colour.

the Covid-19 pandemic and the vulnerabilities that femme and trans folk as well as queer people-of-colour have long faced on a scene dominated by cis-gendered, gay, white men.

In this presentation, I argue that these politics need to be contextualised within the multiple crises engulfing 'post-neoliberal' London and that have produced widespread feelings of vulnerability for those living through them.

Jamie Hakim is a lecturer in culture, media and creative industries at King's College, London. His research interests lie at the intersection of digital cultures, intimacy, embodiment and care. His book *Work That Body: Male Bodies in Digital Culture* was published by Rowman & Littlefield in 2019. Alongside co-authors James Cummings and Ingrid Young he has a book with the working title *Digital Intimacies: Queer Men, Smartphones and Cultures of Intimacy* coming out in 2024 with Bloomsbury Academic. As part of The Care Collective he has also co-authored *The Care Manifesto: The Politics of Interdependence* (Verso, 2020).

The desire to create queer nightclubs that are safer spaces, therefore, can be seen as a desire to control the specific vulnerabilities that queer folk have been exposed to in relation to nightlife during this conjuncture: the ongoing neoliberal gentrification of queer space, the temporary closures of all queer nightlife during

Friday 02/06  
18:00 pm

floating university  
Lilienthalstraße 32, Berlin

Habitat Unit