

Welcome to Headliners 2.0

This is the second iteration of our anthology of postgraduate writing from the students on the Masters' programmes in Events Management at Leeds Beckett University. This year's crop are drawn from work submitted by students on the Contemporary Issues in Events Management module.

Emma McCully's paper discusses issues around environmental sustainability at festivals. She considers the various guidelines open to event organisers but concludes that festival organisers still fail to fully understand the environmental impact of their events. Her recommendations include a suggestion that a greater emphasis on compliance is required.

Amika Settheewongsakun also considers the environmental and cultural impact of events, however her focus is on the wedding sector – destination weddings in particular. Acknowledging the income benefits of a growth in the destination wedding market for host states, along with the environmental and potential cultural costs to places and communities, Amika suggests the tensions that are already felt along those fault lines, within the sector, are only going to become more, and more, exaggerated.

Protest is the focus of Danielle Hammond's contribution. Events of dissent are an emerging field of research interest within event studies and Danielle's paper explores some of the sources that consider protest from an event studies and events management studies perspective. Her interest focuses, primarily, on the Women's movement in the US, its history and current manifestation, arguing that the contemporary women's movement has a lot to learn from protest events instigated by activists in the past.

The manifestation of activism around equality is also of interest to our last contributor, Kate Peel. Kate's concern, however, is around the perceived increased commercialisation of Pride events in the UK. Through a comparison of two Pride events from the north of England (Leeds Pride and Manchester Pride), one is a free event - the other ticketed, she raises questions around whether such events are still a form of protest. A shared comparison is

then made with Mardi Gras in Sydney. Whilst she argues that Pride's history will always mean it has resonances with protest, and the political, its celebratory aspects will also draw in the attention of sponsors and corporate backing, the trick is in getting the balance right.

We hope you enjoy this year's papers, and we look forward to sharing contributions from the current Masters' programme with you next year.

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