Research has traditionally shown that heterosexual men are emotionally and physically distant from their male friends. Drawing on interview and ethnographic data over the past 5 years, Dr Mark McCormack shows how decreasing homophobia has resulted in a transformation of male friendships, with emotional intimacy and physical tactility important parts of young men’s lives. Hugging, cuddling and even spooning in bed, British male youth publically proclaim love for their friends without questioning their gendered or sexual identities.

Dr Mark McCormack is Senior Lecturer in Sociology and Co-Director of the Centre for Sex, Gender and Sexualities at Durham University, England. His research examines the effects of decreasing homophobia on the gendered and sexual lives of US and UK youth. He has published over 20 articles in international journals, and his book ‘The Declining Significance of Homophobia: How Teenage Boys are Redefining Masculinity and Heterosexuality’ is published with Oxford University Press.

Nov. 13 in Harris Hall, Rm. 108 at 5 pm