



*Professor Lauren Berlant joined the Department of English in 1984 and was a co-founder of the CSGS in 1996*

## A Note from the Director

Dear Friends of the Center,

We are starting this new school year with a great deal of excitement at our return to a more in-person campus. Currently our building is open for scheduled classes and residents with offices only. We have all felt the loss of being able to meet in person, and are looking forward to more ways to be together in our common goals and work. And, we are coming back just in time to catch the last few months of our official 25th anniversary as a Center in 2021 - though we will take the liberty of celebrating well into 2022! We will be doing a series of events around our anniversary that amplify the work of our affiliates and students, and look to the future of gender & sexuality research at the University of Chicago.

We also start this year, however, with a heavy heart due to the huge loss of Prof. **Lauren Berlant** (1957-2021), a co-founder of our Center. Lauren joined the faculty in the Department of English in 1984 and was a director of the CSGS from 1999-2002. Winner of the Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, Lauren was our most sought-out instructor in the CSGS and shaped the lives of so many of our alums. Lauren created spaces for the pursuit of critical work in sexuality and gender, and worked with hundreds of PhD, MA, and BA students during their time at the University of Chicago.

To honor the life and work of Prof. Berlant, we will be hosting a virtual symposium on Fri, Nov 5th from 3-5 pm, titled “What Does Lauren Berlant Teach Us About X?” (a play on the title of a well-known short piece by Lauren Berlant and Michael Warner). The symposium brings together four speakers: **Romi Crawford** (School of the Art Institute), **Lee Edelman** (Tufts University), **Sianne Ngai** (University of Chicago), and **Katie Stewart** (The University of Texas at Austin). Demonstrating Lauren’s impact on the University of Chicago, this event is co-sponsored with the Department of English, the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture, and the Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory. Together with the CSGS, these co-sponsorships reflect where Lauren Berlant dedicated time and energy to collaborative work over their 37 years on the faculty.

We will also be launching a fundraising campaign in honor of Lauren Berlant, titled “*The Unfundable Fund*.” The name of this fund is a formulation from Lauren, who was a tireless advocate for keeping space open for student research that presents “forms of queer we might not yet recognize.” In this spirit, the Unfundable Fund will prioritize humanistic areas of inquiry that are centered in gender and/or sexuality studies and are not easily fundable through existing grant mechanisms. Today, this might be critical sexuality research, affect theory and aesthetics,

### FEATURED EVENTS

**Tue Oct 5 at 5pm**

**Amélie Le Renard**, *Western Privilege: Work, Intimacy, and Postcolonial Hierarchies in Dubai* with **Rhacel Salazar Parreñas**

**Wed Oct 13 at 4:30pm**

**Stefan Vogler**, *Sorting Sexualities: Expertise and the Politics of Legal Classification*

**Wed Oct 20 at 7pm**

Manning up for the Nation: State, Media, and China’s Regulation against “Sissy” Men

**Fri Nov 5 at 3pm**

What Does Lauren Berlant Teach Us About X? featuring **Romi Crawford, Lee Edelman, Sianne Ngai, and Katie Stewart**

**Mon Nov 15 at 7pm**

**Arielle Zibrak**, *Avidly Reads Guilty Pleasures*

**Wed Nov 17 at 6pm**

The Porn Star After OnlyFans and SESTA/FOSTA

**Thu Nov 18 at 7pm**

**Manon Garcia**, *We Are Not Born Submissive: How Patriarchy Shapes Women’s Lives*

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or community-based research and engagement. Tomorrow this might be a form or genre for which we do not currently have a vocabulary. The Unfundable Fund will continue our long-standing support for humanistic, interdisciplinary gender and sexuality research at the Center. Recognizing the increased precarity of academic careers, we will expand our funding to include UChicago postdoctoral scholars as well as graduate students. We are seeking to endow funds to provide two grants each year. Additionally, we hope to fund a yearly one-quarter Visiting Professorship for an assistant professor in the arts, humanities, or the humanistic social sciences whose research fits within the ethos of the Unfundable Fund. We will launch this campaign at our November 5th event.

We will have a virtual alumni panel on Wed, Feb 16, titled “The Pleasures and Perils of Doing Radical Sexuality Work in the Academy.” This panel will feature three PhD Center alums whose research fits within our model for the Unfundable Fund: **Joseph Fischel** (Yale University), **Sarah Luna** (Tufts University), and **Red Vaughan Tremmel** (Tulane University). All three speakers held Hormel fellowships, which we offered from 1998-2012 at the Center - our first formal dissertation fellowships for LGBTQ Studies. We offered these fellowships at a time when there was very little funding for progressive research on sexuality and queer studies through generous funding from a long-time supporter of our Center, the Honorable **James Hormel**. Judge Hormel, who was the first openly gay U.S. Ambassador, sadly passed away this year (1933-2021), and we will remember his contributions to our work at this panel - contributions we hope to continue through the Unfundable Fund.

In Spring quarter, we will host the inaugural event of the new annual *OutStanding Speakers Series*. The series was created and endowed in collaboration with UChicago Alumni Pride. Each year, we will invite a prominent scholar, professional or public figure who has made significant contributions to the LGBTQI+ community for a multi-day visit to campus to deliver a lecture and meet with students. Additionally, a student will be selected each year to receive the New OUTstanding Leader Award for their impact on the LGBTQI+ community, whether it be on campus or more broadly.

One of our signature events has long been the annual faculty affiliates book party. For the last two years, we have held this event remotely - which we have commemorated through a series of websites created by our Program Coordinator, Tate Brazas. Due to the increasing number of events in our Spring quarters, we have decided to hold the faculty book party in the Autumn quarter, which means we will host our next one in Fall 2022. To tide us all over, and to give more attention to books that came out in the pandemic, we have created a speaker series this year to highlight faculty books. Our first event will be a virtual book talk by NORC Research Scientist **Stefan Vogler**, who joined the University of Chicago last Spring. Stefan will present from his new book, *Sorting Sexualities: Expertise and the Politics of Legal Classification*, on Wed, Oct 13. In Winter quarter we will host **Martha Nussbaum** (Law School) in virtual conversation about her new book, *Citadels of Pride: Sexual Abuse, Accountability, and Reconciliation*, with **Linda Zerilli** (Political Science/Gender and Sexuality Stud-

ies) in January. And in Spring, **Gabriel Winant** (History) will discuss his new book, *The Next Shift: The Fall of Industry and the Rise of Health Care in Rust Belt America*, on March 24.

This quarter, we are also featuring two student-organized panel discussions on important current events for gender & sexuality. On Wed, Oct 20, along with Global Studies, we will host “Manning up for the Nation: State, Media, and China’s Regulation against ‘Sissy’ Men.” Panelists **Yan Long** (UC Berkeley) and **Yige Dong** (SUNY Buffalo) will be joined by discussant **Yuchen Yang** (PhD Candidate, Sociology) to discuss what the policy can tell us about gender and sexuality in Chinese media, politics, and beyond. **Caterina Fugazzola** (Global Studies) will moderate. And on Wed, Nov 17, we will host “The Porn Star After OnlyFans and SESTA/FOSTA.” Panelists will discuss how porn performers and porn studies are adapting to the new figurations and labor conditions of erotic performers alongside the massive resurgence of sex panics and federal crackdowns on sex work.

The CSGS is hosting two faculty projects this year. *The Lexicon Project: Articulating Embodiment in the Middle Ages*, now in its fourth year, returns with faculty sponsors Noel Blanco Mourelle (Romance Languages), Daisy Delogu (Romance Languages) and Kris Trujillo (Comparative Literature). The project aims to continue exploring the terms (the “lexicon”) in which medieval people wrote about themselves and their world (including matters of gender, sexuality, disability, illness, race, human/non-human animals, monstrosity, geography, and time), and to consider these topics in relation to present-day theoretical paradigms. Conversations will revolve around questions of embodiment, periodization, the politics of temporality, and the resources of the past for reshaping theory in the present. Details can be found here: <https://voices.uchicago.edu/lexiconproject/>

A new project, *Getting Real: The Cultural Politics of Reality TV*, is being organized by **Beatrice Bradley** and **Brandon Truett** (both Humanities Teaching Fellows, English). A year-long series of events will examine the cultural politics of reality television. In bringing together faculty and students, these events will foster interdisciplinary and intersectional engagement across the University. The project will explore collectively how such shows—often conceived as guilty pleasures—have been and continue to be responsible for mediating important public conversations around issues of race, gender, and sexuality. The project will host a working group that meets monthly, a series of public lectures and informal discussions, and an undergraduate research symposium. They will have their first meeting and reception on Fri, Oct 8.

The majority of our programming will be held virtually, at least through Autumn quarter. For full details on our events and those we are co-sponsoring with our programming partners, please see our calendar: <https://gendersexuality.uchicago.edu/events/calendar.shtml>.

#### **Kristen Schilt**

Director for the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality  
Associate Professor, Department of Sociology

# Student News

## Autumn 2021 Courses

The CSGS' core offering, Gender and Sexuality in World Civilizations, continues to be a favorite among College students. We have increased the number of sections in each of the last few years and this year we have a record nine sections, all completely full with large waiting lists. GNSE Civ will be chaired again this year by Professor **Kris Trujillo** (Comparative Literature), who oversaw the syllabus changes last year and has continued to adjust the syllabus as we see how things work in the classroom. Our Autumn sections are being taught by Professors **Sarah Taylor** (Divinity School), **Malynne Sternstein** (Slavic Languages), **Larissa Brewer-Garcia** (Romance Languages), and **Armando Maggi** (Romance Languages), as well as Social Sciences Teaching Fellow **Rebecca Ewert** (Sociology) and Divinity School Teaching Fellow **M Vanderpoel**. Our graduate interns are **Anna Fox** (Sociology), **Sofia Smith** (Political Science), and **Jiarui Sun** (East Asian Languages and Civilizations).

This Autumn, Professor **Kristen Schilt** (Sociology, Faculty Director of CSGS) will teach our "Theories of Sexuality and Gender" course with PhD candidate **Gabi Ojeda-Sague** (English) as co-teacher. We are also offering one 'Foundations' course, "Foundations in Masculinity Studies," taught by Social Science Teaching Fellow **Rebecca Ewert** (Sociology). Two 'Concepts' courses will be offered this Autumn: **Stephanie Painter** (History) will teach "Witches, Shrews, and Whores: Transgressive Women in the Early Modern Period" and **Yaniv Ron-El** (Sociology) will teach "Gender and Consumption." With a wide range of departments represented, we have crosslisted 25 courses for undergraduates and 10 for graduate students. **Rose Owen** (PhD candidate, Political Science) will serve as our B.A. Preceptor, guiding the Class of 2022 GNSE majors through the process of writing their B.A. theses.

## Undergraduate Major/Minor

Undergraduate students interested in gender and/or sexuality have the option to get a major or a minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies (GNSE). Students can take GNSE coursework as an independent major or as a double major where their gender coursework can provide a lens through which they study another discipline. A minor is also available for students who may not be able to complete all the major requirements while also studying another discipline. Currently, we have students who are also majoring in Comparative Human Development, English, Public Policy, Theater and Performance Studies, and many other areas. On Wed, Oct 13 at 5:15pm at the Center, we are holding an Information Session for anyone interested in the major. Registration is available at <https://collegesurveys.uchicago.edu/college-major-open-houses>.

## Welcome New Fellows!

We couldn't be more thrilled to have our graduate fellows back in person. **Agatha Slupek** (Political Science) is the CSGS Dissertation Fellow and our Residential Fellows are **Silvia Fedi** (Political Science), **Paula Martin** (Comparative Human Development), **Sarah McDaniel** (English) and **Raffaella Taylor-Seymour** (Comparative Human Development). This year's joint CSGS/CSRPC Fellows are Dissertation Fellow **Allison Reed** (Sociology) and Residential Fellow **Paul Cato** (Social Thought). We also have two postdoctoral teaching fellows in residence: **Emily Bock**, Social Sci-

ence Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow in Gender and Sexuality Studies and Critical Race Theory and **Rebecca Ewert**, Teaching Fellow in the Social Sciences, Gender and Sexuality Studies & Sociology.

## Feminist Queer Praxis Series (FQP)

The Feminist/Queer Praxis series, aimed at undergraduate audiences, brings artists, activists, scholars, and professionals to the CSGS to talk about their work in the world as people committed to queer and feminist values and action. In recent years we have paired these events with courses happening during the quarter. This quarter we are planning a Gender and Marketing talk to coincide with our Gender and Consumption course. Watch our website or mailing list for information about the date/time. The event will be held in-person at the CSGS, open to students with preregistration.

## Undergraduate Summer Internships

As in past summers, the CSGS chose students from a competitive application process for undergraduate internship funding. Even during the pandemic, our students were able to secure fabulous opportunities and work for some great organizations. We provided funding for three interns this year, all Gender and Sexuality Studies majors. Fourth-year **Bianca Munguia** worked at Bethany House, which offers housing and support services to young immigrant women. Bianca worked one-on-one with women living in the shelter and provided support to the organization where needed. Second-year **Myra Bajwa** worked at Deborah's Place, an organization serving homeless women in Chicago. Myra learned about direct social service, working on both the case management and residential sides of the program. Second-year **Titi Arowolo** worked remotely for the Institute for African Women in Law, an organization dedicated to supporting women in the legal field both in African countries and the diaspora. Titi was given large research projects to tackle over the summer and gained great experience in data collection and report-writing. These students will report back on their experiences at an information session later this year. Applications for 2022 summer internships are available on the CSGS website, due February 27, 2022.

## CSGS Certificate

Our graduate certificate program continued to grow this year as we granted eligibility to Social Work Masters students. The following PhD and MA students completed the requirements this past Spring and summer: **Jamie Ackerman** (MAPSS), **Henry Barrett** (Divinity MA), **Brigid Boll** (Divinity MA), **Cody Boukather** (MAPSS), **Henry Brefka** (Divinity PhD), **Ruochen Cao** (MAPSS), **Vaughan Collins** (Social Work MA), **Juan Contreras** (Social Work MA), **David Delbar** (Classics), **Sarah McDaniel** (English), **Agatha Slupek** (Political Science), **Catherine Stockalper** (MAPSS), **Rita Rodriguez** (Divinity MDiv), **Caroline Wills** (Divinity MA), and **Jiangnan Xiang** (MAPSS). Going forward we have altered the requirements slightly so master's level students will have one fewer course to complete.

For more information about the Gender and Sexuality Studies program, including the major/minor or graduate certificate, please contact Student Affairs Administrator **Bonnie Kanter** at [bonniek@uchicago.edu](mailto:bonniek@uchicago.edu).

# Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop & Working Group

Workshops and Working Group sessions will continue to be held virtually on **Tuesdays from 5:00-6:20pm**. Please contact the organizers via emails provided for session information.

## Autumn 2021 Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop

We are excited to announce the Autumn 2021 schedule for the Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop. We have a fabulous lineup of authors and discussants, and we hope you will join us!

**October 5:** *Western Privilege: Work, Intimacy, and Postcolonial Hierarchies in Dubai* Book Salon with author **Amélie Le Renard** and discussant **Rhacel Salazar Parreñas**

**October 19:** **Eva Pensis**, PhD Candidate in Music/Theater & Performance Studies, “Problem Child: Social Feminization, Abuse Etiologies, and Trans Feminine Narratives.” Discussant: Jules Gill Peterson, Associate Professor of History at Johns Hopkins University

**November 2:** **Rafaella Taylor-Seymour**, PhD Candidate in Anthropology and Comparative Human Development, “Unexpected Callings: The Rediscovery of Ancestral Spiritualities among Queer Zimbabweans.” Discussant: Angie Heo, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Sociology of Religion at University of Chicago

**November 16:** **Yuchen Yang**, PhD Candidate in Sociology, “‘What the F\*\*k Are You Implying (About) This Child?’: Degen-dering as a Childing Practice.” Discussant: Kate Averett, Assistant Professor of Sociology at University of Albany

**November 30:** **Eman Abdelhadi**, Assistant Professor of Comparative Human Development, “Gendering Embeddedness - Trajectories out of and through Muslim Communities.” Discussant: Sa-her Selod, Associate Professor of Sociology at Simmons University

Papers will be made available in advance via our email list. If you are interested in joining the list, go to <http://lists.uchicago.edu/web/info/sexuality-gender-wkshp>. If you have any questions or accommodation requests, please don't hesitate to contact us at [gssworkshop@gmail.com](mailto:gssworkshop@gmail.com).

### CSGS STAFF

Tate Brazas, *Program Coordinator*

Willem Finn Harling, *Events and Media Intern*

Bonnie Kanter, *Student Affairs Administrator*

Gina Olson, *Associate Director*

Kristen Schilt, *Faculty Director*

## Gender and Sexuality Studies Working Group

The Gender and Sexuality Studies Working Group welcomes students and papers from any field, discipline, or methodological tradition, as long as the research is relevant to gender and sexuality studies, broadly defined. Submitted work may be partial or rough, including rough drafts of papers or dissertation chapters, work nearing completion, survey designs, literature reviews, or methodological sections. Meeting time consists largely of discussion of the submitted research or work following brief comments from the presenter. We ask that only students, graduate or undergraduate, attend.

**September 28:** **Della Tao**, MAPSS, “Shaping Online Feminist Movements: How Feminist Blogs Talk about Body Image and Beauty Standards”

**October 12:** **Alicia Taylor**, MAPSS Alum, TMW – Center for Early Learning + Public Health, “Constructing Refugee English Language Learners and the ‘Other’ through Institutional Language Ideologies”

**October 26:** **Anjie Chan Tack**, Sociology, “The Afterlives of the Plantation: Intimate Partner Violence among Indo-Caribbeans in NYC”

**November 9:** **Rachel Willis**, English, “‘Montmartre Haunts the Room’: Lorraine Hansberry and Interwar Paris in the Black Queer Imaginary”

Prior to each meeting, we will send an email to our mailing list with the paper to be discussed and a sign-up link to attend the virtual meeting. For security, only those who sign-up will be provided the Zoom link and password. We also encourage you to submit written feedback to the authors, especially if you are unable to attend the Zoom conference.

If you have any questions or would like to be added to the Working Group email list, please reach out to the Working Group Co-Coordinators Kat Myers (Divinity) and Sofia Smith (Political Science) at [gssworkinggroup@gmail.com](mailto:gssworkinggroup@gmail.com).

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