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 unless otherwise noted. Please contact the organizers via emails provided for session information.

Spring 2022 Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop

We are excited to announce the Spring 2022 schedule for the Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop. Please note the two special noon start times for the workshops on April 12th and 26th.

March 29: Branneke Pootijn, Assistant Instructional Professor of Sociology, “Gender Has Its Place in the Order of God: Rectification Work among Black Religious Women in a Southern Baptist Church.” Discussant: Omar McRoberts, Associate Professor of Sociology at University of Chicago

April 12 at 12pm: Silvia Fedi, Doctoral Candidate in Political Science, “The Assembly and The Festival: Secrecy, Politics, and Rule by Women in Aristophanes.” Discussant: Jill Frank, Professor of Political Science at Cornell University

April 26 at 12pm: Paul Cato, Doctoral Candidate in the Committee on Social Thought, “Sensual, Souful, and Thick: Witnessing the Empowering Potential of Critical Black Love Studies.” Discussant: Michael Gratzke, Professor of Comparative Literature at University of Dundee.

May 10: Allison Reed, Doctoral Candidate in Sociology, Title TBA. Discussant: Drea Woody, Associate Professor of Politics at The New School for Social Research

May 24: Deme Kasimis, Assistant Professor of Political Science, “The Intimacy of Conspiracy: Democratic Erosion and the Problem of the Oikos.” Discussant: Emanuela Bianchi, Associate Professor of Political Science at New York 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/webinfo/sexuality-gender-wkshp. If you have any questions or accommodation requests, please don’t hesitate to contact us at gsworkshop@gmail.com.

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, works 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.


April 19: Gabrielle Bazarr, Political Science, “On Primitive Accumulation: Sex, Gender, and Racialization”


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 gsworkshop@gmail.com.

Find us on social media

https://www.facebook.com/UChicagoGender
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A Note from the Director

Dear Friends of the Center,

We are excited to tentatively welcome you back to in-person events this quarter. We launched our first hybrid event on March 1st with our LGBTQ Speaker Series lecture by Prof. Colby Gordon, and it was a great success. We will be experimenting with some hybrid events and some in-person events, while keeping our workshops virtual. We are looking forward to an opportunity to be able to bring our campus community together, as it has been far too long, but want to maintain the connections we have been able to make with those of you living outside of Chicago. As we start to imagine what the future of programming may look like in our “new normal,” we will continue to look for new ways to stay connected with all of you.

For our spring 2022 quarter, we will be composing several of our programming themes for the year. From our faculty book salon series, we have two talks, starting first with Prof. Gabriel Winant in the Department of History on Thursday, April 14th at 5pm at the CSGS and simulcast on Zoom. Prof. Winant will be giving a presentation on his recent book, The Next Shift: The Fall of Industry and the Rise of Health Care in Rust Belt America. On Friday, April 29 at 12:20pm, we will feature a virtual lunchtime discussion about Prof. Martha Nussbaum’s (Philosophy and Law) recent book, Accidents in Pride: Sexual Abuse, Accountability, and Reconciliation. Prof. Nussbaum will be joined in conversation by Prof. Linda Zerilli (Political Science and Gender and Sexuality Studies). This event was rescheduled from Winter 2022. For our LGBTQ Speaker Series, we will feature Prof. Kadji Amin (Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Emory University) on Tuesday, May 3 at 1pm at the CSGS. Prof. Amin will be presenting a talk titled, “We Are All Nonbinary: A Brief History of Accidents.”

For our spring 2022 quarter, we will be hosting the Spring 2022 Gender and Sexuality Studies Working Group & Working Group sessions. Please contact the organizers via emails provided for session information.

A Note from the Director

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We have a lot of exciting co-sponsorships this quarter. On Wednesday, March 30, we are co-sponsoring a lecture by Prof. Adia Harvey Wingfield (Sociology, Washington University) with the Sociology Colloquium. Prof. Wingfield’s lecture will be at 12:30pm, and her talk is titled, “Professional Work in a ‘Post-Racial’ Era: Black Health Care Workers in the New Economy.” On Thursday, March 31, we are co-sponsoring the Student Faculty Center for Human Rights’ annual Kristochner Lecture. The featured speaker will be the Hon. Phyllis Frye, who was elected the first transgender judge in the United States (in the state of Texas) in 2015. This talk will take place at 6pm in the 3rd floor lecture hall of Ida Noyes. On Sunday, April 3 at 7pm, we will co-sponsor an event with South Side Projections titled, “How I Met My Wife.” This talk will take place at 6pm in the 3rd floor lecture hall of Ida Noyes. On Sunday, April 3 at 7pm, we will co-sponsor an event at the Logan Center Screening Room 201. On April 19 and 26, we will co-sponsor two lectures by Prof. Mako Idemitsu (Education, Johns Hopkins). Osefo will be in conversation with Prof. Laurens Michelle Jackson (English, Northwestern) in the CSGS Community Room (105).

This Spring, we are also co-sponsoring two student-led events aimed at building community and providing social connection among LGBTQ undergraduate student population. On Thursday, April 7 from 5:00-7:00pm, we will host a Queer night mixer with mocktails and crafts in the CSGS Community Room. And on Thursday, May 12 at 8:00pm, students are welcome to join us for an LGBTQ Prom event at the Center for Identity + Inclusion. Event details are subject to change, so please keep an eye on our digest email, web calendar, or social media for updates.

Looking ahead to the fall, we are excited to announce the inaugural event of the OutStanding Speakers Series! On October 20, Victor Madrigal-Borloz, United Nations Independent Expert on Protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, will visit campus to give a lecture on his work and meet with students. This series has been endowed through a campaign by UChicago Alumni Pride (Formerly the UChicago LGBT Alumni Network.).

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

Spring Courses

This quarter we have two new graduate lectures teaching for us at the Center. Hannah Jones (Divinity) will be teaching a Foundations course called “Sex, Gender, Theology.” Jenisha Borah (Cinema and Media Studies) will be teaching “Queering Visual Culture in Modern India.” In addition, we are coordinating 45 undergraduates and 20 graduate-level courses. Gender and sexuality topics continue to be very engaging for students across campus and the list of options available for them grows each year.

Feminist Queer Praxis Series

A growing number of our majors/minors have expressed interest in careers in sex therapy. To respond to that interest, we have organized the Spring Quarter FC20 as a presentation from two sex therapists, Prem Pahwa and Lily Gonzalez. Both work in Chicago and have a range of clients from all genders/sexualities. We are excited to hear about their work and what students need to do to become Certified Sex Therapists. Prem and Lily will be joining us at the Center on Thursday, May 5 at 5:30pm.

CSGS Summer Internships

Each summer, CSGS provides funding for undergraduates who are interested in internships that focus on advocacy, service, or activism for women and LGBTQ communities. This summer we have funded six interns, Yanan Dai, Allo Kerstein, Sahar Punjwani, Arianna Quintero, Abigail Scharf and Caroline Waldmann. We’re so pleased with this group of students who are interested in a variety of issues, including reproductive rights, intimate partner violence, LGBTQI history, and immigration/adoption. As students don’t need to know their placements to apply, we’ll be working together through Spring Quarter to find them opportunities that will relate to their interests while also helping them figure out how they might integrate gender and sexuality into their work after college. Check for a report back about their locations and experiences in our Autumn Quarter newsletter.
We have a lot of exciting co-sponsorships this quarter. On Wednesday, March 30, we are co-sponsoring a lecture by Prof. Adia Harvey Wingfield (Sociology, Washington University) with the Sociology Colloquium. Prof. Wingfield’s lecture will be at 12:30pm, and her talk is titled, “Professional Work in a ‘Post-Racial’ Era: Black Health Care Workers in the New Economy.” On Thursday, March 31, we are co-sponsoring the Franke Institute (Regenstein Library, Room 118) and simulcast on Zoom.

This Spring, we are also co-sponsoring two student-led events aimed at building community and providing social connection among LGBTQ+ undergraduates. On Thursday, April 7 from 5:00-7:00pm, we will host a “party night mixer with mocktails and crafts” in the CSGS Community Room. And on Thursday, May 12 at 8:00pm, students are welcome to join us for an LGBTQ Prom event at the Center for Identity + Inclusion. Event details are subject to change, so please keep an eye on our digest email, web calendar, or social media for updates.

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

Ruth Murray Essay Prize
Friday, May 6 is the deadline for undergraduate students to submit their best essay. We are incredibly grateful to the Estate of Dr. Ruth Murray for the best essay written by a University of Chicago undergraduate student in the area of women’s studies, feminist criticism, gender or sexuality studies. The $500 prize sponsored by the CSGS is in memory of Ruth Murray, who died in 1991, having served as Bibliographer for the Education, Psychology, Sociology and Women’s Studies Collections at the Regenstein Library for many years. Ruth Murray had a strong interest in encouraging scholarship in women’s studies and often served as a stimulus and facilitator of work by students and faculty in the area. It is the intent of the Ruth Murray Prize Committee that the essay competition sustain and encourage scholarship in gender and sexuality studies, as Ruth Murray did during her lifetime. Essays may come from students in all majors and may take the form of analytic or critical essays, empirical research papers, or personal essays.

The Gender and Sexuality Studies Program
The Center for Gender and Sexuality Studies offers an undergraduate major and a minor. Students can focus solely on gender/sexuality studies or combine the major with another discipline to deepen their knowledge of how gender/sexuality impacts that subject. We also offer a minor, which may make the most sense for students whose majors have little overlap with our courses. Descriptions of major and minor requirements can be found at http://gendersex.uchicago.edu/degree-requirements. If you have questions or want to talk about how they might fit into your general academic goals, call or email Assistant Director of Student Affairs and Curriculum, Bonnie Kanter (773-702-2365; bonniek@uchicago.edu).

Graduate Student News
We are thrilled that current Residential Fellow Paula Martin (Comparative Human Development) will be staying with us next year as a Social Sciences Teaching Fellow! Paula will be taking on our Theories of Sexuality and Gender course, which is required for all majors and minors and will serve as our BA Preceptor. Paula will also remain in residence at the Center – which is great news for all of us! Our Graduate Certificate continues to be popular around campus. This quarter four Ph.D. students completed the requirements: Laura Colaneri (Romance Languages and Literature), Gabriel Ojeda-Sague (English), Yao Ong (English) and Eva Pensi (Theater and Performance Studies). We have a growing number of MAPSS, Crown and Divinity students who are in progress. We look forward to recognizing their work in future newsletters.

This year we offered research and travel grants on a quarterly basis. In Winter Quarter, three students were awarded grants. Rose Owen (Political Science) received support for travel to a conference and Ajung Ryou (MAPSS) and Graham Steffen (Comparative Human Development) received funding in support of their thesis/dissertation research. Congratulations to everyone!
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