

WINTER 2024

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Students enjoy crafts, “mimosas,” and a waffle bar during our annual Galentines/Valentines/Palentines Study Break in 2023. This popular study break will return in 2024 with the date to be announced.

A Note from the Director

This quarter I'd like to take the opportunity to introduce to the CSGS community our new Instructional Professor, appointed fully in the Center, **Red Vaughan Tremmel**! We are thrilled to have him join our community. I sat down with Red to learn more about him.

Daisy Delogu (Faculty Director, Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality and Howard L. Willett Professor of French Literature, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures): Tell me a little about your research and scholarship.

Red Vaughan Tremmel (Instructional Professor, Gender and Sexuality Studies): I'm a historian and artist who studies play and pleasure cultures as historically significant sites of social struggle. Specifically, I am interested in the ways in which these cultures have the capacity to enable political imaginaries and social transformation.

I was trained by scholars of gender, race, and political economy who have researched the ways in which bodies and desires have been scrutinized and regulated, deemed normal or deviant, criminal or pathological. I was drawn to an emerging scholarship that argued that the pleasure cultures produced by marginalized people have the capacity to powerfully transmute the insidious effects of oppression on the body and psyche—feelings of numbness, depression, nihilism, and alienation.

I began researching the use of “free time” in the shift from agrarian to industrial capitalism, studying how pleasure and play enabled, not simply escapism, but a means of camaraderie and creation—where crossing boundaries, taking chances, and acting queerly fostered new intimacies, languages, embodiments, practices, sensoriums, and ideas. My research today con-

FEATURED EVENTS

Thu Jan 25 at 5pm

2024 *Iris Marion Young Distinguished Faculty Lecture: Kimberly Kay Hoang*, “Spiderweb Capitalism: How Global Elites Exploit Frontier Markets”

Thu Feb 8 at 5pm

The Last Hour by **Csaba Molnár, Gyula Muskovics and Máté Janky**

Mon Feb 19 at 12:30pm

Gigi Otálvaro-Hormillosa on *Erotic Resistance: The Struggle for the Soul of San Francisco*

Wed Feb 28 at 5pm

The Lexicon Project:
Tarren Andrews

Thu Feb 29 at 5pm

“Reading Consent: The French Canon through the Female Gaze” feat. **Jennifer Tamas**

Thu Feb 29 at 5pm

Greta LaFleur on *How Sex Became Good* with 3CT

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continues in this direction, with a specific focus on queer knowledge production and cultural transformation.

Daisy: You grew up in Chicago and went to graduate school here, but for the past 15 years, you've been living and teaching in other areas. What's been the most surprising thing about your return to Chicago, either the city or the University?

Red: Well, I've been surprised by how much milder the winter is; and during the summer the lake no longer has a swampy look; it's clearer like the Caribbean Sea (from invasive zebra mussels, I've learned). In terms of the university, when I was working elsewhere, a question I asked myself was, had I been romanticizing my time here? As a grad student, it was so stimulating, exciting, intellectually queer, no matter what idea you had, if it was good, people wanted to play with you—share, question, debate, run in wildly unexpected directions. Since I've been back, I'm happily surprised that I hadn't been romanticizing it. The new colleagues I've met and the talks that I have attended are as vibrant and interesting as ever. The students are thrilling. I've also been happily surprised by how many more spaces there are to drink coffee and be social!

Daisy: In academic or non-academic terms, what's been the best thing about coming back to Chicago, something or -one you've enjoyed reconnecting with?

Red: The food. I want to reconnect to it all! And having grown up in Chicago, I love reintegrating back into family and friend circles.

Daisy: What's on your to-read or to-do list?

Red: *Posthuman Feminism* (Braidotti); *A Billion Black Anthropocenes or None* (Yusoff); *The Care Manifesto: The Politics of Interdependence* (The Care Collective); *Hospicing Modernity* (de Oliveira); *The Terrible We* (Awkward-Rich); *Archive of Tongues* (Charania)

Daisy: What are you most looking forward to teaching/organizing/doing in the coming months and years?

Red: In terms of teaching, I am always excited to teach new students my history of sexuality and queer history courses. Students are hungry to learn these histories and given how rapidly generational change is happening in these areas, I always learn something too. I'm also excited to connect to the archivists and librarians in the city; so many collections have grown and been added since I was last here. I'm also excited to connect with artists and cultural workers in the city who are nurturing queer spaces.

Daisy: Is there anything else you want people to know?

Red: I am excited for yet unknown collaborations with people in and outside the University. Reach out to me if we share interests!

Daisy: Thanks, Red! We're so happy to have you teaching and working here at the Center and look forward to lots of collaborations to come.

Event Highlights

All our events are free, open to the public, and held in the Community Room on the first floor of the Center unless noted otherwise.

This year's *Iris Marion Young Distinguished Faculty Lecture* will be delivered by **Kimberly Kay Hoang** (Professor of Sociology and the Director of Global Studies) on Thursday, January 25 at 5:00pm. The talk, "[Spiderweb Capitalism: How Global Elites Exploit Frontier Markets](#)," based on her book published in 2022, reveals the strategies behind spiderweb capitalism and examines the moral dilemmas of making money in legal, financial, and political gray zones. It sheds critical light on how global elites capitalize on risky frontier markets and deepens our understanding of the paradoxical ways in which global economic growth is sustained through states where the line separating the legal from the corrupt is not always clear. Professor Hoang's analysis includes the gendered dynamics of deal brokering via homoerotic triangles.

On Thursday, February 8 at 5:00pm (location TBA), the CSGS will cosponsor *The Last Hour*, by artists **Csaba Molnár**, **Gyula Muskovics** and **Máté Janky**. The 90-minute immersive performance brings together movement, music and the lecture-performance form to explore the position of queer monsters in homonormative society through film, visual art and literature. The performance engages the concept of homonormativity of theorist **Lisa Duggan** and the queer horror aesthetics of **Bruce LaBruce**. This will be the first U.S. iteration of the performance.

On Monday, February 19 at 12:30pm, the CSGS will host interdisciplinary artist, writer, and educator **Gigi Otálvaro-Hormillosa** in conversation with **Red Vaughan Tremmel** (GNSE). They will discuss Otálvaro-Hormillosa's book, [Erotic Resistance: The Struggle for the Soul of San Francisco](#), which celebrates the erotic performance cultures that have shaped San Francisco. It preserves the memory of the city's bohemian past and its essential role in the development of American adult entertainment by highlighting the contributions of women of color, queer women, and trans women who were instrumental in the city's labor history, as well as its LGBT and sex workers' rights movements.

[The Lexicon Project](#), a working group of scholars funded by the CSGS working to recover and explore the ways that people wrote and thought about questions of embodiment in the Middle Ages, will co-sponsor a talk by Professor **Tarren Andrews** (Yale) on Wednesday, February 28 at 3:30pm, location/title TBA. The project will also continue their regular reading-group meetings on the theme of "Religion, Secularism, and Disenchantment," from 9:30-11:00am on January 12, February 2, and February 23.

The CSGS is also co-sponsoring two exciting events on Thursday, February 29, both at 5:00pm. At the Franke Center and presented by Romance Languages and Literatures, "Reading Consent: The French Canon through the Female Gaze" features Professor **Jennifer Tamas** (French, Rutgers University) in conversation with Professors **Daisy Delogu** and **Pauline Goul**. In Classics 110 and presented by the Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory (3CT), Professor **Greta LaFleur** (American Studies and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Yale) will discuss their work [How Sex Became Good](#).

Curriculum News

Winter 2024 Courses

We are very excited about the courses on offer for our undergraduates this quarter. **Paula Martin**, our Social Sciences Teaching Fellow, is reprising her very popular Foundations course, “Treating Trans: Practices of Medicine, Practices of Theory” for the third time. Also, our new Instructional Professor, **Red Vaughan Tremmel** (interviewed in the Director’s letter), will be teaching “Introduction to Sexuality Studies” as a Foundations course. This can be paired with the “Introduction to Gender Studies” class that we offered in Autumn or taken on its own. In addition to our major coursework, the GNSE Civ sequence continues to be very popular on campus. The ten sections of GNSE Civ that carry over to Winter Quarter will be chaired by **Kris Trujillo** (Comparative Literature) who will also be teaching two sections. Other sections will be taught by Professors **Hoda El Shakry** (Comparative Literature), **Leah Feldman** (Comparative Literature-2 sections), and **Riley Snorton** (English), Instructional Professor **Red Tremmel** (Gender and Sexuality Studies), Humanities Teaching Fellow **Maggie Borowitz** (Art History) and Lecturer **Rhiannon Auriemma** (Political Science, Northwestern-2 sections). In addition to these courses, we are crosslisting 33 undergraduate and 18 graduate courses, providing our students with a broad range of choices to meet their interests.

Winter Quarter Feminist Queer Praxis

Last Winter, in conjunction with “Treating Trans-,” we had a panel of people who work in healthcare (including a nurse, psychologist, ob/gyn and healthcare advocate), primarily or exclusively with the transgender community. It was our most successful FQP in years, with a standing-room-only crowd. We’ll be reprising this event this coming quarter – date and time to be announced.

Undergraduate Major and Minor

Undergraduate students interested in the topics of gender and/or sexuality are welcome at the Center and have the option to major or minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies. 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. If you have questions about the major or minor, email Bonnie Kanter (bonnick@uchicago.edu) to talk through your options.

Student News

Student Advisory Board

For the first time since before COVID, we have gathered a student advisory board to help organize events and advise on what matters to them and how they would like to see that manifest at the Center. Fourth years **Myra Bajwa**, **Nora Schultz**, and **Lana Yevzlin**, third years **Shayla Beltran**, **Ellie Gilbert-Bair**, and **Abigail Scharf** and second year **Daphne Hoang** have already organized a Cookies, Cocoa, & Crafts study break and a supply drive for migrant families. We’re looking forward to seeing what they come up with for next quarter!

The UChicago LGBTQ+ Community Engagement Award

The LGBTQ+ Community Engagement Award is a new student prize sponsored by UChicago Alumni Pride and the Center. The annual award honors exceptional contributions that advance and support the interests of the LGBTQ+ community and is open to current UChicago undergraduate or graduate students in good academic standing. The awardee will receive a prize of \$500 and will also be honored with the opportunity to speak publicly about the significance of their work and introduce the invited distinguished speaker at the coming year’s *OUTstanding Speaker Series* lecture. Undergraduate winners will be listed on the College Honors and Awards page. [Nominations](#) (including self-nominations) are due March 1. Eligible nominees will be notified in early March with a request to submit materials by April 1.

Undergraduate Summer Internships for 2024

Once again, the Center will offer funding for up to six summer internships at gender- and LGBTQ-related service, educational, or activist organizations in the U.S. Those who receive funding will need to secure their own (unpaid) internships but don’t need to have it already set before they apply. The CSGS staff is happy to help applicants think through potential internship sites in the city and beyond. There will be an information session in January which will include last year’s recipients talking about their experiences. The deadline to [apply](#) for funding is **February 29th at 11:59 pm**.

Graduate Student News

Congratulations to our latest recipients of the Gender and Sexuality Studies Graduate Certificate! MAPSS student **Heather Olmez** and PhD students **Kevin Irakoze** (Philosophy) and **Dhruv Raj Nagar** (Divinity School) received their Certificates this past quarter.

As we announced in the Autumn Newsletter, we are offering a new award this year—the *CSGS Course Design Prize for Graduate Instructors* (deadline February 28). This \$2000 Prize will be given to a PhD student who has designed an undergraduate course for which they will serve as instructor of record in the context of their PTP/MTE in AY 2024-25. The course should demonstrate a robust and sustained engagement with questions of gender and sexuality. Priority will be given to students who have already had classroom experience as a Teaching Assistant or other role.

Applications are currently open for *Dissertation and Residential Fellowships* (deadline March 15) for current PhD students who are working on issues of gender and/or sexuality within their academic discipline. In addition to the CSGS fellowships, we will have joint fellowship opportunities with the Center of the Study of Race, Politics and Culture for graduate students whose work crosses over both research areas. More information on all our graduate prizes and fellowships is available on [our graduate funding page](#).

If you have questions or would like to discuss any of the above offerings, please contact Bonnie Kanter, CSGS Assistant Director for Student Affairs and Curriculum, at bonnick@uchicago.edu.

Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop & Working Group

Workshop

We are excited to announce the Winter 2024 schedule for the [Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop](#)! Workshops will be held virtually on alternate (even week) Tuesdays from 5:00 pm to 6:20 pm Central Time unless otherwise noted.

January 9: Hannah Jones, CSGS Dissertation Fellow, PhD Candidate, Divinity School, “The Thing Everyone Seems to Worry About Being Mistaken for Doing: Theology.” Discussant: **Linn Tonstad**, Associate Professor of Theology, Religion, and Sexuality, Yale University

January 23: Michael Stablein, Jr., CSGS Residential Fellow, Joint-PhD Candidate, English and Theatre and Performance Studies, “An Inconsummate Man: The Violent Dramaturgy of Elliot Rodger.” Discussant: **Patrick Anderson**, Professor of Communication, Ethnic Studies, and Critical Gender Studies, University of California, San Diego

February 6: Bellamy Mitchell, CSGS-CSRPC Joint Dissertation Fellow, PhD Candidate, English and Social Thought. Discussant: **Jodi A. Byrd**, Associate Professor in English, Cornell University

February 20: Yuchen Yang, CSGS Dissertation Fellow, PhD Candidate in Sociology. Discussant: **James Messerschmidt**, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Sociology, University of Southern Maine

Papers will be made available in advance via our email list. If you are interested in joining the email list, go to <https://lists.uchicago.edu/web/info/sexuality-gender-wkshp>

If you have any questions or accommodation requests, please don't hesitate to contact the workshop co-coordinators, Katrina Myers and Michael Stablein Jr, at gssworkshop@gmail.com.



CSGS STAFF

Tate Brazas, *Assistant Director for Programming and Operations*

Daisy Delogu, *Faculty Director*

Bonnie Kanter, *Assistant Director for Student Affairs and Curriculum*

Gina Olson, *Executive Director*

Working Group

The working group will meet every other Tuesday from 5:00-6:00pm Central Time, and presenters will provide their preference for in-person or Zoom sessions. In-person meetings will take place at the CSGS, 5733 S University Ave, in room 103. Food and beverages will be provided for in-person meetings. Please note that this schedule subject to change.

January 16: Quinn Peterson, MAPSS, “Superqueer: A Study on LGBTQ+ Representation in Mainstream Superhero Comics and Power”

January 30: TBA

February 13: Zachary Richards, Philosophy/MAPH, “The Intermediate Sex Organs”

February 27: Maya Vasdani, MAPSS, “‘Mommy Makeovers’ and the Abject Pregnant Body”

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.

If you have any questions or would like to be added to the Working Group e-mail list, please contact the Working Group Co-Coordinators Malavika Parthasarathy (Law) and Lizette Arellano (Romance Languages) at gssworkinggroup@gmail.com.

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