



SPRING 2025

VOLUME 27, ISSUE 3



CLOSETED/OUT in the Quadrangles

AN EXHIBITION AT THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RESEARCH CENTER

A HISTORY OF LGBTQ LIFE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

March 30 - June 12, 2015

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY



Selected images and posters from Gina Olson's 25 year career at the CSGS (clockwise, from top left): *Closeted/Out in the Quadrangles* exhibition in 2015, Catharine MacKinnon speaking at the Law School in 2011, the Community Room mid-renovation in 2013, Alison Bechdel at her exhibition at the Center in 2012, and Victor Madrigal-Borloz delivers the inaugural OUTstanding Speaker lecture in 2022.

A Note from the Faculty Director

Dear CSGS community,

As we move into spring, the Center is entering a transformative moment of its own, one characterized both by loss, and by commitment to the future. Close to home, we are preparing for the departure of our longtime Executive Director, **Gina Olson**.

Former Center Director **Linda Zerilli** writes of her collaboration with Gina:

"I was fortunate to work with Gina during my 2010-2016 tenure as Faculty Director of CSGS. Gina was crucial to many of the Center's projects during this period: creating our faculty fellowships and graduate student residential and dissertation fellowships, the popular Core Civilization course, a quarterly newsletter and website with dynamic content, the Artists' Salon, and a distinguished lecture series. She also provided crucial assistance on a 2011-2012 Mellon Foundation Sawyer

Seminar on 'Women's International Human Rights: Problems, Paradoxes, Possibilities.' Gina was a valuable partner and decision-maker in the vast 2013-2014 building renovation that resulted in our beautiful space. Together with two graduate students, Gina organized 'Closeted/Out in the Quadrangles: A History of Lesbian and Gay Life at the University of Chicago.' The project collected over 100 oral histories and gathered relevant materials in the holdings of the Regenstein Library, Chicago History Museum, and Northwestern University to produce a major exhibition at the Regenstein in March 2015. The materials are now available at the Special Collections Research Center. Gina helped me craft two comprehensive vision statements for the Center, which were submitted to the provost and the divisional deans, resulting in a significant increase in our annual budget. She also accompanied me on trips to potential donors, whose generosity has helped secure future funding for the Center."

FEATURED EVENTS

Mon, Mar 31 at 6:00pm
Transgender Day of Visibility
Keynote: **Bruna G. Benevides**

Wed, Apr 9 at 12:30pm
Patricio Simonetto,
"Slimming the Nation: A Cultural History of Anti-Fatness in Argentina"

Thu, Apr 17 at 5:00pm
Feminist/Queer Praxis:
Gender, Sexuality + Spirituality

Fri, Apr 25 at 2:00pm
Kate Soper, "Fourth Walls, Formes-fixes, and the Voice in a Funhouse Mirror: Adapting *Le Roman de la Rose*"

Thu, May 1 at 5:00pm
2025 Distinguished Alumni Lecture: **Kavita Daiya**

Wed, May 7
ecstatic writing: a symposium

Fri, May 9 at 2:00pm
2025 GNSE BA Symposium

Continued from Page 1

Former Director (2017-2023) **Kristen Schilt** writes:

“It is impossible to discuss the history of the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality without acknowledging the profound commitment and invaluable contributions of Gina Olson. Over the past twenty-five years, Gina has been an unwavering presence, offering critical leadership and immeasurable support to faculty, students, and alums through the many transformations of the Center. I had the privilege of working closely with Gina for nearly a decade, and I cannot count how often I relied on her immense institutional knowledge and her wise counsel. Gina’s departure marks a great loss for all of us, but I am deeply grateful for all she has done here. I am excited to witness how she continues to build and nurture feminist and queer communities across Chicago in this next, exciting chapter of her life.”

I too have been a beneficiary, both as a faculty affiliate and, more recently, as Faculty Director, of Gina’s institutional knowledge, care for our community of faculty and students, and unwavering dedication to the ideals and aspirations of the Center. I believe that Linda speaks for all who have interacted with Gina when she observes that what stands out is Gina’s passionate love of gender and sexuality studies and her commitment to its future.

It is both the Center’s future and its past, that we will focus on in the coming academic year, as we mark the **30th anniversary** of the CSGS. We are planning a year of programming that will take stock of our history, but more importantly will affirm the relevance of our Center, and others like it, in our current moment and in the years to come. I did not imagine, when I took up the role of Faculty Director, that sex, gender, and sexuality would be on the political front lines in the ways that they are, that the federal government would have declared war on the term “gender”, that so-called “radical gender ideology” would be framed as a threat to the nation, that those who do not conform to the heteronormative standards of the executive office would be defined as dishonorable and untruthful individuals. It therefore strikes me as a matter of the utmost urgency that we insist, loudly and forthrightly, on the political, ethical, and intellectual imperative to discuss any and all matters related to gender and sexuality, to struggle with nuance and complexity, to make space for questions and uncertainty in the face of the dogmatic and absolutist strategies of censorship and erasure currently being pursued by the federal government, with the complicity of many others. If we cannot speak freely here, at the University of Chicago, about gender and sexuality, where then might such ideas be discussed? I see it as the Center’s obligation now and in the future to be the space where, in the words of Julius Eastman, one may “speak boldly”.

Daisy Delogu

Faculty Director, Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality
Howard L. Willett Professor of French Literature, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures

Programming Highlights

The CSGS is hosting several exciting events this quarter. On [Wednesday, April 9 at 12:30pm](#), **Patricio Simonetto** (Lecturer in Gender and Social Policy, School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds) will speak on “Slimming the Nation: A Cultural History of Anti-Fatness in Argentina” and on [Friday, April 25 at 2:00pm](#), composer/performer/writer **Kate Soper**, will discuss her major composition in “Fourth Walls, Formes-fixes, and the Voice in a Funhouse Mirror: Adapting *Le Roman de la Rose*.”

On Thursday, May 1 at 5:00pm, we will host our annual **Distinguished Alumnae/i Lecture**, featuring **Kavita Daiya** (Professor of English and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, George Washington University), title to be announced. Professor Daiya will also meet with students in a workshop on Friday, May 2.

The Center has sponsored many faculty projects and events this year, with the following coming to fruition this Spring: **Brianne Painia** (Assistant Instructional Professor of Sociology) has organized the second of two workshops on the pedagogy of care which will be held on Monday, April 7. Professors **Jennifer Cole** (Comparative Human Development) and **Sue Gal** (Anthropology) will host a day-long workshop on “Gender and Labor in the Contemporary Global Economy: Between Crisis and Opportunity” on Friday, April 11. Professor **Kris Trujillo** (Comparative Literature) has organized, “ecstatic writing: a symposium”, which will be held on [Wednesday, May 7 from 9:00am-4:30pm](#). Professor **Anna Elena Torres** (Comparative Literature) is hosting a talk at the Center with **Christoph Hanssmann** (Assistant Professor of Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies, University of California, Davis) titled “Sick of it All: Care & Depathologization in Trans Health” on [Friday, May 16 at 12:30pm](#). And Humanities Teaching Fellow **Rivky Mondal** has organized *Mutual Necessary Otherness: A Symposium on the “Micro”* on Saturday, May 24.

The Center is also co-sponsoring the following events this quarter: “Abortion in Post-*Dobbs* Illinois: Exploring laws, practical support, and clinical care” on Thursday, March 27 from 12:30-2:00pm at the Crown School Library, organized by **Lee Hasselbacher** (Research Assistant Professor & C13 Faculty Director, Obstetrics and Gynecology); a keynote talk in honor of Transgender Day of Visibility with Brazilian transgender (travesti) activist **Bruna G. Benevides** on [Monday, March 31 at 6:00pm](#) at Breasted Hall, ISAC, organized by LGBTQ+ Student Life and the Pozen Center; the Film Studies Center’s Caribbean screenings, of *Lo que se hereda (It Runs in the Family)* on [Friday, April 11 at 7:00pm](#) and *The Ballad of Suzanne Césaire* on Friday, May 9; and a day-long queer theory and literature workshop organized by Professors **Sarah Nooter** (Classics) and **David Wray** (Classics and Comparative Literature) on Friday, May 9.

See the [Center calendar](#) for details and updates.

Student News

2025 Graduates

Congratulations to our graduating fourth years - the largest graduating class ever by far with nineteen majors and thirteen minors! We're so proud of all of them. They have all done such amazing work and been a great part of the community at the Center. Congratulations to our majors – **Shayla Beltran***, **Zach Braunschweig***, **Syd Casey-Willig**, **Olivia Fowler***, **Catalina Garcia***, **Anna German**, **Ellie Gilbert Bair***, **Bingjie Hsieh***, **Pietro Juvara***, **Dallas Knox***, **Courtney McDermott***, **Aashna Moorjani***, **Roshni Patel**, **Kassie Rivera**, **Abigail Scharf**, **Natalie Smith***, **Jalen Sutton***, **Caroline Waldman***, and **Abigail Whalon***. The students marked with * above completed optional BA projects with our BA Preceptor, **Dana Glaser** (English/Humanities Teaching Fellow). These students will present their work at our *annual BA Symposium* on Friday, May 9 at 2:00pm. Following their presentations, we will have a celebration of and for our graduating students - all are welcome to attend! If you can't attend in person, we will simulcast the symposium on [Zoom](#). We would also like to congratulate our graduating minors – **Raquel Buriani**, **Sharon Florez**, **Julia Jackson**, **Joshua Lee**, **Rosemary Li**, **Amelie Martin**, **Jane Ritch**, **Alondra Romero**, **Megan Schmitz**, **Donaji Torres-Marques**, **Hannah Williams** and **Mimi Yang**. Good luck to all majors and minors in your next endeavors! Please stay in touch with us. We always welcome alumni to return and tell us what they've been up to.

Third Quarter of Gender Civ & Other Spring Courses

Last year we piloted a third quarter of Gender and Sexuality in World Civ and this year we are offering three new options for the topical quarter. First up, Asst. Prof. **Kris Trujillo** (Comparative Lit) will teach "Sex and Mysticism," a reprise of his course for our Paris Study Abroad program, albeit without the fabulous trips to monasteries. In addition, Associate Member Prof. **Angie Heo** (Divinity School) will teach "Feminism/Anti-Feminism in Korea" and new affiliate Asst. Prof. **Carlos Halaburda** (Romance Languages and Literature) will teach "Queer Capitals: Cities, Literature, Performance Arts." Also this Spring, Instructional Prof. **Red Tremmel** (GNSE) will debut "Sexuality in U.S. History Post-1900," the counterpart to the pre-1900 course taught last Spring, and "Sex, Power, Culture," a course we hope will attract students who are exploring GNSE as a potential major. In addition, **Rhiannon Love Auriemma** (PhD Political Science, Northwestern University), will again teach her much-loved course, "Contemporary Feminist Politics: From the Sex Wars to Beyonce." As always, there are plenty of crosslisted courses for our students to take, both undergraduate and graduate.

Research Grants

Our quarterly call for research grants brought another great group of applicants. **Riya Chaturvedi** (Harris MPP), **Maanvi Dhillon** (PhD Political Science), **Lauren Hagani** (PhD Sociology), and MAPSS students **Watson Lubin** and **Lu Tong** all received funds in Winter. Our final grant deadline, which includes the *UnFundable Fund Grant for Gender & Sexuality Research, Theory and Practice*, is **Monday, April 21**. Applications are available [here](#).

Student Advisory Board & Events

The Student Advisory Board has been incredibly active this year – participating on committees, providing feedback about the major/minor to the Curriculum Committee, and planning some of the best study breaks we've ever had. Thanks to all of the fantastic members of the group - **Shayla Beltran**, **Ella Fast**, **Catalina Garcia**, **Ellie Gilbert-Bair**, **Charlotte Littlefield**, **Roshni Patel**, **Madison Rhee**, **Antônio Schenatto**, and **Jessica Washington!** In Spring Quarter we'll put out applications for students who would like to apply to participate next year. For their last event, the current Board is organizing a drag-themed study break on Thursday, May 8. We hope students will take the much-needed opportunity to relax mid-quarter. The CSGS is also hosting our final *Feminist/Queer Praxis* event of the year--"Gender, Sexuality + Spirituality"--on Thursday, April 17 at 5:00pm. In connection with the course, "Is Religion Bad for Women" which will be taught by our former Dissertation Completion Fellow and current Divinity School Teaching Fellow, **Hannah Jones**, we'll be hosting a panel of women who work in different faith traditions. Stay tuned to the digest for more details!

Ruth Murray BA Thesis Prize

The deadline for undergraduate students to submit their BA theses for consideration for the *Ruth Murray BA Thesis Prize*, which rewards the best thesis written by a University of Chicago undergraduate student in the area of women's studies, feminist criticism, gender or sexuality studies, is **Sunday, May 4**. 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. 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. The essay competition sustains and encourages scholarship in gender and sexuality studies, as Ruth Murray did during her lifetime. These 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 the Study of Gender and Sexuality 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. In the 2025-26 catalog, we have made a small change to our major for our incoming students. The major will drop to 11 credits from the current 13 and we will be eliminating the supporting course requirement. More changes are on the way in the 2026-27 catalog. We also offer a minor, which remains unchanged. The minor works best for students whose majors have little overlap with our courses. Descriptions of major and minor requirements can be found at <http://gendersexuality.uchicago.edu/academic/>. If you have questions or want to talk about how they might fit in with your general academic goals, call or email Assistant Director of Student Affairs and Curriculum, **Bonnie Kanter** (773-702-2365; bonniek@uchicago.edu).

Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop & Working Group

Workshop

We are excited to announce the Spring 2025 schedule for the [Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop](#)! Sessions will be held on alternate Tuesdays at 5:00PM - 6:20PM (central) in person at The Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, 5733 S University Ave, in room 103.

April 1: Soo Young Lee (CSGS/CSRPC Residential Fellow, PhD Candidate at Crown School of Social Work), “Rooting deeply and explicitly in our principles: An Asian American feminist epistemology for social work scholarship.” Respondent: **Rupaleem Bhuyan**, University of Toronto

April 15: Helen Galvin Ross (CSGS Residential Fellow, PhD Candidate in Political Science), “The Autonomous Political? Privacy and the Household in Theories of Sovereignty.” Respondent: **Robyn Marasco**, CUNY

April 29: Abigail Taylor-Roth (CSGS Residential Fellow, PhD Candidate in Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science), “Coastlines, Borders, and Pacifism: Lewis Fry Richardson and the Development of the Coastline Paradox.” Respondent: **Ellen Abrams**, University of Toronto

May 13: Alexis Chavez (CSGS Residential Fellow, PhD Candidate in Anthropology), “Muslim Women, Schoolteachers, and the Culture of French Secularism in Marseille.” Respondent: TBD

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, Fara Taddei and Lizette Arellano at gssworkshop@gmail.com.

Working Group

The working group will meet every other Tuesday from 5:00-6:00pm Central Time 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 is subject to change.

April 8: Jiangyuan (John) Lin (MAPPS), “Negotiating Queerness: Migration Experiences of Chinese Sexual Minority Immigrants in the United States”

April 22: Jade Hurley (MAPH), “Fund Abortion Not War: Silence and Solidarity from the American Reproductive Justice Movement”

May 6: Wafa Asher Syeda (PhD Candidate in Comparative Literature), “Am I Still Invisible to You?': Seeing the Queer Excess of Mumtaz in *Joyland* (2022)”

May 20: Anne Ruelle (PhD Candidate at Crown School of Social Work), “Care against debasement”

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 Coordinator Malavika Parthasarathy (Law) at gssworkinggroup@gmail.com.

CSGS STAFF

Tate Brazas, *Assistant Director for Programming and Operations*

Sonia Chang, *Event and Media Intern*

Daisy Delogu, *Faculty Director*

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

Gina Olson, *Executive Director*

Find us on social media

 <https://www.facebook.com/UChicagoGender>

 <https://www.instagram.com/uchicagocsgs/>

 <https://www.youtube.com/user/UChicagoGender>

Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality

5733 S University Avenue | Chicago, IL 60637

773.702.9936 | gendersexuality.uchicago.edu | csgs@lists.uchicago.edu