

AUTUMN 2020

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 1



Commemorating the centennial in a vital election year. Artifacts from the struggle for suffrage, from left to right: Banner with motto of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, ca. 1924, Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture; Woman Suffrage Bluebird Sign, 1915 and Woman Suffrage Banner, 1914-1917, both Collection of the National Museum of American History.

FEATURED EVENTS

Thu Oct 8 at 5pm

"Holding media accountable to blackness and the radical needs of now" feat. Prof **Jenn Jackson, Amber Butts, & Hari Ziyad**

Wed Oct 21 at 5pm

Virtual Turns: Doing Ethnography During and Beyond a Pandemic

Fri Oct 23 at 1pm

Feminist/Queer Praxis
Practicing Safe Set: Intimacy Coordination in Film and Television

Thu Oct 29 at 4pm

Kareem Khubchandani,
Ishtyle: Accenting Gay Indian Nightlife

Mon Nov 16 at 4:30pm

Joseph Gamble,
"How to Do the History of Homoeroticism" with Renaissance Workshop

Tues Dec 1 at 5pm

Workshop: Kris Trujillo,
"Against Apophasis: The Queerness of Jouissance"

A Note from the Director

Dear Friends of the Center,

We so hoped to be welcoming you back to the Center in person this Autumn, as we at the CSGS are feeling the loss of energy and excitement of thinking and organizing together in a shared space. 2020 has been an unprecedented year, from the COVID-19 shutdowns across the world to the wave of critical action and protest aimed at dismantling white supremacy and anti-blackness in the United States, to the economy and the presidential election looming on the horizon. Across the next few months, we are committed to finding ways to stay intellectually engaged with our faculty affiliates, our students, and our broader communities, and to highlight and learn from academic and activist work centered around greater equity and justice for all people.

To this last point, I want to draw attention to the **#morethandiversity** campaign that faculty affiliates of the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture (CSRPC) launched in August. This campaign calls for greater autonomy for the CSRPC and for the formation of a Critical Race Studies Department. Among its peer institutions, the University of Chicago stands out for its lack of a Critical Race Studies department or an African American Studies department – which is an egregious omission for a university that is adjacent to three historically black neighborhoods (Kenwood 75%; Washington Park 95%; Woodlawn 82%). The Center for the Study of Gender & Sexuality stands in support with the CSRPC and encourages our community to read more about this crucial campaign at www.morethandiversity.org. We also are very excited at the appointment of CSGS faculty affi-

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ate Prof. **C. Riley Snorton** as the interim director of the CSRPC. We want to thank Prof. Snorton for all of his work as the Director of Studies for CSGS and we look forward to continuing to work together over the next two years.

Our programming this year will focus on two major themes. First, we will continue a series of panel discussions that showcase authors working on the intersections of gender, race, and sexuality. We began this series over the summer with “White Women and the Politics of White Supremacy: A Panel Discussion on Mothers of Massive Resistance.” The webinar is now available to [stream on YouTube](#). For Thursday, Oct 8, at 5 pm CST, we have organized “[Holding media accountable to blackness and the radical needs of now](#)”, a panel feat. Prof **Jenn Jackson, Amber Butts, & Hari Ziyad**. On Thursday, Oct 29, at 4 pm CST, we will host a [book salon on *Ishtyle: Accenting Gay Indian Nightlife*](#) featuring author **Kareem Khubchandani**. Pre-registration is required to receive the Zoom links for these events. We will continue to announce new programming as the year unfolds.

Our second theme is the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on research and the job market. A critical element of the Center for the Study of Gender & Sexuality is our community of faculty and student researchers. In our present moment, researchers who work in archives, who do ethnographic fieldwork, or who conduct face to face interviews are encountering barriers to their work that were unimaginable a year ago. These barriers are a particular concern to our postdoctoral affiliates approaching the job market and our graduate and undergraduate students working under tight time constraints. To address these collective concerns, we are building a series of panels and workshops on research methods. We launched this series in the summer with a book salon on *Harrassed: Gender, Bodies, and Ethnographic Research* featuring authors **Rebecca Hanson** (Assistant Professor of Latin American Studies, Sociology and Criminology & Law, University of Florida) and **Patricia Richards** (Professor of Sociology and Women’s Studies, University of Georgia) and a panel of scholars discussing the book. The video is available to [view on YouTube](#). On Wed, Oct 21 at 5 pm CST we will co-host “[Virtual Turns: Doing Ethnography During and Beyond a Pandemic](#)” featuring **Sneha Annavarapu** (Social Sciences Teaching Fellow), **Cate Fugazzola** (Earl S. Johnson Instructor), and **Benjamin Fogarty-Valenzuela** (Ethnography Incubator and Manseuto Institute Postdoctoral Fellow).

We are very excited to announce that Prof. **Kris Trujillo** (Comparative Literature) has been appointed the new CSGS Director of Studies. Prof. Trujillo will also serve as the faculty chair for the Gender & Sexuality in World Civilizations Sequence this year – which is up to a record eight sections per quarter. We are also excited to welcome our new faculty and postdoctoral affiliates from across the university. We encourage you to visit our [faculty affiliates webpage](#) and our [postdoctoral affiliates webpage](#) to learn more about the work on gender & sexuality being done around campus. In a remarkable moment, we have over 30 postdoctoral affiliates this year from the Divinity School, the Humanities Division, and the Social Sciences Division, as well as from the Institute for the Formation of Knowledge and the Pozen Family Center for Human Rights. This year, the CSGS will again support *The*

Lexicon Project: Articulating Embodiment in the Middle Ages, a faculty and graduate student research project which aims to continue recovering and exploring how medieval people wrote about questions of embodiment (including matters of gender, sexuality, (dis)ability, illness, race, human/nonhuman animals, and monstrosity), and to consider those topics in relation to contemporary critical theory.

I want to end with a huge thank you to the CSGS staff – **Gina Olson, Tate Brazas, and Bonnie Kanter**. The last six months have been such turmoil and have demanded so much innovation and change. I appreciate everyone’s efforts in continuing our programming over the summer in an effort to stay engaged with our broader community – and the cheerfulness with which Gina, Tate, and Bonnie have navigated this strange new world of virtual events and remote work.

I look forward to working with you all this year,

Kristen Schilt

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

Student News

The Gender and Sexuality Studies Program

While the Center is not physically open for business, we are working hard to remain connected to our students. Virtual information sessions for Ph.D., MA, and undergraduate students have served as a way for us to continue to make our presence felt, even if it is through a computer. If you haven’t been able to attend one of those sessions, please contact **Bonnie Kanter** at bonniek@uchicago.edu for more information. We welcome anyone interested in thinking more about gender and sexuality within or outside of their discipline to reach out to us.

Autumn 2020 Courses

The CSGS’ core (general education requirement) offering, Gender and Sexuality in World Civilizations, received an overwhelming amount of interest during registration for this quarter. We had increased to six sections last year, and after we saw a large number of bids for this coming Autumn, we were able to quickly add a seventh and eighth section of the course, both of which filled up in very short order. We are genuinely excited to see this kind of strong interest. For some students, GNSE Civ is their first and only exposure to our coursework, so the more spaces we can provide, the better. GNSE Civ will be chaired this year by Professor **Kris Trujillo** (Comp Lit), who, along with Professor **C. Riley Snorton** (English/GNSE) and **Emily Bock** (Ph.D. Candidate in Anthropology), worked this summer to update the curriculum for the class. Kris will be teaching one section each quarter this coming Autumn/Winter. Other sections in Autumn will be taught by Professor **Sarah Taylor** (Divinity School), Professor **Jonathon Lyon** (History), Professor **Malyne Sternstein** (Slavic Language-

es), Professor **Larissa Brewer Garcia** (Romance Languages), Social Sciences Teaching Fellow **Tasneem Mandviwala** (Comparative Human Development) and Divinity School Teaching Fellow **M Vanderpoel**, who will be teaching two sections. Our Interns are **Katie Hendricks** (Sociology), **Yuchen Yang** (Sociology), **Erin McCullugh** (Anthropology), **Allison Kanner-Botan** (Divinity), and **Chris Williams** (Sociology).

This Autumn, Professor **C. Riley Snorton** will teach our Theories of Sexuality and Gender course for the first time. Ph.D. Candidate **Allison Reed** from the Sociology department will co-teach. We are also offering two graduate student-led 'Concepts' courses this quarter. The first is "Queer Letters and LGBTQ+ Lifeworlds," taught by **Sarah McDaniel** (English). The second is "Screwing Up: Shame, Apology, and Gender Theory," taught by **Bellamy Mitchell** (Committee on Social Thought/ENGL). Also, we are crosslisting 25 [gender/sexuality themed courses](#) for undergraduates and 10 for graduate students across a wide range of departments. Finally, **Agatha Slupek** (Political Science) is returning as our B.A. Preceptor and will be guiding the Class of 2021 GNSE majors through the process of writing their B.A. theses.

Welcome New Fellows!

Our [2020-21 Fellows](#) may be working remotely, but they are still very much a part of our Center. We are looking forward to a great year with all of them. Our Dissertation Completion Fellows are **Alexandra Hoffman** (Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations) and **Kelsey Robbins** (Comparative Human Development). In addition, **Dylan Bellisle** (Social Service Administration) is this year's CSGS/CSRPC Joint Dissertation Fellow. Our Residential Fellows this year are **Emily Bock** (Anthropology), **Serena Covkin** (History), **Rebecca Ewert** (Sociology), **Jordan Johansen** (Classics), Paula Martin (Comparative Human Development), **Sarah McDaniel** (English), and Rose Owen (Political Science). A warm welcome to all!

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. This quarter we are bringing **Jessica Steinrock** to speak about her work as an Intimacy Coordinator in television, film, and theater. She will be in conversation with third-year major **Willem Harling** on [Friday, October 23 at 1:00pm](#).

Undergraduate Summer Internships

As in past summers, CSGS chose students from a competitive application process for undergraduate internship funding. We were unsure how this would look once everyone locked down. Still, we are pleased to say that all of our students were able to secure great internships and work (in some cases partly in person, in other cases entirely remotely) for some great organizations. We were able to fund a fifth internship this summer, up one from our usual four awards. Most of our students were at Chicago-based

organizations (three on the South Side) with one exception in NYC. Second-year **Isabelle Baird** worked with Saving Mothers in New York, an organization working to reduce maternal deaths and birth-related complications. She participated in a literature review of global health training in OBGYN residency programs, along with other responsibilities. Fourth-year GNSE major **Gabby Latham-Kapitz** worked primarily in person at the Center on Halsted, providing advocacy for both Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming youth and LGBTQ+ seniors. Fourth-year **Katie Zhou** worked with Brave Space Alliance, Chicago's first Black and trans-led LGBTQ organization, on several projects, including assisting with many of their crisis resources during the pandemic. Third-year **Alicia Hurtado** worked at the Chicago Abortion Fund, bringing their total staff to three. Given the size of the staff, Alicia was able to be very involved, with a particular emphasis on helping the abortion resources organization with communications. Finally, fourth-year major **Alice May** also worked locally at Southside Center of Hope, assisting on a wide array of projects, including completing intakes with incoming female addiction recovery clients of their gender-specific program.

These students will report back on their experiences at an information session later this year. Applications for 2021 summer internships will be posted on the CSGS website later this quarter and will be due in February.

CSGS Certificate

This year was the first year of our expanded [CSGS Certificate](#), which is now available to MAPSS and MDIV students. The following students completed the requirements this past spring and summer: **Julius Bowditch** (MAPSS), **Benjamin Campbell** (MDiv), **Kelsey Cooper** (MDiv), **Rebecca Ewert** (Sociology Ph.D.), **Myfy Jensen-Fellows** (MDIV), **Lisa Moore** (MAPSS), **Madeline Quasebarth** (MAPSS), **Yu Shi** (MAPSS), **Emma Thaci** (MAPSS), **Anthony Verdino** (SSA Ph.D.), **Yuchen Yang** (Sociology Ph.D.) and **Victoria Wick** (MDiv). In 2020-21, MSW students in the SSA will also be eligible to earn the Certificate.

Undergraduate Major/Minor

Undergraduate students interested in gender and/or sexuality are welcome at the Center and have the option to get a major or a 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. Currently, we have students who are also majoring in Psychology, English, Public Policy, and many other areas. We'll hold a virtual information session for anyone interested in the major on [Friday, October 9 at 2pm](#). Come learn about the major/minor and how it might work for you. In the meantime, if you have questions about the major or minor and want to talk about how they might fit in with your general academic goals, email Student Affairs Administrator Bonnie Kanter (bonniek@uchicago.edu) to talk through your options. Have a great quarter!

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 2020 Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop

We are excited to announce the Fall 2020 schedule for the Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop! The full schedule, including faculty discussants, can be found on our website and below. Workshops will be held virtually on alternate (even week) Tuesdays from 5:00 to 6:20pm Central Time, unless otherwise noted.

October 6: Paula Martin, PhD Candidate, Comparative Human Development, “A Hard Question: Making Sense of Gendered Distress in a Social World.” Discussant: Helen Gremillion, Associate Professor of Social Practice at Unitec Institute of Technology

October 20 at Noon Central Time: Marcus Lee, PhD Candidate, Political Science, “Black Gay Survey.” Discussant: Dagmawi Woubshet, Ahuja Family Presidential Associate Professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania

November 17: Dylan Bellisle, PhD Candidate, Social Service Administration, “‘If she wasn’t doing this, I would have to pay for childcare anyway’: The obligations of family childcare and how the Earned Income Tax Credit sustains care arrangements.” Discussant: Christina Cross, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Harvard University

December 1: Kris Trujillo, Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Chicago, “Against Apophasis: The Queerness of Jouissance”

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/subscribe/sexuality-gender-wkshp>. If you have any questions or accommodation requests, please don’t hesitate to contact us at gssworkshop@gmail.com.

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<https://twitter.com/UChicagoCSGS>



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



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

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 29: Anje Chan Tack, Sociology, “How ethnic gender ideologies shape immigrant racial incorporation: Indo-Caribbeans, ‘Wining’ Women, and Racialization at the Black/Asian Interface”

October 13: Henry Brefka, Divinity School, “Queer Reading Beyond Queer Theory”

October 27: Evelyn Kessler, History, “‘These Cheap Slaves Fill Every Place’: Queer Subjects in the Era of Chinese Exclusion”

November 10: Kendra Parrot, MAPH, “Inclusivity in Retellings: Marginalized Writers Reclaiming Classic Tales”

December 8: Adam Fales, English, “Sex and the City: Redburn’s Hustler Aesthetics”

Important note about our new format: Prior to each meeting, we will send an email 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 whether or not you are able to attend the Zoom conference.

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 Silvia Fedi (Political Science) and Liz Chávez (Sociology) at gssworkinggroup@gmail.com.

CSGS STAFF

Tate Brazas, *Program Coordinator*

Bonnie Kanter, *Student Affairs Administrator*

Gina Olson, *Associate Director*

Kristen Schilt, *Faculty Director*

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