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 5:00-6:20 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 Toussaint, Associate Professor of Theology, Religion, and Sexuality, Yale University


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: Yuechen 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.

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 30: TBA

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

February 27: Maya Vaidana, 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 in progress, 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 email list, please contact the Working Group Co-Coordinators at gssworkinggroup@gmail.com.

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 Delug (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 the building of community where crossing boundaries, taking chances, and acting queerly fostered new intimacies, languages, embodiments, practices, sensoriums, and ideas. My research today con-
Event Highlights

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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 Capitalize on Risky Frontier Markets, is 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 ways. The talk is sponsored by the Center for Political and Social Studies Teaching Fellow, is reprising her very popular Foundation course, “Terrorizing 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. If you have already completed other courses this semester, you will be taught by Professor Hoda El Shalkey (Comparative Literature), Leah Feldman (Comparative Literature-2 sections), and Riley Snorton (English), Instructional Professor Red Tremmel (Gender and Sexuality Studies), Humanities: Teaching Fellow Margie Borowitz (Art History) and Lecturer Rhianne Auriemma (Political Science, Northwestern-2 sections). In addition to these courses, we are cross-listing 35 undergraduate and 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 “Terrorizing 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 will 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 within their major or minor, email Bonnie Kanter (bonniek@uchicago.edu) to set up a meeting at any time, so that they may not be able to complete all the major requirements while also studying another discipline. A minor is also available for students who have already had classroom experience as a Teaching Assistant or other role.

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. Four years Myra Bajwa, Noah Schultz, and Lana Sevillan, third year Dhruv Raj Nagar (Philosophy) and the queer aesthetics of Bruce LaBruce. This will be the first U.S. iteration of the performance.

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

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 am 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 am also excited to connect with artists and cultural workers in the city who are nurturing queer spaces.

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Curriculum News

Winter 2024 Courses

We are very excited about the courses on offer for our undergraduates this quarter. Southampton University Professor and our Social Science Teaching Fellow, is reprising her very popular Foundation course, “Terrorizing 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. If you have already completed other courses this semester, you will be taught by Professor Hoda El Shalkey (Comparative Literature), Leah Feldman (Comparative Literature-2 sections), and Riley Snorton (English), Instructional Professor Red Tremmel (Gender and Sexuality Studies), Humanities: Teaching Fellow Margie Borowitz (Art History) and Lecturer Rhianne Auriemma (Political Science, Northwestern-2 sections). In addition to these courses, we are cross-listing 35 undergraduate and graduate courses, providing our students with a broad range of choices to meet their interests.

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Applications are currently open for Dissertation and Residential Fellowships (deadline March 15) for current PhD students who are working on theses of gender and 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 and practice. More information and how to apply for these grants 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 bontonk@uchicago.edu.

The UChicago LGBTQ+ Community Engagement Award

The LGBTQ+ Community Engagement Award is a new prize sponsored by UChicago ALP 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 award 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 past 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 students Heather Olmoe and PhD students Kevin Ikeda (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 for outstanding undergraduates – the CSGS Student Prize for Outstanding 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 PTF/MENT 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.

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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. Four years Myra Bajwa, Noah Schultz, and Lana Sevillan, third year Dhruv Raj Nagar (Philosophy) and the queer aesthetics of Bruce LaBruce. This will be the first U.S. iteration of the performance.
government 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 more 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 met and the talks I attended are as vibrant and interesting as ever. The students are thrilling. I’ve also been incredibly 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 someone you’ve reconnected 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 Feminisms (Braidotti); A Billion Black Anthropocene or None (Yusoff); The Care Manifesto: The Politics of Interdependence (The Care Collective); Hypoising Modernity (de Oliveira); The Tereible We (Anweck-Rich); Archeology 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 with 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 you share interests!

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

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On Monday, February 19 at 12:30pm, the CSGS will host interdisciplinary artist, writer, and educator Gigi Ottavaro-Hermionida in conversation with Red Vaughan Tremmel. It was our most successful FQP in years, with a standing-room-only crowd. We’re rebooking this event for the coming quarter – date and time to be announced.

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GNSE Civ 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 Shalkey (Comparative Literature), Leah Feldman (Comparative Literature-2 sections), and Riley Snortom (English), Instructional Professor Red Tremmel (Gender and Sexuality Studies), Humanities Teaching Fellow Muge Borowitz (Art History) and Lecturer Rhianne Auriemma (Political Science, Northwestern-2 sections). In addition to these courses, we are crosslisting 33 undergraduate and graduate courses, providing our students with a broad range of choices to meet their interests.

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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.

Find us on social media

https://www.facebook.com/UCHicagoGender
https://twitter.com/UCHicagoCSGS
https://www.youtube.com/user/UCHicagoGender
https://www.instagram.com/uchicagogender/

Inspirations from the University of Chicago

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