

# The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Five-College Queer Gender & Sexuality Conference



Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> & Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013

Hampshire College  
Franklin Patterson Hall (FPH)

# About

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The 4th annual **Five-College Queer Gender and Sexuality Conference** will take place **March 1st and 2nd** in Franklin Patterson Hall at Hampshire College. The conference aims to offer an accountable and supportive environment in which to further explore a wide range of topics, and their intersections, such as race, genders, sexualities, ability, class, kink, survival strategies, and many more, in a specifically queer context. We strive to provide a safer space for engaging, learning, and fostering community with a wide range of workshops, panels, performances, and lectures by student leaders, Five-College faculty and staff, and off-campus educators. This open and inclusive conference is FREE and organized by a volunteer committee comprised of students from the Five Colleges and a staff advisor, Emily Rimmer (Director of Women's and Queer Services at Hampshire College). Due to high attendance rates in the past three years and community feedback suggesting we address more topics, we have decided to expand our conference to two days this year.

The conference officially begins on Friday, March 1st. The first day will showcase thesis work and academic panels presented mostly by five college students in three workshop slots. The evening will feature a performance and dance party in the Red Barn. On the morning of Saturday, March 2nd, participants will pick up name tags, preferred pronoun pins, and event programs, while enjoying a low-key, continental breakfast. After a brief welcome and introduction, participants will be able to select from one of many workshops (workshops and panels will run simultaneously, with up to ten in each slot) before a conference-provided luncheon. Following lunch is a second workshop slot and the keynote address (in previous years we have had nationally known speakers' Robyn Ochs, Michelle Tea, and Rev. Irene Monroe). After the keynote address there are two more workshop slots. By expanding the conference to a second day, we are able to offer a wider range of topics and reach an even larger audience of students, faculty, and community members who may not be able to attend or present at this event otherwise.

# Meet the Organizing Committee

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**April Grayce Dunlop** is a wordsmith and compassionate witch. They are a second semester Division II student at Hampshire College studying sexual health, feminisms/queer theory, the power of personal expression, religion/spirituality, and ways to create kinder, stronger communities. Her passion for consent and communication manifests in the work she does with Sexperts and Feminists United Collective. When they're not engaged in community organizing, April is likely journaling, cooking vegan meals, hula hooping, or marveling at simple things. She is a fiery fluid femme driven by her fierce love of (all) life.

**Devin Suozzi-Rearic** is a quadruple Sagittarius and final semester Div III student at Hampshire College. His project is focused in poetry and queer theory, specifically queer conceptions of time, trauma, and hauntings and implementing them into poetic writing forms. Most of the time Devin can be found cuddling with his two cats and having a lot of feelings about fictional characters.

**Devyn Manibo** is a last semester Division II student, and a full time diva at Hampshire College, where she studies media production, performance, and installation with a basis in postcolonial and queer diasporic narrative(s). She can usually be found race raging, side-eyeing, applying lipstick, power clashing, picking up cats who are not hers, crying about kitchenware, processing feelings, and community organizing. She's a moon baby through and through, a part time bitter queen, and a tender-hearted femme, with a love for gluten-free baked goods, the late '90s, and multi-dimensional glitters.

**Emily Rimmer** is the Director For Women's & Queer Services and the staff advisor for the conference. She is honored to work with a group of people who are willing to laugh while giving so much time, patience, energy, love and more to produce this exceptional event. She loves being with her family and in her free time practices yoga and karate.

**Karyn Louise Warren-Gregory** is a loud, sassy, ({\*}). She writes big, fat, queer plays at and around Hampshire College. She strongly adheres to the belief that life is theatre, so to say that she is a performer is redundant. But, to say that she is melodramatic is perfectly acceptable. You can find her on or around a stage during most business hours. If, for some reason, you still haven't found her, she's probably petting her bestest little kitty Mancattan, eating a block of cheese, baking cupcakes, or top buttoning for social change.

**Katie Huppert** is an Aries and a last semester Div III student at Hampshire College. They have served previously on the organizing committee for the 2nd and 3rd Five College Queer Sexuality & Gender Conference, as well as the Queer Jews & Allies Conference in 2011. Their studies focused mainly on queer and political theory, printmaking, and book arts. Their senior thesis centers on queer relationality, temporalities, and enacting ephemeral utopian instances via collaborative artistic production. They can be found serving on and organizing

far too many queer committees, procrastinating on tumblr, and snuggling with their rescue pup Oliver in Northampton.

**Meg Lincoln** is a fey and finicky sophomore studying religion at Smith College, where they organize with Students Against Sexual Assault, sing hymns, eat an excess of nutritional yeast, and care deeply for those they love far and near. Look for their writing in the upcoming issue of *Hoax Zine*. If you have a personal queer theology, a lot of feelings about nuns, or just a really solid theoretical framework, this gender-nervous daydreamer wants to be yr friend.

**Omar Villar** is a second semester Div II transfer at Hampshire College from the 305. He is studying the intersections between health, gender, and sexuality with a pre-med focus. When not doing school stuff, he is likely to be found laying about his apartment with his roommates and their black and white cat named Garfield.

**Sara Salazar** goes by she/her pronouns. She is from Brooklyn, New York and currently a Division I student at Hampshire College studying photography, marine biology and gender studies. Her favorite things to do are read, hang with friends and photograph people.

**Svetlana McCarroll Swan** is a Division I student at Hampshire College. She is a bubbly, charismatic girl from New York City. She is interested in Neuropsychology, religious studies, and art history. When she's not doing school related tasks she's usually traveling, being wild with friends, photographing interesting people/things, or learning how to play the banjo.

**Tejal Mankad** is a senior at Smith College. They are studying post-colonial nationalism and South Asian ethnic conflict at the intersections of film and identity politics. Tejal loves cats, glitter, and working towards the liberation of communities of color.

**Turner Willman** is a senior at Smith College where they major in Environmental Science & Policy and minor in the Study of Women & Gender. Their academic interests include environmental justice, migrant domestic labor, and the prison-industrial complex. In their spare time, Turner enjoys sunbathing and being a diva.

**Taylor Marvin** is a rough time kid in their fourth semester at Hampshire college. They are studying the relationship between art and oppression, looking at the ways art can be used as a tool/catalyst in anti-oppression struggles, and the ways "High Art" & appropriation can be oppressive forces. They are tender & sassy, a poet & an anarchist, an artist & performer. They can be found at the Polybabe Fortress, sleeping in a blanket fort, rough housing in a field, or cooking enormous amounts of vegan food for friends. They are finding ways to hold and use their enormous amounts of love and rage.

*And our sincerest gratitude goes out to the many valuable community members who have volunteered their time and energy in order to make this conference a reality!*

# Keynote Speaker

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## José Esteban Muñoz

Author of *Disidentifications: Queers of Color and the Performance of Politics* and *Cruising Utopia: The Then and There of Queer Futurity*

José Esteban Muñoz looks at how those outside the racial and sexual mainstream negotiate majority culture—not by aligning themselves with or against exclusionary works but rather by transforming these works for their own cultural purposes. Muñoz calls this process “disidentification,” and through a study of its workings, he develops a new perspective on minority performance, survival, and activism.



## Keynote Address

Queerness & the Brown Commons: The Sense of *Wildness*

Brownness describes an expansive sense of the world, a feeling and being in common that surpasses the limits of the individual and the subject. Brownness is a conceptual framing that launches us into a vaster consideration of the ways in which people and things suffer and experience harm under the duress of local and global forces that attempt to diminish their vitality and degrade their value. The idea of Brownness also offers us an account of the ways in which brown commons, in all their harmony and turbulence, offer resources for thinking and doing otherwise. This paper presents an example of brown commons that it is both diverse and uniform, in the form of a collectivity that included working-class transgendered Latina immigrants and queer of color punks and artists. Wu Tsang's film *Wildness* (2012) tells the tale of an art project that attempted to imagine and catalyze a cross-generational queer and brown commons. *Wildness* resists many of the protocols of realist documentary. It narrates the story of Los Angeles's Silver Platter, a longstanding Latino Gay bar that caters to a local gay community and featured old school transvestite performers. Tsang and a group of other younger queer artists took over the bar's less populated Tuesday night slot and hosted a party that featured edgy queer performance. The documentary tells the story of The Silver Platter through interviews with the bar's proprietors, regular patrons and those who would become Tuesday night's denizens. The film includes talking heads and performance documentation but also attends to the larger urban ecology that surrounds the space by including adjacent histories of anti-immigrant and homophobic violence. *Wildness* also features the bar itself as a speaking persona who narrates the ebbs and flows of brown life that traverse its walls. My analysis of the film is a launching pad for a more expansive consideration of a mode of brownness that is articulated not as a realist or empirical rendering of Latina or migrant experience, but, instead, a theory of brownness as a simultaneously singular/plural sense of the world. This paper makes the case that *Wildness* is a cinema of specularity that offers spectators an expanded materialist lens for a new consideration of the striving, conflicts and flourishing of people, spaces, objects and feelings that are vitally brown and queer.

# Friday Performance

Queer Prom featuring Heels On Wheels Glitter Roadshow

<http://www.heelsonwheelsroadshow.com/>

**HEELS ON WHEELS  
GLITTER ROADSHOW 2013**  
MARCH: NORTHEAST // MARCH 22-APRIL 7: WEST COAST // APRIL 11-12: NYC

**THE LADY M. VAGINA JENKINS**  
**GEPFETTA**  
**DAMIEN LUXE**  
**SHANI NAISE**  
**BENIN STANLANDINGHAM**  
**LIZXNN DIXASTER**  
**HEATHER AZI**  
**KIRYA TIBET**

**FIVE COLLEGE QUEER CONFERENCE**  
**FRI. MARCH 1**  
**8PM RED BARN**  
**HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE**  
**AMHERST, MA**

**QUEER FEMME PERFORMANCE**  
**HEELSONWHEELSROADSHOW.COM**  
PHOTOS BY NICOLE MYLES 2013

Heels on Wheels is a queer, working-class organization led by feminine-spectrum folks who are committed to anti-oppression work using a liberatory, radical, feminist, transformative framework.

# Featured Presenters

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## Cristy C. Road

<http://www.croadcore.org/>



Cristy C. Road is floating in a pool of her own blood, sweat, and occasional tears. C. Road is a 30-year-old Cuban-American artist and writer. Blending social principles, sexual deviance, mental inadequacies, and social justice- she thrives to testify the beauty of the imperfect. Her obsession with making art [and her emotions] publicly accessible began when publishing GREEN'ZINE in 1997- a fanzine which was originally devoted to Green Day. The exclusivity of high art disgusted her, as she fell in love with a xerox machine and the creativity expressed through the punk rock community. Eventually, she made friends, found solace outside of a single band, and began including blurbs on other punk rock bands, gender identity, sexuality, aimless travel, and radical organizing. Her preferred mediums are Micron Ink pens, Sharpies, Chartpak markers, fluid acrylic paint, and Photoshop. Today Road works as a freelance illustrator, aside from her personal goals in publishing. Taking both writing and visual elements a step more seriously, her visual diagram of lifestyles and beliefs have are currently in tune to the zine's portrayal of living.

## Fabian Romero

<http://fabianromero.tumblr.com/>

Fabian Romero is a Queer Chicano poet, performance artist and community organizer. They co-founded several writing and performance groups including Hijas de Su Madre, Las Mamalogues and Mixed Messages: Stories by People of Color. Their sincere poetry and stories arise from their experience as an Economic Refugee, speaking two languages, queerness, gender-queer identity, brown skin, time as a migrant worker and childhood in poverty. Currently they are the Co-Director of Education at Bent Writing Institute and are pursuing their BA at Evergreen State College with a focus in writing, social justice and education. You can contact them at [FabiOrtizRomero@gmail.com](mailto:FabiOrtizRomero@gmail.com)



# Friday, March 1st

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12:00pm-12:45pm – **Check-in** (Lobby of FPH)

12:45pm-01:00pm – **Welcome Ceremony** (Main Lecture Hall)

01:10pm-02:10pm – **Panel Slot 1**

- Acceptable Bodies: Colonialism, State Power, and Queer Liberation (107)
- Radical Queer Studies: Challenging Institutional Violence from within the Academy (108)
- Screening of *Performing Girl* featuring a Q&A with D'Lo and Crescent Diamond (West Lecture Hall)

02:20pm-03:20pm – **Lunch** (Faculty Lounge)

03:30pm-05:00pm – **Readings with Cristy C. Road and Fabian Romero** (Main Lecture Hall)

05:10pm-06:10pm – **Panel Slot 2**

- Queering Intersectionality: Performance and Law (107)
- Learning Queer Knowledge: Historical and Modern Day Perspectives on Lesbian Narratives (106)
- Queer as Class: Recognizing Class Privilege in Queer Communities (108)
- Femmepowerment: Strategies for Self-Confidence from the Stage to the Street, with the Heels on Wheels Glitter Roadshow (West Lecture Hall)

08:00pm-01:00am – **Queer Prom feat. Heels on Wheels Roadshow (Red Barn)**

Heels on Wheels Glitter Roadshow is a 2-hour long queer performance art cabaret of radical extravagance and thought-provoking glamour. Our fearless performers rampage across the feminine spectrum serving up poetic theatre, hilarious performance art, and rocknroll you can sink your heels into! The five touring artists are: Shomi Noise [NYC], Kirya Traber [SF/NYC], Heather Acs [NYC], Bevin Branlandingham [NYC], and Damien Luxe [NYC].

After the show, DJ Shomi Noise [Azucar, Wretched] spins -- so stay and play!

# Saturday, March 2nd

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10:00am-11:00am – **Check-in** (Lobby of FPH)

11:00am-11:15am – **Welcome Ceremony** (Main Lecture Hall)

11:20am-12:40pm – **Workshop Slot 1**

- Intersecting Asexuality and Gender (106)
- Consideration in Trans\*/Cis Erotic Play (107)
- You're So Fat... Yay! (108)



- Patches, Stickers, and how to be creative in filling other holes (105)
- Queering Jewish Practice (104)
- Incarcerated Realities (West Lecture Hall)
- Queer of Color Theory and Praxis with José Esteban Muñoz (East Lecture Hall)

### **12:40pm-02:00pm – Lunch** (Faculty Lounge)

- Singles Caucus (108)
- Poly/Non-Monogomous Caucus (107)
- Femme Caucus (106)
- Butch Caucus (105)
- Non-Binary Caucus (104)
- QPOC Caucus (103)
- Mixed Race Queer Caucus (102)

### **02:00pm-03:20pm – Workshop Slot 2**

- Self Love & Self Care (107)
- Reclaim the Goddess with Cristy C. Road (108)
- Building a Poly Home (West Lecture Hall)
- Challenges of Coming Out For QPOC (102) – CLOSED QPOC SPACE
- Performing the Queer Revolution (103)
- Queering Survivorship: Identity and Intimacy (104)
- Sex, Kink, and Disability (105)
- Curious about going down? (106)
- Asexuality Spectrum Forum (East Lecture Hall) – CLOSED Ace\* SPACE

### **03:30pm-05:00pm – Keynote Address** with José Esteban Muñoz (Main Lecture Hall) Queerness and the Brown Commons: The Sense of *Wildness*

### **05:10pm-06:30pm – Workshop Slot 3**

- What About the Men? (101)
- Genderfuck WHAT: Zine Workshop (103)
- Negotiated Relationships (104)
- Freak of Nurture (107)
- Femme (In)visibility (108)
- How To Holla Back (East Lecture Hall)

### **06:40pm-08:00pm – Workshop Slot 4**

- Aging and Ageism in LGBT Communities (102)
- Barriers and Support for Queer Survivors of Sexual Violence (103)
- Gendered and Non-Gendered Pronouns in World Languages (104)
- Combating Oppression in the Bedroom (105)
- Queer Virginity: How Hetero-Dominant Notions of Sex and Virginity Influence Queer Sexuality (106)
- Self-Preservation in Times of Oppression with Fabian Romero (108)

# Workshop Descriptions

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Friday, March 1st

## **Acceptable Bodies: Colonialism, State Power, and Queer Liberation**

Molly Theodora/Hunter King

This workshop addresses the intersections between colonial histories, statehood, and the normalization/absorption of non-heteronormative relations into capitalist and consumerist society. The continuing inclusion of LGBTQI peoples into military structures and the focus on marriage have further alienated queer solidarity movements that strive to draw connections between indigenous struggles and anti-capitalist/consumerist efforts. In particular, we will address how nation-states continue to present queer and queer-friendly voices to 'pinkwash' war crimes, occupation, and rights abuses, and the connections between marriage, settler-colonialism, class discrimination, and racism as inherent to queer liberation in a contemporary setting.

## **Radical Queer Studies: Challenging Institutional Violence from within the Academy**

Zemora Tevah/Ollie Schwartz/Devin Suozzi-Rearic/Becky Burnham

This workshop creates space for queer/anti-racist organizers to come together to exchange knowledge, stories, tactics, and questions regarding the role of queer studies in challenging institutional violence in the academy, specifically (but not exclusively) in the Five-College area. Witness performance, participate in discussion, learn new academic theory about the struggle against racism and homophobia within the institution. What are our different campus climates? How do administrative structures work to make the radical potential of queer studies less of a threat to institutional power?

## **Screening of *Performing Girl* featuring D'Lo and Crescent Diamond**

*Performing Girl* is a short documentary about the early life of D'Lo: a queer, transgender, Tamil Sri Lankan American writer, actor, director, comedian, activist and music producer. The film focuses on D'Lo's deliberate transition from "tomboy" to a "girl" in early adolescence and the evolution of his identity. The film gives a glimpse of his experience growing up in the small desert town of Lancaster, California. Lego animations, archive footage and stills paint the portrait of his personality and cultural experiences as a child. In interviews and clips from his performances, D'Lo and his parents explain how his identity and their relationship has changed over the last twenty years. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with D'Lo and Crescent Diamond.

## **Queering Intersectionality: Performance and Law**

Ollie Schwartz/Anne Michael Re

We are presenting two lectures on intersectionality, performance, and feminist-antiracist-queer theory. The first presentation focuses on the work of Queer Black scholars who incorporate performance into theory as a means of combating "the crisis of looking" when discussing Black subjectivity. The second presentation examines the 'phenomenology' of 'intersectionality,' looking at current critiques to further the theory in the context of feminist post-modern and queer frameworks. Following the presentations will be a question and answer session.

## **Learning Queer Knowledge: Historical and Modern Day Perspectives on Lesbian Narratives**

Kayla Ginsburg/Jennie Wachowski

We will each be presenting on our senior thesis research. Kayla's research centers on the production of the first lesbian sex magazines in the mid-1980s and the problems posed by trying to historicize radical consent. Jennie will discuss the oral histories she conducted with young white lesbian, bisexual and queer women from Tulsa, Oklahoma.

## **Queer As Class: Privilege and Social Capital in Queer Communities and Culture**

Jamie Theophilos/Parks Dunlap

In what ways does class influence the queer movements and communities we are a part of? This workshop will explore the relationship between Class Privilege and Queer Culture. This workshop is for individuals wanting to gain a better understanding on how to recognize their class privilege and to dialogue about ways to interfere classist behavior in our lives and local communities.

## **Femempowerment: Strategies for Self-Confidence from the Stage to the Street**

Heels on Wheels Glitter Roadshow

Ever wonder how stage performers seem so confident? Want to learn how they "stand like they're six feet tall" -- even when they're 4' 10"? In this interactive workshop, learn to find the places \*you\* shine, and how to take your voice, your thoughts, and your power out into the world! Turn your inner "I cant..." into a loud "Yes We Can!"

## **Saturday, March 2nd**

### **Intersecting Asexuality and Gender**

M. LeClerc/Julie Kitn

Asexuality is defined as a lack of sexual attraction to others regardless of sex or gender, and an estimated 1% of people are asexual. Gender diversity within the asexual community is high, with 10-30% of individuals identifying as not cis-gendered. This panel presentation will explore the intersections of asexuality and gender through personal narratives of panelists and collaborative dialogue with audience members.

### **Consideration in Trans\*/Cis Erotic Play**

Wintersong Tashlin

It's awesome when two or more people are interested in play, sex, or dating. When one or more of those people are trans\*, and one or more of them are cis, there are particular communication strategies, pressures, joys, and other considerations, that can be valuable to acknowledge and take into account. Whether you're looking for a quick pickup or a lasting relationship, this workshop will help provide you with concrete tools and strategies for how these interactions can, and do, work.

### **You're SO fat...YAY!: Establishing a Framework for Fat Positivity in the Queer Community**

Hillary Montague-Asp/Nina Gassoway

By attending this workshop, participants will be introduced to concepts of fat shaming and fat positivity, will explore their internalize manifestations of these concepts, and examine how these individual thoughts/actions are affecting their communities. This workshop will empower participants with a framework for loving their bodies, loving the bodies of their communities, and spreading that love.

### **Patches, Stickers, and how to be creative in filling other holes:**

#### **A DIY crafts session with a queer agenda**

Sasha Goodfriend/Rea Sowan

DIY, or "Do It Yourself" is a doctrine people in marginalized communities have used to live on their own terms for hundreds of years. Learning how to DIY is a way of becoming an independent person, and an empowering experience to learn how to rely on yourself. In this workshop you will learn some creative ways to queer spaces, use DIY as a form of protest, and have fun all the while! No experience whatsoever necessary. Really. Each participant will learn how to make a patch and take one home as a souvenir!

## **Queering Jewish Practice**

Staci Akselrod/Bailey Hanselman

Daily practices are crucial to maintaining comfortable, centering lives. Staci and Bailey talk about the ways that you can bring in multiple identities and reflect that in your practice, particularly Queer and Jewish ones. Staci and Bailey are currently living (successfully) in an intentional Jewish household with 14 other lovely individuals.

## **Incarcerated Realities**

Bender Bear

The Prison Industrial Complex runs counter to its expressed goals of reform and rehabilitation. We will be discussing what it really means to be incarcerated in the United States, and how we use it as a means to modern day slavery in the context of capitalism and marginalized persons. We will then discuss what it means in specific relation to queer people/identities/bodies.

## **Queer of Color Theory and Praxis**

José Esteban Muñoz

This workshop will consider how we theorize, perform and represent queer of color particularity as a mode of being in the world. We will commence with review of a few genealogies of queer of color critique. We will also consider the relationship between queer of color theory and cultural work. The workshop will inquire into the ways in which theory and praxis merge under the sign of queer of color. Another animating question will be a consideration of how transgender and disability studies augment, amend or challenge the field. Excerpts from the corpus of this body of work will be distributed a week before the workshop.

## **Challenges of Coming Out For QPOC – CLOSED QPOC SPACE**

Diana Atalla/Ashley Cummings

This workshop will be both a presentation and caucus focusing on the experiences of Queer People of Color (QPOC) and the challenges of navigating non-white families as QPOC. The coming out process is less prevalent for people of color, who often face heightened opposition from their frequently more traditional and religious relatives. Invalidation and denial of queerness is widespread for QPOC who are expected to uphold traditional cultural values since their sexual orientation is perceived as combative towards such standards.

## **Performing the Queer Revolution**

Sam Congdon

This workshop begins with a short overview of some queer solo performers, then guides participants through the process of generating their own solo performance work.

## **Queering Survivorship: Identity and Intimacy**

Liya Rechtman/Alessandra Simeone

Survivorship takes on a unique meaning to members of the queer community. In this session we will discuss the confluence of queer and survivor identity. Further, we will discuss the obstacle and triumphs of returning to intimacy after sexual disrespect.

## **Sex, Kink, and Disability**

Wintersong Tashlin

We can't all be perfect specimens of physical and mental health. In fact, many of us are in some way for lack of a better word, broken. This may pre-date our being sexually active, or it could be more a recent development. It can take many different forms and can affect our lives, and yes our sex lives in a wide variety of ways. Let's get together and discuss issues such as: how does one explore safe play within our limitations, how do we find satisfying substitutions for favored activities that may now have become off limits, how do we talk to an erotic partner about our boundaries without freaking them out, and how can we incorporate our disability into our play in positive and healthy ways?

## **Curious about going down?**

Angie Tissie

Are you curious about the mysterious world of oral sex? Not quite sure how to give a blowjob or even all the ways the clit can be stimulated? Why not mess with gender and give a rockin blowjob to that dildo? If you are a beginner or a connoisseur of giving or receiving head this is the workshop for you! A panel of folks with identities across a spectrum will talk about and provide tips and tricks of the trade. Come get the low down on going down!

## **Self Love & Self Care**

Hannah Giorgis/Ashley Afranie-Sakyi

A look into the queerness of self love in opposition to heteronormative forces as well as a discussion on principles of self care. Participants will discuss the politics surrounding self love and various societal barriers to self love including those of intersecting identities. The workshop will finish with a presentation and discussion of ways in which to practice self care.

Reclaim the Goddess

Cristy C. Road

In this interactive workshop, zinester extraordinaire, Cristy C. Road will be giving a tutorial on tarot readings, as well as facilitating a discussion on spirituality and patriarchy.

## **Building a Poly Home**

Poly Quad

Have you ever dreamed of living in a house full of chosen family, friends, and/or loved ones? Come hear about the experiences of one polyamorous family who have been living in and building an intentional family home for the past 5 years. From communications tools and legal considerations, to parenting and financial decisions, to family ritual and we will share insight and advice from our journey. There will be a question and answer period, so bring your questions!

## **Asexuality Spectrum Forum – CLOSED Ace\* SPACE**

Tasya Abbot/Traci Laichter

A closed space for those whose identities fall on the asexuality spectrum and those who might be questioning. Come hang out with us in a safe ace space to discuss anything you need to! (And yes, there will be cake!)

## **What About the Men? Male Femininity & Gay Masculinity in Mainstream & Queer Cultures**

Justin Sundell-Thomas

While gay men dominate popular representations of queer communities as well as large advocacy groups, gay and queer male voices are often missing from conversations about queerness and meaningful social change, and the male perspectives that are present in these conversations are often of a very specific type. This workshop is designed to address that lack, and to explore the transgressive possibilities inherent in many male identities, with a short presentation and facilitated discussion focused on the following topics: “straight acting” and the glorification of masculinity in gay male culture; sissies, camp, and gay male stereotypes; the prevalence and use of gendered homophobic slurs; what it means to be perceived as a feminine man in society and how this connects to transmisogyny; fem/me identity, femme invisibility, and fem/me visibility; queer identity, gay identity, and the privileging of butches, bois, studs, trans men and androgyny in queer communities; and masculinity and heteronormativity in trans male and trans masculine communities.

## **Genderfuck WHAT: Zine Workshop**

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GENDER FUCK WHAT Zine Workshop is a hands on event aimed at transforming your own conceptions of gender and sexuality through the medium of zines. There will be a quick intro to zines and we'll cover basic

zine skills with an emphasis on cut and paste styles. Most of the workshop will be spent working on a collaborative zine that explores gender feelings that might be difficult to articulate otherwise.

### **Negotiated Relationships**

Jawn/Jawn's Doll

All power exchange relationships have one thing in common: they are all based on some kind of negotiation and agreement of all parties involved. Jawn and His Doll have been living this lifestyle for over five years, and are happy to share their experiences, the bumps in the road, and how you can turn a negotiated relationship into something as vanilla or as kinky as you want.

### **Freak of Nurture: What Doesn't Kill Us Makes Us Weirder**

Kelli Dunham

When difficulty in our lives stretches us to the breaking point, it often cracks us open to do creative work that we've never attempted before. In this workshop, genderqueer nurse ex-nun author and stand up comic Kelli Dunham will help participants grapple with the nuts and bolts relationship between creativity and hardship and use writing prompts to explore how to make comic art from tragic life.

### **Femme (In)visibility**

Megan Haaga/Jean Ochterski

A dialogue about intersectionality in queer identities. This will include discussion of the idea of being "visibly queer" as a white, thin, more masculine of center person, and the invisibility of femme identities. We will discuss this paradigm in popular culture and media, as well as in our own communities of the Five Colleges and Pioneer Valley.

### **How to Holla Back: An Introduction to Combating Street Harassment**

Megan Lieff

How can we reclaim the streets and make it a safe and equitable place? This interactive workshop will provide an overview of street harassment and its impact on marginalized communities, especially women and those who identify as Queer/LGBT. Participants will be introduced to techniques they can use to fight back against harassment, with an emphasis on the use of technology such as camera cell phones and web sites.

### **Aging and Ageism in LGBT Communities**

J.M. Sorrell

LGBT older adults have lived through decades of legally and medically-sanctioned discrimination, and many have bravely paved the way for today's LGBTQAI communities. Come to learn about intergenerational opportunities, commonalities and differences.

### **Barriers and Support for Queer Survivors of Sexual Violence**

Mike Wolf

Survivors of sexual violence are a largely misunderstood, misrepresented, and silenced group. Though services and support for survivors has grown unique challenges exist for queer survivors of sexual violence that remain largely ignored. This presentation explores the experiences of queer survivors as well as how to be supportive on an interpersonal and systemic level.

### **Gendered and Non-Gendered Pronouns in World Languages**

James Barrett-Morison

Often in the contemporary American discourse on gendered, gender-neutral and non-gendered pronouns, critics and advocates of new pronoun usage have focused exclusively on the study and history of the English language. But there is much we can learn from other languages about how they handle gendering of pronouns. This presentation will discuss languages which lack gendered personal pronouns or have pronoun systems significantly different from English. It will also examine how other languages which are engaging in

similar discourses around non-gendered pronouns are tackling the issue, and what English-speakers can learn from their successes and mistakes.

### **Combating Oppression in the Bedroom**

Gavin McGown/Mounia

This workshop focuses on the problem, common in certain queer and trans\* contexts and communities, of checking our political commitments at the bedroom door. The workshop will invite participants to examine and critique their sexual lives and practices, and how these practices might reproduce dynamics of power, privilege, and structural oppression. We will discuss strategies of subverting these instances of structural oppression in queer and trans\* sexual contexts.

### **Queer Virginity:**

#### **How Hetero-Dominant Notions of Sex and Virginity Influence Queer Sexuality**

Dr. Maya M. Poran

Have you had sex? How do you know if you have lost your virginity? Who gets to define what is “real sex,” and who is having it? In this workshop, dominant heterosexual notions of sexual behavior, and “losing one’s virginity,” will be discussed in relation to how these notions frame Queer sexuality and experience.

### **Self-Preservation in Times of Oppression**

Fabian Romero

Self Preservation in Times of Oppression is a self-reflective workshop meant to address everyday struggles that can accumulate and result in burn out. Fabian Romero is a skilled facilitator that uses their popular education knowledge, performance art experience and strong presence to engage participants in a transformative learning workshop. The goals of this workshop is to expand on basic understandings of anti-oppression and privilege. It also meant to build community, self-care practices and every-day techniques to avoid burnout. Self Preservation in Times of Oppression is helpful for scholars with a basic understanding of systems of oppression and power structures. After the workshop participants often continue conversations and many of them have expressed that they leave more prepared to face everyday oppression.

# Presenters' Biographies

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**Ali Simeone** is a senior Political Science major at Amherst College. She is a Peer Advocate of Sexual Respect and a co-facilitator for Break the Silence: a support group for survivors of sexual disrespect. She is also a contributing writer for In the 'Cac, a NESCAC blog, and writes about gender and sexuality issues at Amherst College.

**Angie Tissi** is the Director of LGBT\* Student Support and Services at Amherst College. She has her Masters in Public Health from Oregon State University focusing on LGBT sexuality and student leadership. She is dedicated to creating change for queer folks on college campuses and making the world a sexier, better place one sex toy and cupcake at a time!

**Anne Michael Re** is a senior at Smith College. She is a Studies of Women and Gender Major and English Minor. Annie is currently working on a senior thesis about the 'imaginative capacity' of intersectionality; to do so she is considering the structure of the word and its history by putting current theory, critique, and use around intersectionality in conversation with Sara Ahmed's Queer Phenomenology.

**Bailey Hanselman** is a Boston, MA transplant currently living it up with Staci Akeselrod (platonically) in their rad Jewish co-op in Chicago, IL. When not being an awesome roommate, she is coordinating volunteers at a Women's Health Non-Profit and singing in Chicago's Queer Choir. Bailey graduated from Hampshire College in 2012, where she concentrated in Women's Health and Bioethics.

**Diana Atalla** is currently a Senior at Ramapo College of New Jersey, with majors in American Studies and Literature and a minor in Women's and Gender Studies. She is employed by her campus' Women's Center as the Queer Peer Services Coordinator; she facilitates a weekly queer-peer-listening-group, organizes various programming, and is commonly seen making coffee.

**E. Winter/Wintersong Tashlin** ([www.barkingshaman.com](http://www.barkingshaman.com)) is an educator, activist, blogger, and shaman who teaches workshops on such diverse topics as queer/LGBT issues, BDSM, pagan spirituality, polyamory, and disabilities. He is associate editor for The Bilerico Project, an LGBT politics & culture blog, as well as an assistant producer/programming director for Dark Odyssey Events. Winter has presented workshops for Transcending Boundaries, Five College Queer Gender & Sexuality Conference, QueerPlayCon, Dark Odyssey, Geeky Kink Event, Mass General Hospital, PassionateU, and many others. He has appeared in television documentaries featuring topics such as polyamory, spirituality, and genital integrity in both the United States and Great Britain. His photography has appeared in Salacious Magazine, on the websites of Crash Pad and Fruit Punch Productions, as well as in a number of both pagan and mainstream books. He graduated from Hampshire College in 2003.

**Hezekiah Michael** is a neutrois, asexual person who prefers masculine pronouns. He is active in the Boston asexual community and in autistic self-advocacy.

**Hillary Montague-Asp** is a Master's Student in the Social Justice Education Department at UMass Amherst. Originally from Colorado, Hillary got her BA in Women and Gender Studies and Sociology from the University of Colorado Boulder. She is the Graduate Assistant and the Stonewall Center at UMass, as well as a member of the Board of Directors for GLSEN Massachusetts. Her passions include fat activism, music, anything femme and anything queer!

**Hunter King** graduated from Smith College in January and is currently working and organizing in the Valley before going abroad to Afghanistan and (hopefully) on a Fulbright to Sri Lanka in the fall. Their interests include: exotic fruits, pro-Palestinian and indigenous rights activism, imperialism and nation building, and the



political anthropology of post-colonial states.

**J. Mary (JM) Sorrell** is the director of SAGE Western Massachusetts, whose mission is to provide services and programming for LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) older adults and allies. She has worked in public health and human services for over 20 years. She believes in working as part of a diverse team to help those in need and to empower people to advocate for themselves. J.M. is also a Justice of the Peace who has had the distinct pleasure of officiating at weddings for over 550 couples from all walks of life.

**James Barrett-Morison** is a Senior Anthropology/Classics major at Amherst College. He has served as co-chair of Amherst College Pride Alliance, and is currently working on a bachelor's thesis on representations of women on Attic pottery and gendered housing in fifth century BCE Greece.

**Jamie Theophilos** is in their last semester at Mount Holyoke College majoring in film studies and gender Studies. Hailing from Illinois, They spend a lot of time thinking about privilege, punk, class activism, survivorship, and being outdoors (specifically biking and rock climbing). They are an organizer of the Pioneer Valley Zine Fest and a member of the MHC Coalition for Gender Awareness. They play guitar and do vocals for several local bands and you can probably see them embarrassing themselves while they attempt to scream into a mic on any given Saturday night.

**Jawn** is a photographer and musician from Worcester. He has been active in the BDSM community for over a decade. With His Doll, he is the leader of Reverend Reacharound, an irreverent folk-punk duo. They have started an GLBTQIK-friendly photography business, Jawniffer Photography, for event and portrait photography. Jawn can be found online at Jawnhenry.com, Jawniffer.com, ReverendReacharound.com and Heart-Shaped-Boy.com.

**Jawn's Doll, Jenn** has played a number of roles in her life, both literally as she earned her BA in Drama from Ithaca College, and figuratively as she earned her MEd from University of New Hampshire. Her most important role is currently as the owned girl of Jawn. She has recently served as the Director of MAST Mass (Masters And slaves Together), a monthly discussion and support group for those interested in pursuing hierarchical relationships, and has served with Jawn on the organizing committee for the past three years. She works with Jawn creatively as part of Reverend Reacharound (ReverendReacharound.com) and as a photographer for Jawniffer Photography (Jawniffer.com). She can also be found online at Jawns-doll.com.

**Jennie Ochterski** is a queer, fat, femme identified woman at Mount Holyoke College. She is a Gender Studies major/religion minor and is interested in increasing femme visibility in various queer communities. Her hobbies include cooking, writing poetry, and smashing the cishetero-kyriarchy. Her partner says she gives the best cuddles!

**Jennie Wachowski** is a femme, politically queer lesbian from Tulsa, Oklahoma, who is indulging in nostalgia by writing her senior thesis about home. She's spent her four years at Smith studying histories of resistance and hope, and plans to use that knowledge by pursuing a career in ministry.

**Julie Kitn** identifies as asexual and genderqueer, but is still figuring herself out. She is an occasional amateur drag performer, when she can get past her stage fright. She studied at MIT and still lives in Boston. She is happy to talk about gender, identity, Harry Potter fandom, Esperanto, film/media, knitting/sewing.

**Kayla Ginsburg** - I'm a queer, Jewish, graduating senior at Smith college writing a thesis on lesbian sexy history. I'm interested in questions of consent and queer sexuality and have been examining these topics in different disciplines (history, film, and organizing) for the last four years.

**Kelli Dunham** (kellidunham.com) is everyone's favorite ex-nun genderqueer nerd comic. Kelli was one of Velvet Park Magazine's 25 Significant Queer Women of 2011 and was named to the 2012 Campus Pride

Hotlist. Kelli was also given the The Fresh Fruit Festival Award for Distinction in stand-up comedy, although Kelli has never before or since been called distinguished. Kelli is a registered nurse and the author of four books of humorous non-fiction, including two children's books being used by Sonlight conservative home schooling association in their science curriculum. Her fifth book, *Freak of Nurture* is being released by Topsy Press in Spring 2013. Kelli was recently the expert on "What Is Normal" in *Twist Magazine* (known as *Tiger Beat's* little sister magazine), on a page facing a full color poster of Justin Bieber. There isn't even a ironic statement to match that, it's just strangely true.

**Liya Rechtman** is an Amherst College student and the spring 2013 co-chair of Amherst Pride Alliance. At Amherst, she served on the Sexual Respect Task Force and the Sexual Misconduct Oversight Committee. She is also the founding editor and current contributing writer of *ACVoice.com*, the Amherst online publication and often publishes on issues surrounding sexual respect, queer identity, feminism, and intimacy both on the site and in various other publications.

**M. LeClerc** is an asexual, agender, activist, geneticist, and public health professional working for equity in the rights, lives, and health of individuals within the QUILTBAG community. They are the organizer of the New England Aces, an asexual meetup group for the Greater Boston Area, and frequent speaker on the topics of asexuality, negotiating intimacy, and health in the asexual community.

**Megan Lief** has been learning how to Holla Back, up and down the east coast, for several years. She first became passionate about fighting street harassment in 2009, while training to be a rape crisis counselor down in DC. Currently an undergrad studying Women's Studies and statistics at UMass, her research focus is on race politics in sexual sub-cultures and ethnographies around narratives of sexual assault. When this doesn't have her up to her eye-balls in work, she's teaching sex-ed, learning to Contra or desperately awaiting more Dr. Who.

**Micah, Aimee, Ian and Michelle** are a polyamorous quad living in Springfield, MA. Their partner Laurel lives in Connecticut with her husband. All of them are all activists, having worked for a wide variety of groups, including the Western Mass. Poly Group, the Society and Transcending Boundaries. They are proud to have participated in every Five College Queer Conference to date!

**Mike Wolf** is in his final semester at the University of Michigan Master's in Social Work program. He currently works as an intern at the University's Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Center (SAPAC) engaging in both direct service with survivors of sexual violence and prevention work with the community. Upon receiving his MSW Mike hopes to continue his work around violence prevention and social identity.

**Molly Oringer** is a Smith College alumna and a graduate student of Near Eastern Studies at NYU, where she is currently researching post-war rebuilding/privatization, collective identity, and national memory in Lebanon. Molly is also involved in Palestine solidarity activism in NYC, and is especially interested in issues of homonationalism and Pinkwashing. Her inner animal is a red Tibetan yak and her favorite food is beets.

**Nina Gassoway** works as a Residence Director at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She has a Masters in Higher Education from Oregon State University and is currently taking graduate courses in the Social Justice Education program at UMass. Nina has been involved in LGBTQ activism since she was a teenager and currently focuses on white privilege, sizeism, and queer issues on college campuses.

**Ollie Schwartz** is a FemmeFag queer studies/ film studies/ history nerd interested in community accountability, fabulousness, dabbling in theory, and making art.

**Parks Dunlap** is a twenty something sociology major graduating from Smith College this may. She grew up in a military town in Southern Virginia, and sees economic justice as anti-violence work. Parks is a co-chair Smith College Students Against Sexual Assault and an active member of several feminist, queer, lesbian, and

BSDM communities. Outside of school, Parks works at a woman-owned adult retail store and enjoys hot tea, playing with her two rabbits, sweaters, and rowing boats. After graduation, Parks hopes to become a fully certified sex educator with hopes of being a single queer parent in the next ten years.

**Queenie** is an asexual graduate student studying gender and Japanese religion. She is in a long-term romantic relationship with another ace. She is an active member of the asexual blogosphere, and writes for The Asexual Agenda.

**Rea Sowan**, Activism Coordinator at the Center for Gender, Sexuality, and Activism at Boston University. I am a trans\*/genderqueer activist who hails from Beirut, Lebanon. My gender pronouns are they/their, and I am just over five feet of jam-packed feminism and queerness. I could list all the -isms and forms of privilege that make sangry (sad/angry), but instead I'm going to say that I love cats, food, and arts and crafts.

**Sarah Isabel** is a licensed clinical social worker. She graduated with her masters of social work from Boston University.

**Sasha** is currently a junior at Boston University studying International Relations and Women, Gender & Sexuality. She currently serves as co-director of the Center for Gender, Sexuality & Activism at BU. Last year, she won the Sarah Joanne Davis award for Activism for her leadership to bring for a sexual assault prevention and response center to BU, which opened this past Fall.

**Staci Akselrod** is currently living in Chicago, IL in a large but adorable Jewish co-op, where she works for a non-profit teaching financial literacy classes and as a case manager. She graduated from Hampshire College in 2012, where her Div III was entitled "Queering Tradition: Yiddish Theatre and the Politics of Adaptation." In her spare time, she is a roller derby referee for The Chicago Outfit.

**Zemora Tevah** is a final semester student at Hampshire College. Her Division III explores the history of Northampton's Annual Pride March through archival research to critique the turn towards queer liberal politics.

# Media Policy

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- 1) Photographers will be clearly designated as such. If participants do not want photos that they are in to be published, they are asked to see a conference organizer or the photographer.
- 2) We will ask that all participants attach a colored sticker on their nametags that will signify if they are comfortable having their pictures taken for internal use, for external use, or not at all, and we will strive to respect these.
- 3) We will only publicly share photos in which participants have visual consent, meaning that they are clearly aware that their photos are being taken (i.e. smiling and looking at the camera).
- 4) We will not take photos or videos in workshops.
- 5) Whenever possible, we let participants know if their images will be used in external publications.

*Special thanks to the Civil Liberties and Public Policy Program at Hampshire College for their help and advice in crafting this policy.*

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Further comments, questions, concerns? Contact us at: [queerconf@gmail.com](mailto:queerconf@gmail.com)