

**8th annual five college
queer gender
& sexuality conference**



friday march 3rd

&

saturday march 4th

hampshire college

franklin patterson hall

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about

The Five College Queer Gender and Sexuality Conference aims to offer an accountable and supportive environment to explore a wide range of topics and their intersections, such as race, genders, sexualities, ability, class, kink, religion, survival strategies, and many more, in a specifically queer context. Presenters include Five College students, faculty and staff, off-campus educators, and nationally-known performers, activists, speakers, and scholars. The conference is meant to be a safer space for engaging, learning, and fostering community. We are always looking for ways to adapt and improve, with the intention of remaining an annual event, and we welcome your feedback and participation in future organizing.

As we enter our eighth year we are grateful for the tremendous level of support we receive from students, faculty, staff and administration throughout the Five College Consortium. We are committed to making this wonderful conference accessible, and are able to offer this as a free public event because of the generosity and dedication of volunteers and donors from the Five Colleges and beyond. Starting as a single day conference in 2010, we have grown into a full two-day event that attracts attendees from communities all over the Northeast U.S.

Thank you for being here. You are the reason we do this work, and we are so excited to build and grow with you all this weekend.

In solidarity,

The 2017 Queer Conference Organizing Team

Website: <http://hampshire.edu/queerconf>

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/FiveCollegeConference>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/queerconf>

Tumblr: <http://fivecollegequeerconf.tumblr.com>

Email: queerconf@hampshire.edu

Use **#QueerConf2017** on Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr, and Facebook!

navigating campus

The conference takes place primarily in Franklin Patterson Hall. Most of the workshops are on the first floor in classrooms 101-108. There are a few special events in the Main Lecture Hall on the ground floor and some in the West Lecture Hall and Faculty Lounge on the 2nd floor.

The only conference events outside of Franklin Patterson Hall are:

- the Yoga Skillshare, held in the Dakin Living Room
- the Space Dance Party is in the Red Barn which is located out by Hampshire Health Services—go out the back doors of Franklin Patterson Hall and hit the fields. There's some signage.

Places to eat on campus: The Bridge café is located in the top floor of the Robert Crown Center. The dining commons are in the Merrill quad—go out the front doors of Franklin Patterson Hall and take a left.

Parking is designated with event signs. Be sure to park in marked lots.

The bus stop is behind the library. PVRTA Bus 38 and 39 run from Hampshire to the towns of Amherst and Northampton respectively.

accessibility

The 5 College Queer Conference does its best to provide an accessible space to all attendees which is curtailed by the budgetary constraints faced by a free conference. We ask that all attendees are mindful and respectful of the accessibility needs of others and would like to provide a few guidelines.

- Please minimize your use of scented materials to respect the needs of others, at a bare minimum refrain from applying perfume, spray deodorant or, god forbid, Axe body spray, inside the conference.
- Please be mindful of mobility needs of others and avoid blocking access to individuals who use mobility devices by refraining from clustering in the center of hallways, doorways, stairs, and elevators. If you are interested in having a sit down conversation with others, please use the Clothing Swap space or other spaces that do not impede the mobility of others.
- Please smoke in the designated areas (at least 25 feet from entrances to the building).
- Because flashing lights can trigger seizures or other symptoms, we ask that you avoid wearing or carrying decorative flashing lights and refrain from taking flash photography.
- Please avoid, to the best of your ability, triggering others.
- Please be mindful of community norms.
- The Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVRTA), our local public transportation system, has several area buses that are free to the public. Conference organizers are happy to help you read maps and schedules.

- Please help us to diminish access barriers at the conference and continue to work and build with us so that the conference is more accessible to more people each year. If you have feedback, questions, or suggestions, or want to volunteer or help organize around access, please email queerconf@hampshire.edu

As a conference we are committed to providing an accessible space, on our end this includes: we are using a space (Franklin Patterson Hall) that is mostly wheelchair accessible and will do our best to make parking accessibility work for attendees. Space will be reserved in all conference events for individuals with accessibility concerns. For ease of access here is an elevator guide.

Elevator guide:

2 - Faculty lounge, east lecture hall, west lecture hall, water fountains, single stall bathrooms (not accessible)

1 - Rooms 101 through 108, water fountain, side entrance (not accessible)

L - Lobby, check-in desk, main entrance (accessible), vending machine, multi-stall bathrooms (not accessible)

G - Main Lecture Hall, Single-stall accessible bathroom, side exit to parking lot (accessible)

B - This is the maintenance tunnels. Don't go down here.

- All lecture halls in Franklin Patterson Hall (Main, East, and West) have stairs, but are accessible by the ground level.

There are some limitations to what we can provide, this is a public event and open to everyone but we need folks to abide by community norms. We have a limited number of handicapped parking spaces and we will do our best to accommodate within this limitation. Finally, as we are not caterers and we provide donated food we cannot insure that we are providing food that is kosher/halal/meets other requisites for dietary restrictions although we can provide information on securing food. Please ask volunteers if you have questions.

media policies

- 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.
- We ask that all participants who are not comfortable having photographs published attach a colored sticker on both sides of their nametags. Stickers are available at the registration table
- We will take many photos but will only share those in which participants have given consent. Whenever possible, we let participants know if their images will be used in external publications (for instance Hampshire College's webpage).
- We ask that attendees show the same level of concern for the privacy of others when taking photographs.

- Photos can be a great memento but can also out someone.

schedule of events: friday march 3rd

12:00 **Check-in & Registration** (Lobby, L on elevator)
(Open All Day)

12:15—12:45pm **Opening with Xavier Torres de Janon**
(Main Lecture Hall, Ground Floor of FPH)

1:00—3:00pm **Workshop Session 1**

- Racism + the LGBT Community (FPH, 101)
- Family as Resistance (FPH, 106)
- Care Webs: Experiments in Disability-Made Collective Care (FPH, 107)
- On Bioethics & Contagion Through the Lens of HIV (FPH, 108)
- Clothing Swap (FPH, WLH)
- Film Screening: Chantal Akerman's *Je Tu Il Elle* and Lizzie Borden's *Born in Flames* (FPH, ELH)

3:20—5:20pm **Workshop Session 2**

- Queer & Trans* Stories Rising: Connection, Resilience, Liberation (FPH, 101)
- Self Care as an Act of Radical Resistance (FPH, 106)
- Brown Face White Aesthetics: Anti-Blackness in Brown Queerness (FPH, 107)
- Selected Excerpts from the Training of Poe w/ Q&A (FPH, 108) 18+ ONLY
- Trans Resistance in Times of Trouble (FPH, ELH)
- Clothing Swap (FPH, WLH)

6:00pm **Closed QTPOC Dinner**
Meet Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, eat, and mingle with other queer and trans people of color. This is a closed space for QTPOC.
(Faculty Lounge, 2nd Floor)

9:00pm **Space Dance, sponsored by the Sub-Free Collective**
(Red Barn)

schedule of events

saturday march 4th

10:00 **Check-in & Registration** (FPH Lobby, L on elevator) open all day

10:45 —11:15am **Opening with Maia Holloway**
(Main Lecture Hall, Ground Floor)

11:25—12:35pm **Workshop Session 3**

- Pushing Through: Coping with Minority Stress (FPH, 101)
- Logistical Planning for Surgery (FPH, 102)
- Femme Suicide Safety Strategies for Survival and Beyond (FPH, 103)
- Non-Monogamy, Anarchy and Climate Change: Resist, Re-think, Restructure (FPH, 104)
- Gender in n Dimensions (FPH, 105)
- Race, Belief, Sexuality and Body Positivity (FPH, 106)
- Navigating Healthcare (FPH, 107)
- Why Sex Isn't Safety: I Can Fake My Orgasms but not Consent? (FPH, 108)
- Trans Culture (FPH, ELH)
- Clothing Swap (FPH, WLH)
- Tenderqueer Yoga Skillshare (Dakin Living Room)

12:45—1:45pm **Lunch** (Faculty Lounge 2nd Floor)

1:45—3:05pm **Workshop Session 4**

- Kink + Trauma (FPH, 101)
- Excessive Bodies (FPH, 102)
- If We Cannot Belong & May Not Leave (FPH, 103)
- Class-ic Struggles (FPH, 104)
- Unmasked: The New Faces of Trans Representation in Comics (FPH, 105)
- Moving the Ball Forward for LGBTQ Youth (FPH, 106)
- Organizing Self-Advocacy: Local & Five College Disability + Chronic Illness Organizing Space" (FPH, 107)
- Cross Contamination & Disinfection for Kinksters (FPH, 108)
- When Conversations Turn to Suicide: Wisdom from "Alternatives to Suicide" Mutual Support Groups (FPH, ELH)
- Clothing Swap (FPH, WLH)

3:15—4:45pm **Keynote Presentation by T.J. Jourian** "Conceptualizing Collective Survival Through Critical Hope" (MLH, FPH)

5:05—6:15pm **Workshop Session 5**

- Caucus on Relationship Anarchy, Aromanticism, and Asexuality (FPH, 101)
- Bottom Surgery in the 21st Century (FPH, 102)

- The Makeup of Marsha P. Johnson: Understanding Disruption, Revolution, and Blackness with Make-up 101 (FPH, 103)
- WMass QTPOC Sandbox: the Work and Play of Redistribution (FPH, 104) QTPOC
- Disability Discussion (FPH, 105)
- Telling Our Own Fortunes: Making Tarot Gay (FPH, 106)
- Considerations in Disability Organizing (FPH, 107)
- Queer/Trans and from the Middle East: A Discussion (FPH, 108)
- Clothing Swap (FPH, WLH)
- Film Screening: Derek Jarman's *Blue* (FPH, ELH)

6:30pm **Closing Raffle & Cake!** (Lobby, L on the elevator)

opening speakers

Xavier Torres de Janon (he/him) is a queer mestizo from Guayaquil, Ecuador, who graduated from Hampshire College on 2016. He currently lives in Atlanta, GA, where he works for a criminal and immigration law firm. He loves and frets about revolution, which he believes will be led by Black Trans Femmes in the United States.

Maia Holloway is a final semester DIIIIV studying Critical Race Theory and stand-up comedy using the works of Donald Glover, Amy Schumer, and Leslie Jones to unpack white supremacy in the United States. Maia has been doing stand up comedy for almost two years in the Pioneer Valley with jokes ranging from race and politics intersecting to gender and sexuality.

keynote

T.J. Jourian

“Conceptualizing Collective Survival Through Critical Hope”

Saturday at 3:15 in the Main Lecture Hall (Ground Floor)



T.J. Jourian is a social justice scholar, advocate, and consultant, having spoken, taught, and facilitated trainings at hundreds of college campuses, conferences, and community-based organizations around the country. As a queer Middle Eastern Armenian transman, T.J.'s passion lies with supporting, learning from, and participating in justice and liberation work that is critical, intersectional, empowering, and dynamic - much like what he aims to deliver through his own work.

featured speakers

Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha

“Care Webs: Experiments in Disability-Made Collective Care”

1:00 - 3:00 pm on Friday March 3rd FPH (107)

“Femme Suicide Safety Strategies for Survival and Beyond”

11:25 - 12:35 on Saturday March 4th FPH (103)

Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha is a queer disabled femme writer, performer, healer and teacher of Burgher/Tamil Sri Lankan and Irish/Roma ascent. The author of the Lambda Award-winning *Love Cake and Consensual Genocide* and co-editor with Ching-In Chen and Jai Dulani of *The Revolution Starts At Home: Confronting Intimate Violence in Activist Communities*, her writing on femme of color and Sri Lankan identities, survivorhood, and healing, disability and transformative justice has appeared in the anthologies *Dear Sister*, *Letters Lived*, *Undoing Border Imperialism*, *Stay Solid*, *Persistence: Still Butch and Femme*, *Yes Means Yes*, *Visible: A Femmethology*, *Homelands*, *Colonize This*, *We Don't Need Another Wave*, *Bitchfest*, *Without a Net*, *Dangerous Families*, *Brazen Femme*, *Femme* and *A Girl's Guide to Taking Over The World*. She is the co-founder of *Mangos With Chili*, North America's touring queer and trans



people of color cabaret, a lead artist with the disability justice incubator *Sins Invalid* and co-founder of Toronto's *Asian Arts Freedom School*. In 2010 she was named one of the *Feminist Press' 40 Feminists Under 40 Shaping the Future* and she is a 2013 *Autostraddle Hot 105* member. She organized the successful 2014 *Healing Justice for Black Lives Matter* action which raised \$28,000 for *Black Lives Matter* through

community based healing justice spaces. Her next book of poetry, *Bodymap* and first memoir, *Dirty River*, will be published in 2015.

Closed QTPOC Dinner with Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha & T.J. Jourian will be held Friday at 6pm in the FPH Faculty Lounge (2nd Floor.)

Morgan M. Page

“Trans Resistance in Times of Trouble”

3:20 - 5:20 on March 3rd, FPH (East Lecture Hall)

Morgan M Page is a trans writer, artist, and activist in Montréal, Canada. She is the host of trans history podcast One From the Vaults, and was a 2014 Lambda Literary Fellow. Her writings have been published in the Montreal Review of Books, GUTS Magazine, QED, and Plenitude, as well as in a variety of academic and literary anthologies. She can be found tweeting about history, politics, and boys @morganmpage on Twitter.



friday night

QTPOC Closed Dinner with Leah Lakshmi
Piepzna-Samarasinha & T.J. Jourian. 6pm in the FPH
Faculty Lounge.

Space Dance Sponsored by the Sub-Free Collective
9pm-1am in the Red Barn at Hampshire College

DJs: Sam Carter and Aurora Vincent Roth

Sam Carter is a musician, writer, artist, cave beast, chasm dweller, and insect eater from Connecticut. Her music is very cheerful and fun, a good time for the whole family, the same of which cannot be said for all the other things she makes, which are weird and often explicit or otherwise vulgar. She does not understand why this is. You can find her on twitter (@a_nice_frog) which is where she is most active. She is trying to form a band with her girlfriend, so look forward to that. You can also hear her on an actual play podcast of Shadowrun called Running Solutions, the first season of which should be uploaded towards the end of 2016. She is not entirely corporeal.

Aurora Vincent Brainsky is a DJ, fashion nerd, database animal and Division III student at Hampshire College. Her academic interests include the relationship between temporality and embodiment and the application of feminist disability theory to critiques of teleologically wellness and productivity-oriented narratives of trans womanhood. Her musical interests include hard girly techno. 2017 will see the launch of two new projects with her partner: the DJ duo Garmentist and the fashion design team Expect Night Work.

Free and open to the public. The space is accessible and striving to be low-scent. Please avoid wearing scented personal products to the extent that you are able. We ask that you practice consent (always and also) on the dance floor. We prioritize the safety and wellbeing of queer and trans folks. Please understand that this is an intentional space created by us and for us. While ALL community members are welcome, we expect your utmost respect. Racism, heterosexism, cissexism, misogyny, ableism, classism, homophobia, oppressive language, etc. are not welcome. Be aware that if you are disrespectful of this space, you WILL be asked to leave immediately.

clothing swap

The FPH West Lecture Hall will be dedicated to the Clothing Swap all day on both days. Conceived of and facilitated by Nihilis Rev.

This clothing swap is primarily intended to benefit folks with marginalized gender identities. Meaning, anyone is welcome to BRING clothes, but we want to prioritize trans and non-binary folks being able to TAKE clothes. In general, cis folks have way more access to clothing and so it is our goal at this conference to DISRUPT that and offer a resource to people who need it most.

Please bring all kinds & sizes of clothing/accessories to trade or donate! Make sure everything has been freshly washed and dried for sanitary reasons. (No underwear please--bras ok.) Don't bring anything that has been in a house with bedbugs or clothing moths. No to low scent is ideal. If you do not have scent-free laundry detergent please wash and dry a few days prior to minimize the smell. We will try to have clothes organized by size as best as possible, so please be prepared to hang things up or fold and organize clothes that you bring.

You do not need to bring clothes to take clothes!

Any clothes left at the end of the day will be donated.

raffle & cake

The closing raffle will take place in the **Lobby of Franklin Patterson Hall (L on the elevator) at 6:30pm on Saturday.**

By submitting your Queer Conference feedback form, you will be automatically entered to win. Hand your feedback form to an organizer in the lobby at the end of the day in exchange for a raffle ticket. All winners will be randomly chosen from the pool of tickets. If you are not present, your prize will be forfeited and another winner will be chosen.

Prizes include:

Gift baskets from Starbucks and Tandem Coffee

There will be cake! A sweet way to end the day.

workshop descriptions

friday, march 3rd

1:00—3:00pm Workshop Session 1

Racism and the LGBT Community (101)

Douglas Ross

This workshop will be a open discussion about how people of color are excluded from mainstream gay society and how both race and sexuality affect people of color and the gay community at large.

Family as Resistance: Affinity, Kinship, and Economies of Care (106)

Kait O'Loughlin, Dorian Adams

Why does the claim that LGBTQ people pose a threat to "Family" refuse to die? Is there a way for us to reclaim "Family" without falling prey to the oppressive structures embedded in what family is allowed to be? In this workshop we will explore whether family can or should be a tool of resistance.

Care Webs: Experiments in Disability-Made Collective Care (107)

Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha

In this workshop, we will talk about the (often feminized and undervalued) work of care, with a specific focus on how sick and disabled folks can create care webs for ourselves. We'll map what we need and what we have to give and what allows us to ask for and give care well, as well as talk about how ableism, capitalism and sexism make it hard for us to feel worthy of care. We will talk about the practical ways to create care webs for disability, chronic illness or mental health needs, looking at some models and examples made by disabled queer and trans and or people of color and accessing some tools towards creating a sustainable and just care economy. We will journal and talk and dream about what our wildest dreams of abundant care would look like in our lives. This workshop is offered through an Ethics & the Common Good Project residency in partnership with other campus offices and programs.

On Bioethics & Contagion Through the Lens of HIV (108)

Fiona Maeve Geist and Nihils Rev

HIV/AIDS is often conflated with the assumably queer origins of the epidemic. The purpose of this workshop is to provide the tools to unpack the ways in which the management of public health, sexual practice and pharmacology are entwined. What information is critical for making sense of the queer debates surrounding HIV/AIDS (including recent debates surrounding PrEP and PEP) and what is at stake in these arguments. Additionally, how do questions of bioethics and the history of contagions fit into this framework?

Film Screening: Lizzie Borden's *Born in Flames* and Chantal Ackerman's *Je Tu Il Elle*
(East Lecture Hall)

Aurora Vincent Brainsky

All of *Je Tu Il Elle* will be shown, and half of *Born in Flames* will be shown. Viewers are encouraged to finish the rest of *Born in Flames* at home.

3:20—5:20pm Workshop Session 2

Queer & Trans* Stories Rising: Connection, Resilience, Liberation (101)

Teal Van Dyck

As queer & trans* narratives increasingly enter the mainstream culture, we still encounter a limited selection of stories and histories of queer & trans* lives. In this workshop, we will celebrate and illuminate the nuance, beauty, and variety of queer & trans* lives, share stories of resilience and connection, and identify the values and supports that sustain us for the future. We will learn and practice tools and skills to use storytelling for radical personal and collective transformation, starting from the wisdom of our own lived experience. This workshop is a space intended for all LGBTQIA+ folks, and folks moving through questions about their gender and sexuality are also encouraged to attend.

Self Care as an Act of Radical Resistance (106)

Michel Fitos

In a world that often devalues marginalized identities, it is a radical act to love and care for ourselves - but it's a huge project! How do we prioritize caring for ourselves at a time when advocating for our communities may feel much more urgent? During this workshop, we will talk about different practical strategies for self care, start to develop our own personalized self care plans, and talk about some common obstacles.

Brown Face, White Aesthetics: Anti-Blackness in Brown Queerness (107)

Xavier Torres de Janon

In the United States, whiteness is something individuals aspire to for survival, social mobility, love and reproduction: white is beautiful and glorified, black is ugly and vilified. What does it mean to be brown and queer under these realities? Come to a space of exploration, confession, unlearning and forgiveness.

Selected Excerpts from "The Training of Poe" with Director Q&A (108)

Bella Vendetta

"The Training of Poe" is an erotic BDSM documentary following multiple award nominated and Trans 100 recipient Chelsea Poe as she travels to the mountains of western MA to do an intense multi day slave training with Mistress Bella Vendetta. Several short scenes will be shown with a discussion of safe play, consent and communication and later a Q&A with the director, Bella Vendetta.

Trans Resistance in Times of Trouble (East Lecture Hall)

Morgan M. Page

Trans people have been organizing and resisting for over 150 years in colonial North American culture. As the current political climate threatens our hard-won rights, looking to our ancestors

can provide keys to resistance. Morgan M Page, host of the trans history podcast OFTV, will dig deep into the archives to unearth tools for building a strong trans future with some of her favourite moments from our history.

workshop descriptions

saturday, march 4th

11:25—12:35pm Workshop Session 3

Pushing Through: Coping With Minority Stress (101)

Shelley Rosen

A variety of studies have found PTSD-like symptoms occurring in those who face racism, homophobia, transphobia, and ableism; which in field has been named "minority stress." That we're stressed certainly isn't news to any of us, when everyone we know is constantly depressed and anxious; many facing chronic mental illnesses. This workshop is a facilitated discussion and skill-share on coping skills we can use to take care of ourselves and our communities; and get through daily life despite the detrimental impacts marginalization has on our mental health.

Logistical Planning For Surgery (102)

Gaines Blasdel

This workshop will explore various logistical and bureaucratic hurdles for planning any transgender related surgery. Where to learn about transgender surgeries, finding surgeons, insurance prior authorizations, taking time from work or school to recover, and setting up a post op care team are all topics that will be covered. Additionally, the presenter will share strategies for appealing denials and getting surgeries that are sometimes considered cosmetic covered. Attendees will leave with a variety of resources, including letter templates, to help advocate for themselves and their needs while they plan surgical care.

Femme Suicide Safety Strategies for Survival and Beyond (103)

Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha

In response to many recent suicides of femme artists, organizers and community leaders, this emotional safety planning workshop is a space for femmes (people who id as femme or feminine and queer and/or non binary and/or trans) who want to learn and share about suicidality in our lives, as well as about safety planning and crisis support skills to support ourselves or others when we go through crisis. This workshop will be a space for us to talk about suicide in our communities and selves, and share and learn skills and strategies to navigate emotional distress, creating community crisis support webs, as well as talking about harm reduction methods for interfacing with state systems. We will talk about how suicidality specifically shows up for femmes and how sexism, femmephobia and transmisogyny play into suicidal ideation. We will also share tools for safety planning for oneself and for giving crisis support for loved ones in crisis. (This is a closed space for LGBTQIA+ femme-identified folks of

all genders and expressions.) This workshop is offered through an Ethics & the Common Good Project residency in partnership with other campus offices and programs.

Non-Monogamy, Anarchy and Climate Change: Resist, Re-think, Restructure (104)

Nichol McCarter

In a society that is based upon consumerism and hierarchies, non-monogamy offers more than just a shift in how we see relationships. Also, it presents a different framework for the way in which our society and communities function, advocating for human, animal and environmental justice. Come learn and discuss what non-monogamy, anarchy and climate change have in common, and how we can take steps toward restructuring more compassionate, resilient and sustainable communities.

Gender in Dimensions (105)

Cody Lazri

The general public views gender as a binary, although increasingly less so in recent years. Some resources like the Genderbread Person and the Gender Unicorn show gender on a spectrum, in one or even two dimensions. But why stop there? This workshop will be about creative 3D visualizations of gender.

Race and Religion (106)

Louis Mitchel

A discussion about race, belief, sexuality and body positivity. So frequently, discussions that center LGBTQ+ are steeped in whiteness, discussions that are about religion, faith, belief and spiritual practice are feared (understandably) to be homophobic, bi-phobic and transphobic...but what if we lifted up that joy of being that is wholly holy about our entire selves! Be ready to talk, to laugh, to cry, to be held in tenderness and care...

Navigating Healthcare: Getting What You Need, When You Need It (107)

Jennifer Riedell

Having access to health care is difficult enough, but what are your options when you need it? During this session, we'll put together a playbook for getting the physical care you need, finding mental health supports, and navigating your insurance options.

Why Sex Isn't Safety: I Can Fake My Orgasms but not Consent? (108)

Fiona Maeve Geist

Why is it assumed that it is possible to fake an orgasm but not consent? While often sexuality is assumed to be a space where we can express our authentic selves (including by rejecting sexuality entirely) but we have a scarcity of resources for dealing with navigating the pressure exerted on queer people to define themselves sexually and consent authentically. Additionally, we lack a real framework for addressing harm and how complicated harm can be. How can we accept that safety is an ideal rather than a reality and the very real hurt we experience? The purpose of this workshop is not to provide a concrete answer (full disclosure: I don't have one) but to discuss how consent, community and accountability intersect and how we relate to them concretely.

Trans Culture (East Lecture Hall)

Connor Synuates

Come explore what gender is like around the world in this whirlwind overview. We'll take a glance at the myriad of cultures, both past and present, who see gender differently than we might conceptualize it. Come ready to bend your mind around complex and radical concepts and make sure to fasten your seatbelt for this wild ride! Note: This is not a 101 course, attendees must have a good grasp of gender theory and terminology to attend.

Tenderqueer Yoga Skillshare (Dakin Living Room)

Jena Duncan

Yoga and meditation have the power to develop internal resources for queer and trans resiliency. This workshop is an opportunity to try on intentional breathing and postures to positively affect our nervous system and experience. We will be tender with our hearts and our bodies to offer an access point for YOU to arrive. All bodies/abilities/experiences welcomed and encouraged. **Please come fragrance free**

1:45—3:05pm Workshop Session 4

Kink and Trauma for Abuse Survivors (101)

Megan Lieff

This workshop is a facilitated discussion to explore the relationship between trauma survivorship (such as emotional abuse, sexual assault, and intimate violence/trauma) and kink/BDSM. We will explore questions like: What is the relationship between kink and trauma? What are the particular struggles of navigating kink as trauma survivors? What is empowering and healing about kink as a trauma survivor? What are some of the ways that the kink subculture/community is alienating to survivors? How do we navigate the ways that kink can be triggering or retraumatizing? And what are some ways that partners and community members can be more supportive of kinky survivors?

Excessive Bodies (102)

Hillary Montague-Asp, Ryan Ambuter

This workshop is a space for queer, fat people to explore the feelings and experiences that shape our lives. We will engage the complex, messy, nuanced ways that we negotiate our bodies in the world. We hope to provide a space where queer, fat folks are seen, valued, and validated in the ways they want to be. This workshop will incorporate elements of individual reflection/journaling, storytelling, brainstorming and discussion as the facilitators and participants work collectively to develop and share our queer, fat knowledges.

If We Cannot Belong and May Not Leave (103)

Noelle Longhaul

An exploration of the entanglement of landscape, violence, spirituality, and the question of home.

Class-ic Struggles (104)

Kailin Doodleboi

Socioeconomic class is all around us. From the way we dress, to where we live or work, whether we go to school, and how we interact with our society. Usually, we take our class status for granted, sometimes we try to change it by changing ourselves. In this interactive workshop, you will explore and experience class privilege and work to change the way they are defined in your community.

Unmasked: The New Faces of Trans Representation in Comics (105)

Sam Riedel

Trans and gender nonconforming characters are proliferating in American pop culture, and nowhere more so than comic books. But although there are notable trans creators on the rise as a result, most of our stories are still told by cis writers and artists, which comes with its own set of problems. In this roundtable workshop, we'll examine pages from recent books like Detective Comics, No Mercy, Kim & Kim, and Jem and the Holograms; discuss what does and doesn't work in each example; and try to determine the role of cis creators in trans-relevant art during this pivotal time in queer history.

Moving the Ball Forward for LGBTQ Youth (106)

Lea Saqran, Courtney Chelo

Cultivating unexpected allies & finding avenues for policy change. This session will focus on how to identify priorities, engage stakeholders, and advocate for policies that help LGBTQ youth to thrive.

Organizing Self-Advocacy: A Local & Five College Disability + Chronic Illness Organizing Space (107)

Nihils Rev

This workshop is a partially guided space aimed at local and five college disability, chronic illness, accessibility, and self-advocacy organizing.

Cross Contamination and Disinfection for Kinksters (108)

Bella Vendetta

Professional and lifestyle Dominatrix Mistress Bella Vendetta will go over ways to keep yourself safe with your play partners and in shared play spaces. Ways to effectively clean leather, rope, sex toys and other hard reduction techniques for safe play.

When Conversations Turn to Suicide: Wisdom from "Alternatives to Suicide" Mutual Support Groups (East Lecture Hall)

Natan Cohen, Elliot Ezcurra

How can we support each other around the topic of suicide? How can our conversations around big emotions and tough life events exist with curiosity and compassion? Come learn with the Western Mass Recovery Learning Community how the relationships and connections formed during these difficult times can often be the most powerful.

5:05—6:15pm Workshop Session 5

Caucus on Relationship Anarchy, Aromanticism, and Asexuality (101)

Adrian Ballou

Aromantic? Asexual? Questioning? Come chill in this space! All people who identify on the ace/aro spectrum welcome. We'll be talking about our experiences, possibly including how relationship anarchy fits into it all, and how to fight compulsory sexuality and the romantic supremacist machine!

Bottom Surgery in the 21st Century (102)

Gaines Blasdel

Decades of inequality in access, and a lack of published research coming from providers in the United States has led to community myths and misconceptions- this workshop will arm attendees with current concrete information and resources on genital surgery. We will discuss vaginoplasty, metoidioplasty, and phalloplasty techniques, data on risks and complications, and pre- and post- op care recommendations. This workshop is only open to attendees 18 and older who feel ready to engage in a workshop on an emotionally loaded topic without policing the bodies or identities of others, where a variety of choices and motivations for genital surgery will be recognized and affirmed, and where pictures of the results of genital surgery will be displayed.

The Makeup of Marsha P. Johnson: Understanding Disruption, Revolution, and Blackness with Make-up (103)

Sejeia Freelon

This is a two-part makeup tutorial, a historical unpacking of black trans-femme co-optation, and a through-the-years development of artistic influence black trans-femme/non-binary-femme/queer folx have had within the makeup industry. From Stonewall to contour, this workshop will center the erasure and importance of black queer life and aestheticism.

WMass QTPOC Sandbox: the Work and Play of Redistribution (105)

Ro, (yilu)

(This workshop is a closed space for people who identify as queer/trans people of color QTPOC) We are not in community with each other yet, we're still in a sandbox: we're learning to build together. Often in academic QTPOC closed spaces, we can get caught up in the excitement of meeting each other because these spaces are scarce. This new-relationship-energy will be applied in the workshop to dig into long-term support and skill-sharing strategies. "QTPOC" encompasses a broad range of people in Western Mass-- how do we tangibly support each other in our different experiences and spaces, especially when we don't know each other's needs? Within QTPOC spaces, we all have different proximities to whiteness and different levels of access to resources. Here, we can start figuring out how to redistribute wealth, energy, resources, and time with one another. This is a building space for us to begin the long and hard work of learning how to meaningfully support everyone in our community, centering those who are most made most vulnerable by interlocking systems of oppression. This workshop will be a place for us to identify our needs and identify our capacities, and to make a commitment to continue to show up for each other after this conference, after this week, and beyond.

Disability Discussion (105)

Kailin Doodleboi

Have you ever encountered a situation that you weren't sure how to respond because of a disability present? Whether that situation was in a public setting, on a date with a partner, or in the bedroom, or anywhere else; sometimes talking about disabilities can be an uncomfortable conversation. Is it better not to say anything at all and ignore the subject, or is it better to converse?

Telling Our Own Fortunes: Making Tarot Gay (106)

Sol Eliot, Dorian Adams

Tarot, like many religious and meta-religious practices, hold cisgenderness and heterosexuality as tacit. In spite of this, tarot can be a powerful tool; for self reflection, intuition, and confidence building for marginalized people. This workshop aims to give attendees an overview of the inaccessibility of tarot to non-normative genders and sexualities, the lack of visibility of queer/trans practitioners, and the ways that tarot can be adjusted to accommodate a range of diverse identities. We will examine the elements of Tarot that can be alienating for queer and transgender people, and discuss ways to shift interpretations, reclaim imagery, and customize the process of reading the cards. If attendees have their own decks, feel free to bring them. There will be a small number of tarot decks available for use, as this is an interactive skill share workshop. Seating is preferably limited to 8 people or less, due to a limited number of decks. Please don't be late.

Considerations On Disability In Organizing and Activism (107)

Rae Henaghan

This workshop will center the possibilities for and challenges faced by disabled folks in organizing and activism. It includes a presentation on historical examples, accessibility in organizing spaces, and strategies on how to make organizing spaces and street actions more inclusive. The workshop will be framed by our current political climate in the United States. There will be time at the end for discussion and questions.

Queer/Trans and from the Middle East: A Discussion (108)

Lea Saqran, Aredvi Sitan

In this workshop, we will talk about how we reconcile our unique identities and experiences as queer and trans immigrants from the MENA region (Middle East & North Africa). We will discuss strategies for building community to support our survival and thrival. We are co-founders of an emerging collective named Za'faraan, with the mission to build community for queer and trans asylees and immigrants from the MENA region.

Film Screening: Derek Jarman's *Blue* (East Lecture Hall)

Aurora Vincent Brainsky

Derek Jarman's *Blue* will be shown.

about our presenters & organizers

金怡璐 (yilu) is a non-binary, first-gen, light-skinned han chinese-american living on stolen Pocomtuc land. their tombstone reads "Here Lies Yilu: Dishonorable Daughter, Sub on Even-Numbered Days."

Adrian Ballou is a genderqueer writer, youth minister, consultant, and social justice educator. Adrian has a background in social justice education, and currently manages communications at Civil Liberties and Public Policy and is the director of a local UU youth ministry program. They spend their free time watching cheesy TV, dreaming about care collectives and programs for trans kids, and singing parodies about bathroom justice. Follow them @AdrianBallou and like them on Facebook @AdrianJBallou!

Aredvi Sita is a queer and genderqueer consultant and booking manager for gender and sexuality activists. Aredvi is a first generation asylum immigrant from Iran. They are a co-founder of Za'faraan, The Queer and Trans Asylum Collective of the Middle East. They are a writer, a sex educator, and a sexual liberation advocate. Pronouns: they/them/theirs.

Aurora Vincent Brainsky is a DJ, fashion nerd, database animal and Division III student at Hampshire College. Her academic interests include the relationship between temporality and embodiment and the application of feminist disability theory to critiques of teleologically wellness and productivity-oriented narratives of trans womanhood. Her musical interests include hard girly techno. 2017 will see the launch of two new projects with her partner: the DJ duo Garmentist and the fashion design team Expect Night Work.

Mistress Bella Vendetta is a professional and lifestyle Dominatrix hailing from western MA with over 14 years training and experience in professional BDSM. She is also an award winning adult film star and produces independent queer lifestyle and fetish artporn films. In addition to her work with sexuality she is also a founding member and former president of Rites of Passage Suspension Group. Her work in the body modification industry has lead her to gain lots of practical medical knowledge and she continues to further her education and keep up with first aid, CPR, blood borne pathogens, emergency trauma and street medic training.

Brianna Bryse Deane is a second year student at Hampshire College studying Public Health, Public Policy, and Violence Prevention. She is especially interested in community outreach as well as working with teenage youth and peers through hands-on trainings and informative workshop facilitations. This year she is assisting the Conference as the volunteer coordinator as well as with organizing social media outreach.

Cody Lazri is one of the founders of the Five College Queer Gender and Sexuality Conference, all the way back in 2010. E has gone through eir fair share of pronouns and identities and is currently settled on monogamish, bisexual, nonbinary, slytherin scorio. E has worked in many

fields and is currently finding eir home in tech, with some dabbling in poetry on the side. Most importantly, e is a parent of 3 wonderful kitty cats and always loves talking about them and showing pictures!

Connor Synuates is a LGBTQ+ Educator located in Boston, MA. Connor is fascinated by all things (gender)queer and deeply interested in the ways linguistics touches our lives, queer, kinky, poly, and otherwise. You may have seen him present at Fantasia Fair, Transcending Boundaries, First Event, The Geeky Kink, NELA's Fetish Fair Fleamarket, or several area colleges. Read the Talking to Storms blog or find out more about Connor at www.connorsynuates.com

Courtney Chelo is a Commissioner at the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth, and pro-tem co-chair of the Government Relations Committee. She works at Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Children, where she manages the Children's Mental Health Campaign, a statewide coalition working to improve the fractured mental health care system for families.

Dorian Adams is an independent researcher from the Philadelphia Metro Area. A trans, poly, multiply disabled, Jewish witch, they feel better when they are sure everyone has been fed, and wish they knew more Yiddish.

Douglas Ross is a student at Greenfield Community College studying early childhood education. He was a former commissioner of the the Northampton Human Rights Commission of the city of Northampton, a board member of Greater Springfield LGBT Youth Group OUTNOW and was a social activist in the city of Springfield.

Emily Rimmer is the Director for Women's and Queer Services at Hampshire College and the staff advisor for the conference and has been since the event was first dreamed up. When she's not organizing the conference she is imagining what it will be like to teach Olive her unborn child how to swim and wondering how Olive will feel about hours of conference organizing meetings.

Fiona Maeve Geist is a trans scholar and doctoral candidate in Philosophy, Interpretation and Culture at SUNY-Binghamton. She has presented at this conference four times in the past, and enjoys pro wrestling. She has a morbid fascination with medical history, the occult, mystery cults, cosmic pessimism, pharmacology and the history of sexuality. She probably has a book suggestion for you and she would like to humblebrag about her upcoming publication in TSQ 4.1.

Gaines Blasdel is a Hampshire College alumnus now working as a Medical Case Manager at Callen-Lorde Community Health Center, an LGBTQ-focused federally qualified health center in NYC. He works in the teen program there, primarily with HIV+ and/or transgender adolescents. His particular interest is in transgender surgical literacy education and advocacy for increased coverage of transgender specific procedures.

Hillary Montague-Asp has worked at the Stonewall Center at UMass Amherst for the past five years providing emotional and crisis support to students, collaborating with others to support anti-racist programming/work in our local queer communities and taking up space as a fat

femme. Hillary is a Doctoral student in the Social Justice Education Program at UMass Amherst studying reciprocity in Student Affairs as it is informed by the social identity self-awareness of social justice educators. Hillary is a white, upper-middle class, crip/chronically ill, cisgender fat femme.

Jena Duncan builds life in the abundant pioneer valley. They are interested to cultivate healing and resiliency for their fellow queer and trans community. Jena is currently studying their 200hr yoga teacher training at Adhikara Yoga School to offer free yoga and mindfulness classes that create opportunity for people who otherwise may not have access to these tools.

Jenn Riedell has played a number of roles in their life, both literally as they earned their BA in Drama from Ithaca College, and figuratively as they earned their MEd from the University of New Hampshire. Their most important role is currently as the owned girl/boy and valued personal assistant of Jawn. Jenn has 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 Programming Director for multiple Transcending Boundaries conferences.

Jules Petersen is a second year student at Hampshire College, studying communications, neoliberalism, feminist philosophy, and how communities interact. This is their second year organizing the Queer Conference. They like gardens, poetry, art galleries, and cooking.

Kailin Doodleboi is an agender-fluid, (dis)abled advocate, full time Bostonian, and part time cat who presents on sexuality, gender, and more. Kailin has been presenting knowledge since 2008 and is the cofounder and co-organizer of two trans* groups based out of New England: TSK, and Community TIESS. When xe is not presenting, Kailin is a bicycle mechanic, and full time student at UMass Dartmouth; Kailin also enjoys aerial circus arts, and fancy tea. Xe, xem, and xys for pronouns please, check xem out at doodleboi.com

Kait O'Loughlin most enjoys gardening for the revolution, trying to hug every cat, and arguing with a miniature version of herself, colloquially known as 'the kid'. She'll bring you homemade soup for your cold and leftist survivalist praxis for your soul.

Lea Layle Saqran is a queer genderqueer consultant and immigration advocate who is an asylum immigrant from Yemen. They are a co-founder of Za'faraan, The Queer and Trans Asylum Collective of the Middle East. They serve as a Commissioner at the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth and they are a mobile health clinic volunteer organizer at Harvard Medical School. Pronouns: they/them/theirs.

Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha is a queer disabled femme writer, performer, healer and teacher of Burgher/Tamil Sri Lankan and Irish/Roma ascent. The author of the Lambda Award-winning *Love Cake and Consensual Genocide* and co-editor with Ching-In Chen and Jai Dulani of *The Revolution Starts At Home: Confronting Intimate Violence in Activist Communities*, her writing on femme of color and Sri Lankan identities, survivorhood, and healing, disability and transformative justice has appeared in the anthologies *Dear Sister*, *Letters Lived*, *Undoing Border Imperialism*, *Stay Solid*, *Persistence: Still Butch and Femme*, *Yes Means Yes*, *Visible: A Femmethology*, *Homelands*, *Colonize This*, *We Don't Need Another Wave*, *Bitchfest*, *Without a Net*, *Dangerous Families*, *Brazen Femme*, *Femme* and *A Girl's Guide to Taking Over The*

World. She is the co-founder of Mangos With Chili, North America's touring queer and trans people of color cabaret, a lead artist with the disability justice incubator Sins Invalid and co-founder of Toronto's Asian Arts Freedom School. In 2010 she was named one of the Feminist Press' 40 Feminists Under 40 Shaping the Future and she is a 2013 Autostraddle Hot 105 member. She organized the successful 2014 Healing Justice for Black Lives Matter action which raised \$28,000 for Black Lives Matter through community based healing justice spaces. Her next book of poetry, *Bodymap* and first memoir, *Dirty River*, will be published in 2015.

Mairin Emerson is a second year student at Hampshire studying the intersections of art, incarceration, and intersectional reproductive justice. She is interested radical queer activism, sex positivity, fat justice, and the empowerment of incarcerated people. This year, she's helping out with managing conference outreach and behind the scenes planning. She's super excited for this year's conference and hope everyone enjoys it as well!

Megan Loeff is currently a local math teacher, and queer feminist homebody who has strayed a little from academic and activisty routes but still really loves QueerConf! In past lives she has done a lot of academic research and conference advocacy on feminist anti-IPV activism within the BDSM community, as well as taught feminist sex-ed and volunteered as a trained rape crisis counselor.

Michel Fitos is a psychotherapist in Somerville, Massachusetts. In addition to having infinite kinds of conversations about self-care, they can often be found walking their pit bull, cooking something delicious, and plotting ways to keep groundhogs out of the garden.

Missy Bragg is a 3rd year Div II at Hampshire organizing this conference for the 2nd year. They spend most of their time doing homework and stressing about the homework she's going to have to do later. Missy also wants to play all of the instruments.

Morgan M Page is a trans writer, artist, and activist in Montréal, Canada. She is the host of trans history podcast *One From the Vaults*, and was a 2014 Lambda Literary Fellow. Her writings have been published in the *Montreal Review of Books*, *GUTS Magazine*, *QED*, and *Plenitude*, as well as in a variety of academic and literary anthologies. She can be found tweeting about history, politics, and boys @morganmpage on Twitter.

Natan Cohen is a white, non-binary, Ashkenazi, neurodivergent person originally from this valley. They have spent the past several years participating in radical peer support and advocacy. They work with the WMass Recovery Learning Community, including co-facilitation of several groups, such as *Hearing Voices* and *Alternatives to Suicide*.

Nichol McCarter is a student and activist from Central Connecticut State University, focusing her efforts on environmental and social justice. She facilitates a peer discussion group called, "Open Hearts", an all inclusive non-monogamy discussion space and works for her campus' LGBT Center.

Nihils Rev is an independent scholar located out of Northampton and a member of the rare disease community. They serve as the patient resources coordinator for the *Dysautonomia Support Network*, as a community liaison at the UMass Stonewall Center, and have served on

the Five College Queer Gender & Sexuality Conference Organizing Committee for 3 years. Their intellectual work and research interests sit at the intersections of trans studies, theories of disgust, actor-network theory, and the study of illness. Nihils and Fiona Maeve Geist have co-authored a paper forthcoming publication in the *Transgender Studies Quarterly* 4.1, and continue to produce work together.

Noel'le Longhaul is an award winning, internationally exhibited fine artist, tattoo artist, and queer theorist. She has been interviewed by Vice, Dazed Magazine, Scene 360, and many more cultural publications. She has accepted invitations to many of the best contemporary blackwork tattoo shops in the world.

Ósk Grimm is a mild mannered enterprise software lackey by day and a belligerent sailor senshi by night! They've been involved in hackerspace and demoscene communities for almost 15 years and really just would like for queers to stop asking where to buy drugs on Facebook. You can find them yelling on Twitter @baphometadata.

Rae Henaghan is a queer writer living with chronic illness. Their writing and political organizing prioritizes disabled folks and survivors of trauma as well as documentation of radical movements. Rae is a Hampshire College alum and co-founder of the Queer Conference.

Ryan Ambuter is a queer/trans teacher who studies the intersections of bodies, identities, and otherness in educational contexts.

Ro is a latinx/jewish/non-binary community-care-taker who is invested in healing work from historical, intergenerational, and collective trauma. They are a facilitator, poet, youth-worker, and reluctant graduate student. They are most at home in Bellingham, Washington and community-building with QTPOC in predominantly white regions.

A recent Valley transplant from New York, **Sam Riedel** is a trans woman whose comics criticism has appeared in Publishers Weekly, as well as on Tor.com and The Rainbow Hub. She's currently at work on a trans lesbian neo-noir superhero romance, because she likes to do everything at once. Follow Sam's work online at samriedel.com.

Sejeia Freelon is a fat-black queer femme make-up artists who concentrates her studies on the understanding of capitalism and occupation of black wombs. Sejeia received certification to practice cosmetology nearly two years ago while she was still attending high school, however as she was studying the practice she came to realize how much of a white classist co-opted space the world of cosmetology has become. Combining her love for makeup, hair, and all things aesthetically driven while also staying true to a class abolitionist black trans femme centered politic, Sejeia has committed to providing accessible and historically accurate makeup courses that seek to disrupt white cisnormative gender narratives. Sejeia has done work in Houston, Texas with poor and low income queer, gender non-conforming and trans black and PoC folx who were interesting in constructing their body in the ways they wanted utilizing make-up. Sejeia utilizes typically household items, from crayons to coconut oil, or just about anything, in her make-up practices to maneuver around classist- capitalist makeup industries, recenter and give homage the poor queer and trans folx that first began the world of aesthetics.

Sol Eliot is a disabled chicana nonbinary sort-of-lady with a laundry list of mental illnesses, and a powerful tarot reader and bruja-for-hire not to be messed with to boot. You can find them creating art and/or writing poetry in a pile of chihuahuas and french bulldogs on any given day, yelling about leftism and cool rocks.

Xavier Torres de Janon (he/him) is a queer mestizo from Guayaquil, Ecuador, who graduated from Hampshire College on 2016. He currently lives in Atlanta, GA, where he works for a criminal and immigration law firm. He loves and frets about revolution, which he believes will be led by Black Trans Femmes in the United States.

special thanks

This event wouldn't be possible without our generous sponsors!

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Prescott

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We would also like to honor our volunteers who make everything run smoothly during the event!

And a very huge thank you to our graphic designer: Nihils Rev (Conference Posters, Clothing Swap Poster, Program) & special thanks to Jules Petersen for your contribution to the program.

save the date !

Next year! The 9th Annual Five College Queer Gender and Sexuality Conference will be:

Friday, March 2nd and Saturday, March 3rd, 2018



If you would like to give us **feedback** about this year's conference, you can do so online at: hamp.it/queerconffeedback

Can't get enough of Queer Conf? Be sure to **like us on Facebook** at [facebook.com/FiveCollegeConference!](https://facebook.com/FiveCollegeConference)

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