



UCR CONFERENCE
ON QUEER AND
TRANSGENDER
STUDIES IN
RELIGION

FEBRUARY 22-24, 2019

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
RIVERSIDE

Friday, February 22

6:00 pm

Registration opens, CHASS Interdisciplinary Building South (INTS) 1109

7:00-7:30 pm

Opening remarks

Melissa M. Wilcox, Department of Religious Studies, UCR
Milagros Peña, Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, UCR

7:30-8:30 pm

Keynote address: Max Strassfeld
INTS 1113

“The Androgynos is a Unique Creation”: *Rabbinic Gender and the Politics of Trans Cosmology*

Max Strassfeld is an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and Classics at the University of Arizona, a member of the Trans Studies research cluster, and an affiliate of the Judaic Studies Program. He received his Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Stanford University. His book project, *Transing the Talmud: Androgynes and Eunuchs in Rabbinic Literature*, explores eunuchs and androgynes in Jewish law, and pairs classical Jewish texts with intersex autobiography and theories of trans temporality to argue that the rabbis use these figures to map the boundaries of normative masculinity. He has been published in *Trans Studies Quarterly* and the *Journal for Feminist Studies in Religion*. In recognition of their work in gender and sexuality, Max Strassfeld was awarded the Frankel Fellowship for New Perspectives on Gender and Jewish Life at the University of Michigan in 2013-2014. They have served on the editorial board of the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* from 2015-2017 and on the editorial board of *Reading Religion* starting in 2018.

8:30-10:00 pm

Reception, INTS 1111

Saturday, February 23

8:30-9:00

Registration and refreshments available in INTS 1109

9:00-10:30

INTS 1111

Refuse: The Affective History of Queen Vashti

Joshua Falek

*Bad Religious Education? On Negativity,
(De-)Formation, and an Impossible Ethics*

Brandy Daniels

Introducing the Hermeneutics of Cispicion

Jo Henderson-Merrygold (via Skype)

Convener: Elizabeth Miller

INTS 1113

Queer Visioning in the Next World Tarot

Justin Sabia-Tanis

*Bob Flanagan's Crip Catholicism and the
Queer Art of Public Confession*

Anthony Petro

*Contentious Unity: Queer Ministerial
Perspectives on Gay Liberation Politics*

Mary McGuire

Convener: Celeste Jackson

10:30-10:45 – Refreshments available in INTS 1109

10:45am-12:15pm

INTS 1111

Pre-Arranged Panel

Psychoanalytic Anachronisms

Eleanor Craig

Amy Hollywood

Siobhan Kelly

Kris Trujillo

Convener: Patricia Sazani

INTS 1113

Eunuchs and the Kindom of God

Cindy Bourgeois

*Tucking and Untucking: An Exploration of
Genital Possibility via Mircea Eliade and J. Z.
Smith*

Joss Willsbrough

*Permanence and Change: A Strategy for Trans
Temporality in Dialogue with Muhammad
Iqbal's The Reconstruction of Religious
Thought in Islam*

Emma Thompson

Convener: Lucas Lopez

12:15-1:15 pm: Lunch Break

Boxed lunches will be available in INTS 1109 for those who ordered them; there are restaurants in the University Village area around half a mile away. Free beverages will also be available.

1:15-2:45 pm

INTS 1111

Satanic Lovers: Public Christianity and The Satanic Temple's Queer Politics

Laurel Zwissler

Un/Natural Exclusions: Rethinking the Affective Structure of Trans-panic Defenses

C. Libby

"Who Has the Copyright?": The Rhetoric of Queering Evangelicalism

William Stell

Reaching Out: Eschatological Dimensions of Transgender Identity

Rowan Queathem

Convener: Patricia Sazani

INTS 1113

"Unique, Divine, Unrepeatable": Black Transgender Christians and the Archive

Elizabeth Pérez

Holy Gender Variance: Gender Presentation of Thecla, a Queer and Transgender Studies Approach

Kathryn Phillips

Convener: Joseph Marchal

2:45-3:00 – Refreshments available in INTS 1109

3:00-4:30 pm

INTS 1111

Doing Church on the Defense: Religious Liberty and Queer Exclusion in Mississippi

Amy D. McDowell

What Queer Mormons Can Tell Us About Queer Theory

K. Mohrman

Convener: Gurbeer Singh

INTS 1113

Anti-Assimilation and Self-Determination

S. J. Crasnow

Pope Francis on "Gender Ideology" as Ideological Colonization: Exploring the Relationships Between Colonialism and Institutional Catholic Sexual Ethics

Danielle Dempsey

Self-identified Homosexuals in the Catholic Alt-Right: Theologies of Self-Loathing and Failures of Pastoral Practice

Jason Steidl

Convener: Bee Scherer

5:00-6:00 pm

Keynote address: Thelathia Nikki Young
INTS 1113

“I Will Be Who I Will Be”: Ethical Projects of Self (Un-)Making in Black Queer Fugitivity

Thelathia “Nikki” Young is Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and Religion at Bucknell University. She received her Ph.D. from Emory University, M.Div. and Th.M. from Candler School of Theology, and B.A. from UNC-Asheville. Her research focuses on the intersection of ethics, family, race, gender, and sexuality, and she is interested in the impact of queerness on moral reasoning. Nikki serves on the Board of Directors in the Society for Christian Ethics. She is also a co-chair of the Queer Studies in Religion Group in the American Academy of Religion (AAR), and chair of the LGBTIQ Persons in the Profession Task Force in the AAR. Her first monograph, *Black Queer Ethics, Family, and Philosophical Imagination*, was published in 2016 by Palgrave Macmillan. Nikki's second book, co-authored Eric Barreto and Jake Myers, is titled *In Tongues of Mortals and Angels: A De-Constructive Theology of God-Talk in Acts and Pauland* was published by Fortress Academic in 2018. Nikki is currently working a new manuscript, tentatively titled *We Plead the Blood of Freedom: A Transnational Ethics of Black Queer Liberative Practice*.

6:00-7:30 pm

Reception, INTS 1111

Sunday, February 24

8:30-9:00

Registration and refreshments available in INTS 1109

9:00-10:30 am

INTS 1111

*Pre-Arranged Panel
Transgender, Judaism, and Queer Theory*
*Transgenderism, Jewish Law (Halakhah) and
the Heterosexual Matrix*
Ronit Irshai
Doing Rabbinic Gender, Queerly
Gwynn Kessler
*The Entanglements of Gender and Religion
among Transgender Jews with an Orthodox
Background: Final Results and Conclusions*
Oriol Poveda
Convener: Max Strassfeld

INTS 1113

*Same-Sex Liturgies and the Reinvention of
Marriage in British Anglicanism*
Rémy Bethmont
*South Korean Evangelical Narratives on
North Koreans and Non-Heterosexuals*
Joseph Yi and Wondong Lee
*The White, Cis/Straight Entitlement to Sexual
Expression in Evangelical Christianity: A
Queer Analysis*
Kelsy Burke
*Rethinking (Dis)connections Between Islam
and Trans Identity in Turkey*
Sahin Acikgoz
Convener: Chris Babits

10:30-10:45 – Refreshments available in INTS 1109

10:45am-12:15pm

INTS 1111

Holstein Fellows Panel

Chris Babits

Benae Beamon

Liz Dolfi

Gregg Drinkwater

Seth Palmer

Max Thornton

Convener: Melissa M. Wilcox

INTS 1113

*Must We Always Be Happy? Naomi, Ruth,
and The Well of Loneliness*

Rhiannon Graybill

*Queer Phenomenology and Religious Desire:
A Critical Encounter Between Sara Ahmed
and Jean-Luc Marion*

Katherine Apostolacus

*For the Love of Whiteness: Anti-Trans
Religious Freedom Fighters and Rituals of
Queer Genderfluidity as Unlikely Bedfellows*

Yannik Thiem

*Before Reparation, Beyond Suspicion:
Reconsidering Affects in Queer Biblical
Interpretation*

Joseph A. Marchal

Convener: Danielle Dempsey

12:15-1:15 pm: Lunch Break

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1:15-2:45pm

INTS 1111

Pre-Arranged Panel

Organizing LGBT Religious People: Conflict, Reconciliation, and Beyond

Reframing, Reconciling, and Individualizing: How LGBTQ Activist Groups Shape Approaches to Religion and Sexuality

Jonathan S. Coley

Religious and Secular Logics of LGBT Acceptance in Jewish Orthodoxy

Orit Avishai

Sexuality and Borders: LGBT Acceptance Discourse among Muslim Publics in Turkey

Caner Hazar

Sacramental Shame in The Black Church: How Racism and Respectability Politics Shape the Experiences of Black LGBTQ and Same-Gender-Loving Christians

Dawne Moon and Theresa W. Tobin

Convener: Joseph Yi

INTS 1113

SVARA's Queer Talmud Camp

S. J. Crasnow

Queer Natalpolitics and Trans Spiritual Life in South Africa

Taylor Riley

Queering Religion: Field Notes from a Catholic University

Camille Shira Angel

Convener: Seth Palmer

3:00-4:30pm

INTS 1111

Pre-arranged Panel:

Author Meets Critics: David K. Seitz, A House of Prayer for All People: Contesting Citizenship in a Queer Church

Vincent D. Cervantes

Juan Herrera

Liz Murphy

Erin Runions

Responding: David K. Seitz

Convener: Gregg Drinkwater

INTS 1113

Wandering through the Liminal: The Holy Ambiguity of Trans and Non-binary Identities

Kori Pacyniak

Beyond Legality: A Moral Theology for Homosexuality

Charles Conway

John Piper in the Conquest of Space

Adam Hankins

Queering the Priesthood: Mother Maeve and the Universalist Orthodox Church

Kevin Mellis and Lydia Bringerud

Convener: Kathryn Phillips

5:00-6:00 pm

Closing Forum

A communal conversation on the future:

Continuing the conference

Starting a journal

Other possibilities

Please stay for this!

INTS 1113

Thank You to Our Sponsors, Organizers, and Volunteers!!

Holstein Family and Community Chair in Religious Studies
Political Theology Network

Danielle Dempsey
Kathryn Phillips
Geneva Amador
Francesca Moreira
Sharon Payne

Mela Calderon
Tessa Harmon
Lucas Lopez
Elizabeth Miller
Stephanie Orozco
Jessica Rehman
Amanda Riggle
Patricia Sazani
Gurbeer Singh
Saida Solis

Those who volunteered after the program went to the printers!
All of our conveners

And to Nicole Pitsavas for our logo.