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 Androginos 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 Paul and 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.