Despite the onslaught of transphobic and queerphobic legislation in the United States aimed to exterminate the “trend” of nonbinary pronouns, gender affirming surgeries, and contemporary trans identities and experiences, the trans and gender variant subject is in fact, not new. This year’s InQueery symposium explores the reminder from queer Pakistani Muslim writer and activist Samra Habib (they/them): “we have always been here.” Because trans subjects interface with a variety of institutions including the state, the nation, the law, the family, the social, they are recorded in a variety of mediums from the artistic to the bureaucratic to the banal.

InQueery 2023 invites creative and innovative interpretations of who and what has been previously marked and categorically recorded as (gender) deviant and nonnormative. How can we ethically recover the trans past without relying on the violent frameworks of forcible outing that many trans bodies have been subjected to and continue to experience in our contemporary moment? In service of a more just future, what strategies can we learn from our trans foremothers of color (Marsha P. Johnson, Sylvia Rivera, Miss Major) who have been on the frontlines before there even was a “tipping point”? 

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Photo: Mariette Pathy Allen. Leslie Feinberg (second from left), Jamison (Green far right) and other Camp Trans activists across from Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival.
InQueery calls for student papers, both undergraduate and graduate, that address the limitations and possibilities of compiling accounts, documents, and records of trans embodiment. Papers could address (but need not be limited to) the following topics:

- Trans political archives (Queer Nation, ACT UP, S.T.A.R., Leslie Feinberg papers)
- Trans activism (pre-/post-Stonewall and/or in the age of the internet)
- The invention of the terms “transgender” and “transsexual” in the 20th-century West
- Criminalization, surveillance, and/or abolition of trans and gender variant bodies and subjectivities
- Gender-affirming surgery, medical, and mental health (in)access
- The “transgender child”: Adolescence, childhood, and aging
- Gender policing in sports
- Representations of passing and/or “going stealth”
- Trans Ecologies and the Trans nonhuman (rhetorics of taxonomy, speciation, and identity)
- Indigenous knowledges and linguistics of gender variance
- Narratives of detransition
- Transnational representations of rights, laws, identities and experiences (regional, cultural, and/or ethnic comparative studies)
- Queer and Trans film and literature
- LGBTQ+ issues in higher ed, politics, and/or legislation
- Intersections between disability studies and trans studies
- Legal name and gender/sex marker changes (historical precedent for requiring a “name change notice” published in the local paper)

Please send abstracts of 250-words and titles to wsu.wgss@wsu.edu and matthew.jeffries@wsu.edu by midnight Sunday, September 24th. InQueery will take place on Wednesday, October 11th at 4:30pm via Zoom. Keynote speaker for InQueery 2023 is Dr. Hil Malatino, Associate Professor of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Philosophy at Pennsylvania State University.