

inQueery 2022

Connecting Trans and Reproductive Justice

InQueery Symposium Overview

[Zoom link](#) for accommodations contact matthew.jeffries@wsu.edu

4:00-4:10	Welcome Remarks and Introduction
4:15-5:45	Concurrent Panels/Breakout Rooms
5:45-6:00	Break (Zoom meeting ends; return to same meeting ID)
6:00-7:00	Keynote: Jules Gill-Peterson “DIY Lessons in Freedom: Tracing Histories of Abortion and Transition”

Concurrent Session Panels

Panel/Breakout Room #1, Moderated by Justine Trinh (she/her/hers)

Disability, Reproductive Justice, and Trans Healthcare

- * Disability Rights, Reproductive Rights, and the US Legal System: Working Towards a Disability-Centered Feminism—Parker Johnson (she/her or they/them)
- * Subject and Administrator: A Queer Perspective—Ash DeBuse (they/them)
- * Reproductive Justice and Healthcare for Trans Masculine Individuals—Milo Edwards (he/him)

Panel/Breakout Room #2, Moderated by Sezin Zorlu (she/her)

Visual Culture and Queer Historiography

- * Trans Representation in Children’s Media—Alecia Burgett (she/her)
- * Subjunctive Moods and Queered Histories: An Analysis of *Pariah* and *The Watermelon Woman*—Lucy Perry (she/her)
- * Leather, and Poppers, and Clones, Oh My! A 1970s Framework for a Modern LGBTQ+ Visual Guide—Nix Pendergast (he/him or they/them)

Panel/Breakout Room #3, Moderated by Misty Shipman-Ellingburg (she/her/hers)

Between Theory and Practice

- * An Axiological Exploration of Queer Methodologies: Queering One’s Orientation to Research—Shain Wright (they/them/their)
- * Becoming a Family: Inclusive Options—Kelsey Yenney (she/her)
- * Queering the Labor of Living: Calculating the Price of Normalization Through a Posthuman Reimagining of Labor in Syfy’s *Being Human*—RJ Murphy (they/them/their)



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Program in Women’s, Gender
and Sexuality Studies



WSU PULLMAN

LGBTQ+ Center

Presentation Descriptions

Panel/Breakout Room #1, Moderated by Justine Trinh

Disability Rights, Reproductive Rights, and the US Legal System: Working Toward a Disability-Centered Feminism—Parker Johnson

This presentation proposes to develop a disability-centered feminism based in disability feminist thought. To do so, I conceptualize disability abortion bans as a representation of one of the reasons why developing a disability-centered feminism is difficult: the inherently contentious legal intersection of reproductive rights (representing feminism) and disability activism. In order to conceptualize this contentious legal intersection, I discuss the downfalls of legal avenues for pursuing disability and reproductive rights, highlighting the ineffectiveness of disability abortion bans as well. As the first step towards reconciling this tension, I propose reproductive justice as a potential framework to pursue reproductive-based disability rights as an alternative to strictly legal frameworks, which are represented by disability abortion bans. To take the next steps toward developing disability-centered feminist thought, I use Hartsock's feminist standpoint as a starting point to theorize a disability standpoint. Then, I combine Hartsock's feminist standpoint and my disability standpoint to create a disability feminist standpoint that can build the foundation of disability-centered feminist thought, which can build a disability feminism.

Subject and Administrator: A Queer Perspective—Ash DeBuse

Routine healthcare and gender affirming care for transgender people is full of difficulties in terms of accessibility, documentation, administration, and competency of care. In 2019, the Department of Licensing in Washington State introduced the "Gender X" option for State ID's. At that time, I was working for Washington State Government in Medicaid Eligibility, responsible for helping Washington residents navigate the requirements and barriers to their health insurance, and was an out transgender person in my workplace. Because health insurance companies do not recognize nonbinary and gender nonconforming people within their systems, state workers had to find ways to connect clients with the services that they need. Due to the complex nature of the systems trans folks have to navigate in order to access care, we have had to rely on each other, scouring internet forums for tips, tricks, and workarounds. In this paper I will be sharing my experience both as a transgender individual, the Subject, and as a Medicaid eligibility worker, the Administrator, in order to explore the complicated nature of accessing care.

Reproductive Justice and Healthcare for Trans Masculine Individuals—Milo Edwards

For InQueery this year, I would like to present on the topic of transgender healthcare. Particularly, I am interested in the lack of access to concrete information and studies and about the importance of doctors and gynecologists who work in reproductive health care to be well versed in how to care for trans masculine patients who have been on testosterone. Many doctors try to treat trans masculine patients as if we are cis women, and by doing that, they do not succeed in adequately helping or treating us. I will go over some of my own experiences as well as discuss the experiences of others (with their permission,) and I will speak about what kinds of changes need to be made in the health care world in order to fix this issue.

Panel/Breakout Room #2, Moderated by Sezin Zorlu

Visual Culture and Queer Historiography

Trans Representation in Children's Media —Alecia Burgett

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), children aged 8-10 spend an average of 6 hours a day in front of a screen using entertainment media, and 4 are spent watching television. For many of these children, there is a lack of representation of their identities in the television shows they watch growing up. Since so many children look to the main characters in the media, this can become problematic. Children repeatedly see the same – white and heterosexual – characters, which can leave them feeling outcasted as they struggle to find representation within their community. In the last decade, there has been an increase in trans representation with shows such as *Steven Universe*, *Dead End: Paranormal Park*, and, most recently, *Peppa Pig*. When I reflect on my childhood in the 90s, I reflect on characters like HIM in *Powerpuff Girls*, a villain who seemingly defied gender norms with their sing-song high, pitched voice, tall black boots, and feminine attire. HIM represented a different kind of femininity I was unaware of as a child. Still, as an adult, I can reflect on those shows and only make assumptions since no characters were outright labeled as transgender. When media fails to mark gender identities, it leaves upwards of 300,000 youth in the United States to feel like they are not included in the media they consume (Williams Institute). While I acknowledge progress in representation has been made, there still is room for improvement.

Subjunctive Moods and Queered Histories: An Analysis of *Pariah* and *The Watermelon Woman*—Lucy Perry

Subjunctive moods are essential to understanding an accurate, collective history of queer communities' histories. The film *Pariah*, that this paper will analyze through intersectionality and biomythography framework, demonstrates the unique relationship queer communities have to history and historical epistemologies that disrupts linear, heteronormative narratives. To ignore the queering of history is to ignore the accurate experiences of queer coming-of-age as not an isolated object to overcome or a passing phase, but an ever-present aspect of a character. Through drawing on similarities between the successful representations of queer Black woman coming-of-age narratives in both *Pariah* and *The Watermelon Woman*, the argument and aspects of subjunctive mood as vital to queer histories is further established.

Leather, and Poppers, and Clones, Oh My! A 1970s Framework for a Modern LGBTQ+ Visual Guide—Nix Pendergast

During the 1970s, the streets of the Castro District of San Francisco California were filled with Castro Clones, gay men dressed in specific type of pristine street fashion very common within their district. Gay photographer Hal Fischer, who lived in the Castro in the 70s, documented the visual culture of his clone group in a series of photos called *Gay Semiotics*. *Gay Semiotics* utilizes the concept of semiotics to graphically represent the visual signs, signals, and archetypes that gay men used to nonverbally communicate with one another. Not only did this photo series document the culture of the clone group, but it presented the visual codes in a medium that could be understood by other groups. This helped to normalize gay culture to people outside the gay community. Since Fischer originally took *Gay Semiotics*,

the culture of the gay community has changed a lot in not only its visual communications but in other methods of nonverbal communication. Fischer's *Gay Semiotics* presented a framework for his series to be recreated within the modern day to update it with the current queer culture. Only the clone group was represented within *Gay Semiotics*, because that was that was the only group Fischer had available to photograph within the Castro. Modern affordances could allow for people from all parts of the current LGBTQ+ community to communicate and recreate a new and more comprehensive modern LGBTQ+ Semiotics photo series. This could help inform different archetypes, signals, and significations within the current LGBTQ+ community.

Panel/Breakout Room #3, Moderated by Misty Shipman-Ellingburg

Between Theory and Practice

An Axiological Exploration of Queer Methodologies: Queering One's Orientation to Research—Shain Wright

This paper seeks to queer, that is disturb or disrupt, a researcher's orientation in their work through an exploration of values and ethics as they relate to accountability in *servicing* the population that is the focus of one's research. In part, the proposed queering of orientation is a response to the limited development of queer methodologies. While Queer Theory is extensively studied and written on, there is no universal, queer research methodology, and to establish or prescribe such a methodology would run counter to queer theory which aims to deconstruct binaries, the self, and most certainly academia. This paper begins with an axiological examinations of queer methodologies, identifying the following values; reflexivity, relationships, and activism or social change. These values are founded in Queer Theory's demand for questioning and examining power, hierarchies, relationships, and normalities, and the continuous call for research that meets the needs of queer and trans people, celebrates queer and trans lives, communities, and joy instead of pathologizing identities and ways of relating to one another. Through centering these values (reflexivity, relationships, and activism), we, as academics, can work to queer our orientation, to disrupt academic-oriented research in an effort to develop our orientation towards service, regardless of the inherent instability of queer research methodologies.

Becoming a Family: Inclusive Options—Kelsey Yenney

With the increase in LGBTQIA2S+ individuals hoping to become parents, knowledge and compassion must be shared regarding the options available to gender and sexually diverse people to grow families. We will focus on fostering, adopting, donor conception and surrogacy. We will present information on demographics, cost, and resources available to those needing additional support. After conception and birth and/or fostering/adoption, LGBTQIA2S+ families may require additional or differing needs than their heteronormative counterparts. We will explore topics of consent and legality, specifically parental rights, and contractual stipulations, as well as ethical considerations, including potential relationships with donors/surrogates and navigating potential cultural differences between parent and child. Serving LGBTQIA2S+ individuals and families in Washington is a topic close to our hearts, personally, and we are aware that resources may not be known or well-distributed. We will discuss ways to seek out resources and support for folks during these exciting but emotionally demanding times in their life, and we are considerate that many of these resources can now often be found inside our communities

Posthuman Reimagining of Labor in Syfy's *Being Human*—RJ Murphy

In *Passionate Work: Endurance After the Good Life* Renyi Hong describes individuality as “essential to the success of corporations and workers”(Hong 43) and “the individual [as] the source of creativity, spontaneity, flexibility, initiative, [and] variation—all the things that keep institutions vital and growing” (qtd. Hong 43). The concept that the individual and individuality increase success within a community is also mirrored in the scientific field of ecology, which acknowledges that greater biodiversity within ecosystems and among individuals leads to more stability within that community. However, in sociological practice, western societal expectations often, consciously, and subconsciously, encourage people to limit their own individuality, thus hindering the rich biodiversity that could exist in western society.

By applying Hong's micro-level analysis of the workplace community to the macro-level community of western society through a close viewing of the Syfy series *Being Human*, this presentation will illuminate how Hong's theory of passionate work and the celebration of the individual within the labor community can be expanded to challenge the instability of social expectations of normalcy and to queer social perceptions of normalcy. This presentation will ultimately cumulate how posthuman narratives like *Being Human* effectively reimagine the social possibilities that a true celebration of individuality without social restrictions of normalcy invokes.

**The 2022 InQueery Symposium
Keynote Speaker (6:00pm-7:00pm)**

Prof. Jules Gill-Peterson

**“DIY Lessons in Freedom: Tracing Histories of Abortion and
Transition”**

Jules Gill-Peterson is Associate Professor of History at Johns Hopkins University. Peterson is the author of *Histories of the Transgender Child* (University of Minnesota Press, 2018), the first book to shatter the widespread myth that transgender children are a brand new generation in the twenty-first century. Peterson has also written for *The New York Times*, *CNN*, *The Lily* (by *The Washington Post*), *Jewish Currents*, *The New Inquiry*, *The Funambulist*, and more. She has been interviewed extensively in *The Guardian*, *CBS*, *NPR*, and *Xtra Magazine*. She also serves as a General Co-Editor at *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly*.

