April 19-20, 2018

Sexual Truths and Post-Truths: Knowing and Documenting Sexual Worlds

Heather Love
Roderick Ferguson
Kristen Schilt
Chase Joynt

Co-presented by the Truth Dialogues Series
ALICE KAPLAN INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES

Northwestern University
Thursday, April 19th

Keynote, 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm (followed by reception)
McCormick Foundation Center Forum, 1870 Campus Drive, Evanston

“A Sociological Periplum: Samuel Delany’s Documentation of Marginal Worlds”
Heather Love, University of Pennsylvania

Friday, April 20th

Sessions, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm (followed by reception)
Trienens Forum (Kresge 1-515), 1880 Campus Drive, Evanston

8:30 am - 9:00 am | Continental Breakfast

9:00 am - 9:15 am
Welcome by Janice Radway (Gender & Sexuality Studies Director) and Introduction by Héctor Carrillo & Steven Epstein (SPAN Co-Directors)

9:15 am - 10:40 am | Session I
“The Backdrop of the Post-Truth”
Roderick A. Ferguson, University of Illinois at Chicago

Session Chair: Amy Partridge (Gender & Sexuality Studies)
Commentators: Morgan Clark (Sociology), Julian Kevon Glover (African American Studies), & Stephen Sullivan (Anthropology)
10:40 am - 11:00 am | Break

11:00 am - 12:30 pm | Session II
Graduate Student Panel: “Knowing, Representing, Intervening”
Eddie Gamboa (Performance Studies)
Lauren Herold (Screen Cultures)
Stefan Vogler (Sociology)

Session Chair: Gregory Ward (Linguistics/ Gender & Sexuality Studies)

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm | Lunch (provided)

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm | Session III
Roundtable Discussion: “True Sex, Fake Sex”
Abram J. Lewis (History/ Gender & Sexuality Studies)
Mitali Thakor (Anthropology/ Gender & Sexuality Studies)

2:30pm - 2:45 pm | Break

2:45 pm - 4:25 pm | Session IV
“The Agnes Project: On Queer Methods and Hybrid Practice”
Kristen Schilt & Chase Joynt, University of Chicago

Session Chair: Tessie Liu (History/ Gender & Sexuality Studies)
Commentators: Kyle Kaplan (Music Studies) & Rae Langes (Performance Studies)

4:25 pm - 4:40 pm | Break

4:40 pm - 5:00 pm | Wrap-Up Commentary by Heather Love

5:00 pm - 5:30 pm | Reception
**Keynote**

Heather Love is Associate Professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania. She is the author of *Feeling Backward: Loss and the Politics of Queer History* (Harvard), the editor of a special issue of *GLQ* on Gayle Rubin (“Rethinking Sex”), and the co-editor of a special issue of *Representations* (“Description across Disciplines”). She is currently completing a book on practices of description in the humanities and social sciences after World War II.

**Guest Speakers**

Roderick A. Ferguson is a faculty member in the Department of African American Studies and the Gender and Women’s Studies Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is the co-director of the Racialized Body research cluster at UIC. He is the co-editor with Grace Hong of the University of Minnesota Press series *Difference Incorporated*. Also with Hong, he is the co-editor of the anthology *Strange Affinities: The Gender and Sexual Politics of Comparative Racialization* (2011). He is co-editor along with Erica Edwards and Jeffrey Ogbar of *Keywords of African American Studies*, forthcoming with NYU Press. In addition, he is the author of *We Demand: The University and Student Protests* (2017), *The Reorder of Things: The University and Its Pedagogies of Minority Difference* (2012), *Aberrations in Black: Toward a Queer of Color Critique* (2004), and the forthcoming *One-Dimensional Queer* from Polity Press.

Chase Joynt is a moving-image artist and writer. His latest two films *Genderize* and *Between You and Me* are now streaming online with CBC Digital Docs. His first book, *You Only Live Twice* (co-authored with Mike Hoolboom), is a 2017 Lambda Literary Award Finalist for Transgender Non-Fiction. He is a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Chicago.

Kristen Schilt is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Chicago. She is the author of *Just One of the Guys: Transgender Men and the Persistence of Inequality* and the co-editor of a forthcoming book titled *Other, Please Specify: Queer Methods in Sociology*. She currently serves as the Director for the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality at the University of Chicago.

**Northwestern Speakers**

Eddie Gamboa is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Performance Studies at Northwestern University. Their research focuses on sexual education, queer men who use embodied research practices to develop senses of pleasure, community, health, and safety, examining how such techniques adapted with the rise of “hook up apps” such as Grindr. Their work is published in *Liminalities* and *Text and Performance Quarterly*, and has been featured at national conferences such as NCA, ICQI, and AJAAS. Eddie currently serves as an assistant coach for the Northwestern forensics team, and the social activism chair for NU’s Queer Pride Graduate Student Association.
Lauren Herold is a third year PhD student in the Screen Cultures program of the Radio/TV/Film department at Northwestern University. She studies LGBTQ television history and media advocacy in relation to the politics of race, gender, and sexuality. She has presented her work at a symposium on *Transparent*, at Console-ing Passions, at the American Studies Association, and at the Society for Cinema & Media Studies. She holds an MA in Screen Cultures from Northwestern University and a BA in Women's and Gender studies from Columbia University.

Abram J. Lewis is a SPAN postdoctoral fellow, affiliated with the Gender & Sexuality Studies Program and History Department. AJ’s first book project, *The Falling Dream: Unreason and Enchantment in the Gay Liberation Movement* examines queer and feminist uses of madness and magic as resources for political thought, action, and change at the end of the social movement era. His writing has appeared in *Angelaki: Journal of the Theoretical Humanities, The Journal of the History of Sexuality, Radical History Review, The Scholar & Feminist Online*, and *Trap Door: Trans Cultural Production and the Politics of Visibility* (MIT Press, 2017). AJ is also a founder of the NYC Trans Oral History Project, which received the 2018 Allan Bérubé Prize in public history from the American Historical Association. AJ holds a PhD in American Studies from the University of Minnesota.

Mitali Thakor is a SPAN postdoctoral fellow in Anthropology and Gender & Sexuality Studies. Her research and teaching cover issues of policing, computing, surveillance, sexual violence, and queer studies of robotics. She is currently working on her book manuscript, *Facing the Child*, an ethnography of artifice, veracity, and the global policing of child exploitation online. Mitali earned her PhD in 2016 from MIT’s program in History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, & Society. In Fall 2018, Mitali will join Wesleyan University as an assistant professor in the Science in Society Program. You can read more about her work at www.mitalithakor.com and follow her @mitalithakor.

Stefan Vogler is a PhD candidate in sociology at Northwestern University whose research focuses on sexuality, gender, science/knowledge, and law. His dissertation, “Ruling Sexuality: Law, Expertise, and the Making of Sexual Knowledge,” examines the role of expertise in shaping legal understandings of sexuality in the United States. His work has been published in *Law & Society Review, Theoretical Criminology, and the Journal of Homosexuality*, and his work has been supported by the American Council of Learned Societies, the American Sociological Association, and the Sexualities Project at Northwestern.
**Graduate Student Commentators**

**Morgan Clark** is a fourth year graduate student in the Sociology department at Northwestern. Her research is broadly focused on gender and sexuality, criminology, legal studies, communication and cultural sociology. She is currently working on her dissertation proposal, which examines how online sexual harassment challenges not only our understanding of classical workplace harassment, but also the meanings of harm, inequality, and space.

**Julian Kevon Glover** is an academic, activist and performer who graduated with honors from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, holds an MPA from Indiana University’s School of Public and Environmental Affairs and is currently pursuing a PhD in African American Studies from Northwestern University. He has been published in the Harvard Kennedy School’s LGBTQ Policy Journal, *Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture and Society* and *Text and Performance Quarterly*. He has also worked for several national progressive organizations including the National LGBTQ Task Force, the National Center for Transgender Equality, and the Center for American Progress in Washington DC.

**Kyle Kaplan** is a PhD candidate in Musicology and a Mellon Interdisciplinary Cluster Fellow with the Gender & Sexuality Studies program. His dissertation, “Music, Intimacy, and International Homosexual Collaborations, 1957-1963,” reconstructs the social and creative networks of composers such as Hans Werner Henze and Samuel Barber in counterpoint with Adorno’s contemporaneous writings on aesthetics, ethics, and intimacy. His research on the soundtracks of experimental gay erotic cinema will appear in the forthcoming special issue of *Women and Music* on “Race-ing Queer Music Scholarship.” He holds degrees from UCLA and McGill and has served on the board of the LGBTQ Study Group for the American Musicological Society.

**Rae Langes** is a PhD candidate in the Department of Performance Studies and cluster fellow in Gender & Sexuality Studies at Northwestern University, with an MFA in Studio of Performance from School of the Art Institute Chicago. Rae's dissertation research focuses on contemporary LGBTQ performance artists who reappropriate and adapt popular scenarios from classic monster repertoires in order to question the terms by which gender and sexual minorities are granted or denied humanity in the U.S. Rae charts the monstrous aesthetic and choreographic tactics used in each case, marking where they reflect, resist, and revise recent trends in popular representations of LGBTQ politics, identities, and culture.

**Stephen Sullivan** is a second year PhD student in Cultural Anthropology, pursuing certificates in Gender & Sexuality Studies and Critical Theory. He previously earned his MA in Psychology from The New School for Social Research. Stephen’s dissertation research examines queer place-making, sonic aesthetics, and performance in Brooklyn, New York.
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FEATURING KEYNOTES BY

CHARLENE CARRUTHERS
Founding National Director of Black Youth Project 100 (BYP 100)
UNAPOLOGETIC: A BLACK, QUEER AND FEMINIST MANDATE FOR OUR MOVEMENT

DAVID ERNESTO MUNAR
President and CEO of Howard Brown Health
THE NEXT FRONTIER IN LGBTQ LIBERATION: MOBILIZING ON QUEER HEALTH IN CHICAGO

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