

Spring 2006
WGS 301: Queer Studies Lecture Series
Tuesday, 12-12:50
68 Rachel Carson Hall

- February 7** **Carolyn Laub: "How to Start a Gay-Straight Alliance"**
GSA Network was founded in 1998 to empower youth activists to start Gay-Straight Alliance clubs and fight homophobia and transphobia in schools. GSA Network began working with 40 GSA clubs in the Bay Area during the 1998-99 school year, but the organization quickly expanded and by 2001 GSA Network became a statewide organization. In this talk, Carolyn Laub discusses the history and future of the GSA Network.
Carolyn Laub is the Executive Director of the Gay-Straight Alliance Network.
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- February 14** **Jim Van Buskirk: "Reversing Vandalism: Community Responses to a Hate Crime"**
In 2001 over 600 vandalized books—on gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender topics, women’s issues, and HIV/AIDS—were found hidden throughout the San Francisco Public Library. Deemed beyond repair and withdrawn from the library’s collection, they were distributed to interested artists and community members. The wide variety of responses resulted in an exhibition of over 200 original works of art displayed in the main library
Jim Van Buskirk is the Program Manager for the James T. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center at San Francisco Public Library.
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- February 21** **Ann Bannon: "From 'Sleaze' to Classics: The Beebo Brinker Chronicles"**
The Beebo Brinker Chronicles take their title from the most famous of Ann Bannon's characters, the legendary swashbuckling butch, Beebo Brinker. Bannon’s novels, part of the infamous lesbian “pulp fiction” genre, reveal the intensity and courage of gay love in a world that was then unrelentingly hostile. Even today, the books continue to exert a pull on the heart with their universal themes and beguiling characters.
Ann Bannon, Ph.D., is the author of several novels including the classic Odd Girl Out.
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- February 28** **Horacio N. Roque Ramirez: “Gay Latino Histories/Dying to Be Done”**
This lecture will address the state of gay Latino history in the U.S., the teaching of this history, and the underused strategies and lack of research projects to document and archive this multigender social, cultural, and political history.
Horacio N. Roque Ramirez, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Chicana and Chicano Studies at UC Santa Barbara.
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- March 7** **Cathy Cade: “The San Francisco Dyke March: Radical Politics and Our Community Event”**
What is the San Francisco Dyke March? For thirteen years this annual march has occurred without a permit and has become an important part of San Francisco’s gay pride events. Along with a 15 minute documentary video of the San Francisco Dyke March, Cathy Cade will talk about the progressive political origins of the event.
Cathy Cade, Ph.D., is a photographer and documentary filmmaker.
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- March 14** **James Dean: “Racial Heterosexual Identities: Black and White Heterosexualities”**
Based on 60 in-depth interviews with heterosexual Black and White men and women, this lecture will examine the ways in which gay visibility is shaping the lives of Black and White heterosexuals to both bring attention to the dominant status of their heterosexual identities as well as how dominant racial codings mark homosexuality as White and heterosexuality as Black.
James Dean, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at SSU.
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- March 28** **Dora Dome: “Jennifer’s Complaint: Homophobia and Sports”**
Last December, the National Center for Lesbian Rights filed suit on behalf of Penn State basketball star Jennifer Harris against her former coach because of homophobic harassment. In this presentation, attorney Dora Dome will discuss this case as well as her own experiences in the competitive world of women’s college basketball.
Dora Dome is an attorney and a Board Member of the National Center for Lesbian Rights.
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- April 4** **LeiLani Nishime: “Queer Theory, Racial Outing, and Keanu Reeves”**
This presentation will analyze the publicity and gossip surrounding the star persona of Reeves. The furor over Reeves’ sexual orientation serves to obscure and suppress Reeves’ racial background. On the other hand, Reeves race refuses to remain hidden and forgotten, surfacing through the language and rhetoric of “queer” culture. Ultimately, Reeves provides a prime example of the intersection of race and sexuality.
LeiLani Nishime, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of American Multicultural Studies at SSU.
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- April 11** **Loren Cameron: “Transwork – The Photography of Loren Cameron”**
Loren Cameron’s photographs and self-portraits have become beautiful icons of a burgeoning transgender movement. Heralded as groundbreaking and stunning, his book *Body Alchemy: Transsexual Portraits* has been critically acclaimed worldwide, receiving numerous awards, including two Lambda Literary awards.
Loren Cameron is the author of multiple photography books about transgender identity.
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- April 25** **Joshua Gamson: “Be Fabulous: Some Lessons From the Life of Sylvester, Queen of Disco”**
Like very few before him, and quite a few after, Sylvester rode his marginality right into the mainstream: a star not despite the boundaries of race, gender, and sexuality he eagerly crossed but because of them. He embodied a cultural impulse and a simple set of diva-driven inspirational imperatives; be free; be fabulous; be real.
Joshua Gamson, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of San Francisco.
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- May 2** **Ada Jaarsma: “Religious Faith and Perversity: When Kierkegaard meets Freud”**
It is commonplace in queer studies to reject religious questions as either irrelevant or irredeemably prejudiced towards heterosexist fundamentalism. Within the current U.S. American climate, this rejection is understandable and perhaps inevitable. This lecture will argue for the political and existential importance of reclaiming religious faith in the name of queer ethics.
Ada Jaarsma, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at SSU.
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- May 9** **Shannon Minter: “Transgender Rights: Past, Present & Future”**
A look at the evolving relationship of transgender people to the larger gay rights movement and the emergence of transgender law, including disagreements about who is transgender, how to define transgender, and how best to advocate for transgender people. For example, should our goal be to enable transgender people to fit into existing gender categories or to challenge the categories themselves?
Shannon Minter is an attorney and the Legal Director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights.
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