

# CILAS QUEER- RELATIONS

CLAGS4  
The Center for LGBTQ Studies

## CONFERENCE

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

ANJALI ARONDEKAR  
ANNE BALAY  
ELI CLARE

# APR 17 & 18 2026

# CUNY

CUNY GRADUATE CENTER  
365 FIFTH AVE

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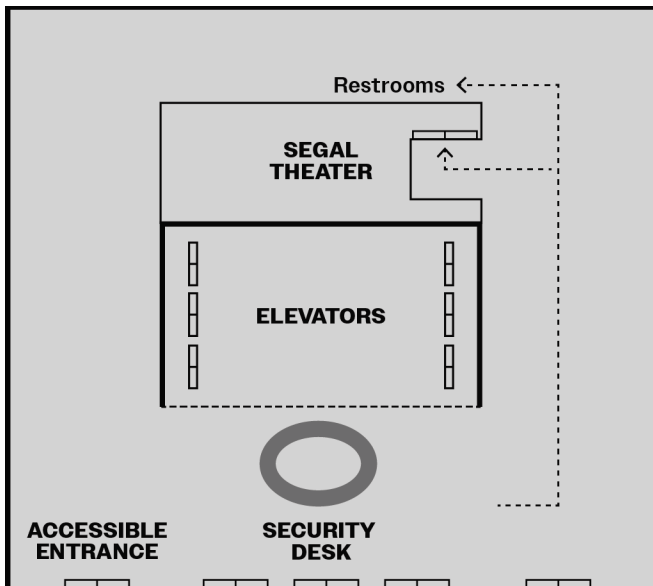
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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

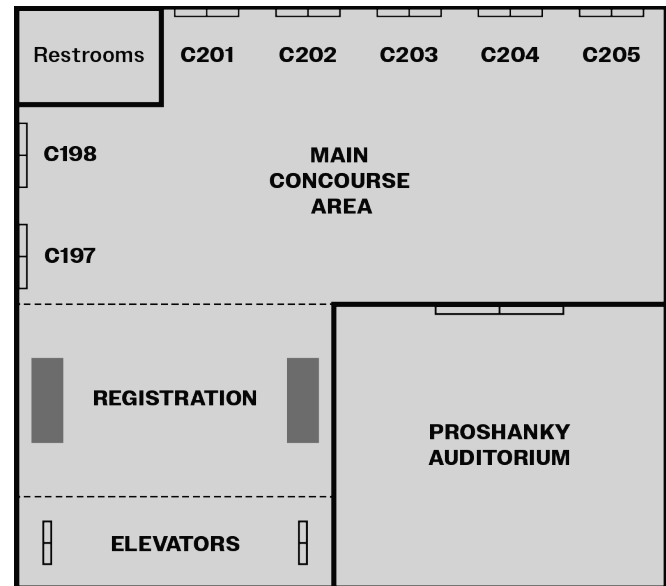
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|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| WELCOME NOTE                          | 3  |
| THANK YOU AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS         | 4  |
| KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AND PLENERY SESSIONS | 6  |
| FILMS                                 | 8  |
| FRIDAY SCHEDULE                       | 9  |
| SATURDAY SCHEDULE                     | 13 |
| BEYOND THE CONFERENCE                 | 17 |
| TECH INFORMATION                      | 18 |
| ACCESSIBILITY AND COMFORT             | 19 |

## MAPS



**LOBBY AND SEGAL THEATRE**  
Main Entrance



**CONCOURSE LEVEL**  
Take Elevator Down to C

**WELCOME TO THE**

# **QUEER- CLASS RELATIONS CONFERENCE**

**CLAGS4**   
Celebrating 40 years of LGBTQ Studies

**April 17–18, 2026 | CUNY Graduate Center**

Welcome to the Queer-Class Relations Conference! CLAGS: The Center for LGBTQ Studies appreciates your attendance, your intellect, your labor, and your good will over the next two days and beyond. Thank you for being here. Everyone belongs here.

The Queer-Class Relations Conference brings together scholars, community organizers, social service professionals, and labor union members to explore the connections between queer and trans lives and class experiences and structures. Premised on the idea that queer and class are inevitably intertwined, the conference asks how those varied relations are also shaped by race, caste, disability, and gender. CLAGS hopes the breadth of interest and the depth of insight shared across Queer-Class Relations' 60 panels and 200+ presenters will inspire future scholarship and community work by creating new connections among participants. We want queer-class relations to be not just the theme but a practical legacy of the conference.

Enacting that vision, cross-class and cross-institutional queer collaborations produced this conference. One question framed our work from the start: how to make a New York City conference about class affordable for queer

and trans thinkers, especially graduate students, people with limited funding, and those traveling from afar. CLAGS relied on partners with different resources. At the University of Pennsylvania, the Department of English, The Program in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies, The Center for Research in Feminist, Queer, and Transgender Studies, and the Gender and Sexuality working group (Gen/Sex), hosted a graduate student Queer Class/Room Symposium in Philadelphia on April 15-16, not only funding the students but bussing them to New York for Queer-Class Relations. Likewise, the Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies at the University of Toronto offered to host Eli Clare's virtual keynote address, extending the scope of the conference in response to the cost and the transphobia that currently overshadow U.S. borders. For its part, CLAGS resolved to feed everyone breakfast, lunch, and snacks and, simultaneously, to offer sliding scale registration. The result: a gathering of 350 people where no one is hungry and where more attendees paid \$10 or less than paid \$100 or more and where 25% of panelists were independent scholars and community-based thinkers. CLAGS is inspired by the ways queer communities have shared knowledge, labor, and money across classed hierarchies to not only envision but enact more desirable queer-class relations.

# Thank You & ACKNOWLEDGE

Support for the Queer-Class Relations Conference has been overwhelming, from the initial submissions to the robust volunteerism to the cosponsorships and funding. Thank you to all the presenters for your contributions to queer-class thought and action. We are grateful to our keynote speakers, Anjali Arondekar, Anne Balay, and Eli Clare, for your lifelong work and your kindness. Our featured panelists—Steven G. Fullwood, Miranda Mims, Christopher Stahling, Yanni Young, Margot Weiss, Debanuj DasGupta, Lisa Duggan, Janet Jakobsen, Martin F. Manalansan IV, Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, Juana María Rodríguez, Rebecca Jordan Young—share a dedication to memory-keeping that guides and inspires us.

Queer-Class Relations was fortunate to have generous and creative sponsors. CLAGS offers special thanks to Heather Love and Rylee Smith at the University of Pennsylvania, and to Dana Seitler, Jessica Fields, Ash Catonio, and Mikaela Clarke at the University of Toronto. Thank you to the CUNY LGBTQIA+ Consortium, which secures and distributes a key source of funding from the New York City Council with support from the LaGuardia and Wagner Archives. For their sponsorship and their collaboration we thank the School of Labor and Urban Studies, the Advanced Certificate in LGBTQ Studies, the CUNY Academy, the Center for the Humanities, the Center for the Study of Women and Society, and administrative offices throughout the

Graduate Center. We are especially grateful for Chad Goslee's tech expertise. The fall 2025 Lesbian Lives conference provided an indispensable model for Queer-Class Relations, and we especially thank Julie Enszer and *Sinister Wisdom*. Finally, thank you to Mable's Smokehouse for feeding CLAGS volunteers on Thursday night.

Volunteerism redistributes resources. Conference volunteers shared their time, their expertise, and their curiosity with CLAGS. For facilitating individual panels, we thank Elee Ballinger, Ju Ly Ban, Debarati Biswas, Maurice Blackmon, Nick Boston, Sylvia Chan-Malik, Dale Corvino, Sarah Chinn, Paisley Currah, Debanuj DasGupta, Emmanuel David, S.N. Dowdy, Julie Enszer, Jen Gaboury, Ted Kerr, Dean Labowitz, Aaron Lecklider, Luciana McClure Lewis, Heather Love, Robert McRuer, Javier Muñoz-Díaz, Carla González Paul, Sohomjit Ray, Saul Reyes, Evren Savcı, Jasmina Sinanović, Rylee Smith, Kassandra Sparks, A.W. Strouse, Liliana Valvano, Sambhavi Varadaraja, Margot Weiss, Laura Westengard, Natalie Willens, Olivia Wood, and Mary Zaborskis.

CLAGS deeply appreciates the work of our many other volunteers, who come from across and beyond the CUNY system, including Jennifer Adler, Lucien Baskin, Matt Binetti, Grant Bremer, Brandon Geddis, Isiah Geffrard, Aubrey Grant, Truly Johnson, Travis Kim, Justin Lewis, Rebecca Lurie, Madilyn Paul, Giana Poli, Fabs Reyna,

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Kylee Rosado, Gezel Simmons, Allie Tavarez, and Abdullah Wasim.

To Hive Mind Books, *Sinister Wisdom*, *New Labor Forum*, SAGE, NYC Anti-Violence Project and WOW Café Theater, thank you for tabling at the conference. And congratulations to Jules Wernersbach on the publication of your new novel, *Work to Do*. Finally, endless

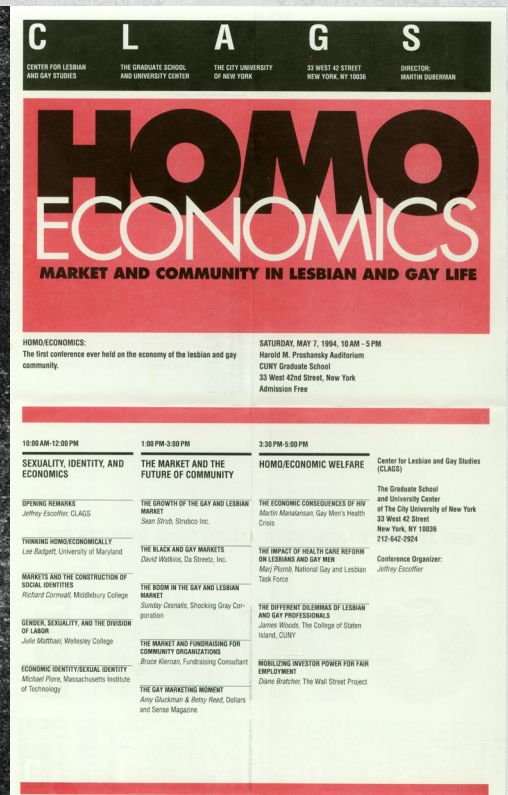
thanks to the staff at CLAGS, including to our fantastic conference coordinator Sophia Senderak, Jasmina Sinanović, Donna Huaman, Mattie Beaton, and Travis Kim, and our terrific undergraduate interns Elee Ballinger, Michael Mauch, Kristin Tolentino, Henry Elderfield, Alex Batista, Hailee Martin, and Ambar Ramos. And for the brilliant artwork for the conference, thank you to Arnon Karnkaeng.

## A LOOK BACK, WITH THANKS

In May of 1994, CLAGS hosted Homo Economics: Market and Community in Lesbian and Gay Life, billed as “the first conference ever held on the economy of the lesbian and gay community.” The gathering was CLAGS’ fifth conference, and it established the Center as a place to pursue groundbreaking work about community, queerness, and class. With Queer-Class Relations CLAGS

hosts its 43rd conference. What’s more, Queer-Class Relations is part of CLAGS’ year-long 40th anniversary celebration. For his vision and longtime support we thank Martin Duberman, who founded CLAGS in 1986. And we dedicate this conference to the late Jeffrey Escoffier, who organized Homo Economics.

1994 Homo Economics conference poster at CLAGS. High-resolution, image available at the CUNY Digital History Project.



**Friday**  
**11:45am–1:15pm**

**OPENING KEYNOTES**  
**→ PROSHANSKY AUDITORIUM**

**ANNE BALAY**



*Organizing Queer Work: Gay Steelworkers,  
Trans Truckers, Feral Faculty*

**ANJALI ARONDEKAR**



*Sexuality's Labor: Archives of Caste  
and Indenture*

**Friday**  
**6:00–7:00pm**

**VIRTUAL KEYNOTE**  
*Hosted by the Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual  
Diversity Studies, University of Toronto*

**ELI CLARE**



Photo credit Samuel Lurie

*Sing Ourselves Cherished: Confronting  
Capitalism, Ableism, and Disposability*

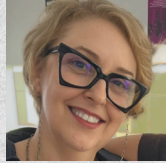


**KEYNOTE SP**

**Friday**  
**4:30–5:45pm**



**FEATURED ROUNDTABLE:**  
**AMBER HOLLIBAUGH: CLASS, QUEERNESS, AND DESIRE**  
→ PROSHANSKY AUDITORIUM

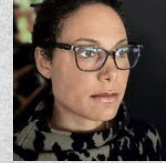


Margot Weiss and Debanuj DasGupta (co-organizers), Lisa Duggan, Janet Jakobsen, Martin F. Manalansan IV, Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, Juana María Rodríguez, Rebecca Jordan Young

**Saturday**  
**11:45am–1:00pm**



**FEATURED PANEL: QUEER BLACK HISTORIES: CREATING ARCHIVES FOR OURSELVES**  
→ PROSHANSKY AUDITORIUM



Steven G. Fullwood, Miranda Mims, Christopher Stahling, Yanni Young

**Saturday**  
**4:15–5:30pm**



**THE FUTURE OF QUEER-CLASS STUDIES FOR EVERYONE**  
*A conference-wide discussion about what we learned and what we will do*  
→ PROSHANSKY AUDITORIUM

Matt Brim, moderator

# PEAKERS & PLENERARY SESSIONS

# FILMS@ QUEER-CLASS RELATIONS

→ Segal Theatre

**Friday**  
**10:15–11:30am**

*Please Hold*  
by Alexandra Juhasz |  
Introduced by Ted Kerr

An experimental documentary engaging with decades of DIY activist media, two death bed/legacy videos, and the wisdom of many living AIDS workers, as we all sit together in one (changing) format, video—VHS, hi-8, digital, Zoom—to address these and other questions: How do neighborhoods, sweaters and scarves, videotapes and queer bars hold ghosts? How do we let them go?

**Friday**  
**1:30–2:45pm**

*Suspensions, Infinite*  
by Patricia Silva

Inspired by a Pasolini text, *Suspensions, Infinite* combines my original footage with clips from Portuguese propaganda films to contrast embodied experiences from Tech and High Tech work across three generations and increasing rates of skill depreciation. This experimental essay film reframes propaganda imagery to highlight vanishing forms of labor, cycles of exploitation, and the role of human attention within behavioral/surveillance capitalism, as told through the experiences of a young rural Queer person working in a city.

**Friday**  
**3:00–4:15pm**

*We Are Abundant: A Queer  
Vision of Economic Justice*  
by the National Center for  
LGBTQ Rights

This short-film debuted at DC's First LGBTQ+ Housing Summit, a historic inaugural event. Hosted at MLK Jr. Library, this event brought together a community of housing advocates from all sectors to come together in addressing the systemic barriers impacting our most vulnerable residents in the hopes of a more equitable future for all, where stable housing is not a privilege, but a basic human right for all.

*Home Sweet Home*  
TyrONE Hanley, Heidi Ellis,  
and Kei Williams



**Friday**

**APRIL 17, 2026**

**CONCOURSE LEVEL**

**Breakfast 8:30–10:30AM**

**Registration 8:30AM–4:00PM**

**10:15–11:30am**

**NYC ORGANIZATIONS SERVING QUEER-CLASS COMMUNITIES** led by

Elee Ballinger and Jasmina Sinanović → Proshansky Auditorium, livestreamed

- Ali Forney Center Nico Fuentes
- NYC Anti-Violence Project Leslie Allen
- Caribbean Equality Project (CEP) Mohamed Amin
- New York Transgender Advocacy Group (NYTAG) Athena Rivera
- SAGE Lisa Sutz
- WOW Café Theater Sara Lydia Anne Banks

**FILM SCREENING: PLEASE HOLD BY ALEXANRA JUHASZ** → Segal Theatre

Introduction by Ted Kerr

**QUEER-CLASS COMMUNITY SPACES** led by

Natalie Willens → C197

- The LGBTQ+ Intergenerational Dialogue Project: Building Queer-Class Solidarities Across Age Adam Greteman and Karen Morris
- Queer Heterotopias: Punk Spaces as Counterpublics of Negativity and Possibility Evan Martin-Casler
- Queer Class Lingos and Non-Belongings Lorn Ruhnke

**QUEER AND TRANS LIFE ON THE MARGINS**

led by Javier Muñoz-Díaz → C198

- Architectures of Queer Memory: The Afterlives of New York's Hudson River Piers Dennis Ohm
- Queer Cartographies: Urban Space, Class, and Racialized Survival in Kai Cheng Thom's Fierce Femmes and Notorious Liars Rocío Rodríguez
- Vulgar Belongings: Gandu and the Affective Economies of Hijra Kinship samrat sharma
- Beyond "Backwardness": Working-Class Trans\* Experiences in Ecuadorian Cinema Javier Muñoz-Díaz

**QUEER AND TRANS PRINT CULTURE**

led by Nick Boston → C201, livestreamed

- The Working-Class Queers of Boston's Gay Community News Robert Cleary
- Scutter and the Politics of Punk Mentorship: Building Brown, Working-Class Queer Futures through DIY Networks Audrey Silvestre
- Packing Red, Packing Blue: Transmasculine and Non-Binary Engagement with Cross-Class/Cross-Cultural Cruising and Public Sex JD Davids

**CARCERAL GEOGRAPHIES AND QUEER-**

**CLASS FORMATIONS** led by S.N. Dowdy → C202

- Cavity Search: Queer Aesthetics and Racial Carceral Capitalism in Martin Wong's New York City Matthew Kateb Goldman
- Oil, Order, and the Patriarch Abroad: Masculinity and Heteronormativity in Qatar's Labor Regime Taha Kaleem E Ho'ohali'a: Māhū & Queered Anticarceral Alterities in Hawai'i Noelani Akiona

**QUEER EROTICS OF CLASS CROSSOVER**

led by Aaron Lecklider → C203

- A Lover's Discourse of Class: Erotics, Reflexivity, Transition Daniel Swain
- Negotiating Precarity and Polyamory: How Taiwanese Young Gay Men Do Intimacy Yu-Lien Cheng
- Queering the Margins of Labor: Paul Cadmus and the Erotics of Figuration Alex Del Dago
- Homosociality At Sea: Hughes, The Big Sea and Class Consciousness Vallaire Wallace

**AIDS AND ACTIVISM IN THE CLASSED**

**METROPOLIS** led by A.W. Strouse → C204

- AIDS, the Virgin, and the Chavos del Metro Hidalgo: The Queer-Class Geography of Mexico City's Subway in the 1980s and 1990s A.W. Strouse
- From Commons to Property: Shifting Genres of Listening, Care, and Labor on LGBTQ Hotlines suisui wang
- "NYCHA Discriminates!" Fighting for Gay and Lesbian Tenants in New York City's Public Housing Maggie Schreiner
- The Riddle: Queer Brown Intimacies in the Gentrifying Barrio Vicente Carrillo

**QUEER AND TRANS MARXISM AND**

**INTERNATIONALISM 1** → C205, livestreamed

- The Value Turn in Queer Theory Petrus Liu
- Consumerized Rainbow: A Queer Marxist Critique of Neoliberal Queerness in Contemporary China Haotian Jiang
- Queering Postcolonial Hong Kong: A Sinospheric Genealogy of Intersectionality for the Asian Century Kai Hang Cheung
- Wasps, Flagbearers, and High-Altitude Sit-In Protesters: A Queer Politics of Corporeality and Materiality Woori Han and Boram Hong

## 11:45am–1:15pm



### KEYNOTE ADDRESSES →

Proshansky Auditorium, livestreamed

**ANNE BALAY** Organizing Queer

Work: Gay Steelworkers, Trans

Truckers, Feral Faculty

**ANJALI ARONDEKAR**

Sexuality's Labor: Archives of Caste

and Indenture

## 1:30–2:45pm

### LESBIAN AND QUEER GENRES OF

**UNDERCLASS INTIMACY** led by Heather Love

→ Proshansky Auditorium, livestreamed

**Blue-Collar Butches: Beebo Brinker and Labour as Self-Creation** Abigail Cordwell

**Rubbed the Wrong Way: Andrea Long Chu & the Revival of Lesbian Polemic** S.N. Dowdy

**“[d]reaming of other lives”: Class, Nation, and Queer Desire**

in Javier Fuentes's Countries of Origin Ian Jayne

**Queer Love & Queer Work in Country Music** Listening

Rylee Smith

### FILM SCREENING: *SUSPENSIONS,*

**INFINITE BY PATRICIA SILVA** →

Segal Theatre

### QUEER AND TRANS ACADEMIC LABOR 1

led by Debanuj DasGupta → C197

**They Only Come Out at Night: Childless Women, Queers, and Faculty Labor** Lynn Arner

**Queer-Class and Now: Anti-fascist Labor, Pleasure, Pedagogy** John Modica

**From Deservingness to Redistribution: Queer Pathways to Welfare Justice** Amalia Torrecillas Fernandez

**Love and Work in the Trans 1990s: Labor and Social Reproduction at the Dawn of “Trans Studies”** Cassius

Adair and Aren Aizura

### QUEER SEX WORKERS ON SUBVERTING

**CLASS AND OTHER CONSTRUCTS** led

by Kassandra Sparks → C198

*A panel of current/former sex workers with diverse work experience, class experience, gender/sexuality, and race/identity.*

Dale Corvino, Yolyamanitzin Gómez, Jo Weldon, and Kristen Lovell

### QUEER AND TRANS ART AND ARCHIVES 1

led by Sohomjit Ray → C201, livestreamed

**Memoria Trans** Julián Delgado Lopera

**Sapphasaura and the Queer Work of Reptile Reproduction at the American Museum of Natural History** Amelia Carter

**Hard(er) to Imagine** Georden West

**Intimate Archives and Queer Racialized History in Justin**

**Torres's Blackouts** Aaron Bisson

### QUEER YOUTH, EDUCATION, AND KINSHIP

led by Natalie Willens → C202

**Performing Inclusion: Punitive Discipline and the Limits of Carceral Schooling for LGBTQ+ Youth** Nina Mauçeri

**Queer and Trans Global Elites as a Far-Right Conspiracy**

Frame Mary Byrne

**No Child Left Behind: Queer Temporalities and Youth**

**Bodies** Jesse Young-Paulson and Ray Winig

### TRANS MATERIALITIES 1 led by Paisley

Currah → C203

**8 FAM 403.3 Unassigned: The Administrative Violence of Gender “X” Passport Issuance** Corinne Curtis

**Biohacking Gender: The Radical Trans Imagination and**

**Disrupting the Medical Apparatus** Noelle Derksen

**Towards a Transinclusive and Decolonial Technology:**

**Transmasculine Hacking Practices and Digital**

**Resistances in Brazil** Pedro Barrios

### NAMING OURSELVES, NAMING OUR

**COMMUNITIES** led by Sambhavi

Varadarajan → C204

**Classed within Communities: A Look at Solidarities and Tensions in Tamil Nadu Queer Activist Spaces**

Sambhavi Varadarajan

**Narrating the Self: Identity, Trauma, and Professional**

**Formation in Mental Health Practice** Jamila Hughley

**What's in a Name?** Sean Apparicio

### QUEER AND TRANS MARXISM AND

**INTERNATIONALISM 2** → C205 (pre-recorded)

**Trans-Feminist Paradox, Ornamental Knowledge, and the Political Economy of Translating Gender in China,** Heng Wang

**Putting the Sex Back in Transsexual: The Materiality and**

**Political Economy of Sex Work** Avik Sarkar

**Transitioning Labour: Intercommunity Coalitions through**

**Transgender Marxism** Rhys Whitham

## 3:00–4:15pm

### **TRANSFEMININITY AND CLASS MOBILITY**

led by Heather Love → Proshansky Auditorium, livestreamed

*This panel addresses the question of why, given the centrality of upwards and downwards mobility to transfemininity, trans theory has engaged so little with class, labor, and the racialized and gendered political economy.*

Kadji Amin, Joan Lubin, Gareth Gavin, and Heather Love

### **FILM SCREENINGS: WE ARE ABUNDANT INTRODUCED BY HEIDI ELLIS AND KEI WILLIAMS & HOME SWEET HOME BY TYRONE HANLEY** → Segal Theatre

### **QUEER AND TRANS ACADEMIC LABOR 2**

led by Sarah Chinn → C197

**Working the Field: Notes from a Queer Vietnamese American in Viet Nam** khoi nguyen  
**Making Worlds (A Self | Care | Labor Project)** Keona Ervin and Jay Sosa  
**Queer Voices in Contemporary Music: Teaching, Healing, and Transformation through Sound** Sme Wong

### **SEX WORK IS WORK: THREE TRANSGENDER ACTIVIST PERSPECTIVES FROM THE FRONT LINES OF ROOSEVELT AVE CORRIDOR** led by Saul Reyes → C198

*A panel about the ways the intersectionality of being Latinx, immigrant, transgender, and a sex worker underline queer-class relations*

Saul Reyes, Victoria Von Blaque, Liaam Winslet, and Bianey Garcia

### **DISABILITY, QUEERNESS, AND CLASS** led by Robert McRuer → C201, livestreamed

**Between Crip Time and Workfare Time: Queering Disability Legibility in the Welfare State** Alyssa Davis  
**Pathologizing Sin: The Pastoral-Psychiatric Collaboration in American Bourgeois Authority** Clayton Jarrard  
**The Labor of Community Care: Affordances and Limitations of Professionalization for LGBTQ+ Peer Mental Health Support** Angie Wootton and L. Elliot Tetreault  
**Access, Care, and the Erotic: A Queer Disability Studies Reading of Recent Works** by Joey Solomon, Robert Andy Coombs, and Ryan J. Haddad Justin Huwe

### **QUEER AND TRANS-CLASS KINSHIPS** led by Luciana McClure Lewis → C202

**Mothering at the Margins: Ballroom Culture, Queer Kinship, and the Labor of Survival** Luciana McClure Lewis  
**Gender Ideology and the Once-Rising Poor: Queer-Class Tensions in Northeast Brazil** Ben Junge  
**Affect, Family, and Employment: Queering the Relations of Care** Douglas Hanes  
**Cash Benefits Programs and Cis-Heteronormativity in Upstate New York Cities** Dustin Satterfield

### **WORKING-CLASS STRUGGLE AND QUEER POLITICS** led by Sohomjit Ray → C203

**Hairbitus Transplants: Performing Class by Making (My) Hair Act** Hendrik Quast  
**The Zoom Gaze: Mediating Queer-Class Solidarities** Caroline Ferrante  
**Re-imagining a Future Worth Fighting For: Queer Liberation, the Working Class and the Great Refusal** Dominic Wetzel  
**Pits and Perverts: LGSM, Pride and the Erasure of British Queer-Class Relations** Sharif Mowlabocus

### **QUEER ENTANGLEMENTS: LABOR, VALUE, AND THE ETHICS OF THE TERRORIST STUDENT-ACTIVIST FIGURE** led by Sylvia Chan-Malik → C204

*This panel examines the queer case of the student-terror figure that exists across the settler university enterprise.*

Mich Ling, Vedanth Govi, Dr. Sneha George, and Sylvia Chan-Malik (chair)

### **MORE THAN THE BOOK CAN HOLD? QUEER-CLASS LABOUR, CREATIVITY, AND COLLECTIVE MAKING** → C205 (pre-recorded)

*This panel examines a collaborative, creative research project that translates the 2023 book *Working-Class Queers: Time, Place and Politics* into participatory visual form(s), circulating as an anthology, exhibition, and an invitation.*

AJ Duncan, Candice Purwin, Madeleine Leisk, Rachel Jardine, and Yvette Taylor (chair)

## 4:30–5:45pm



### **FEATURED ROUNDTABLE: AMBER HOLLIBAUGH: CLASS, QUEERNESS, AND DESIRE**

→ Proshansky Auditorium and  
livestreamed (all-conference session)

*A panel on Amber Hollibaugh, a self-described “radical ex-hooker incest survivor rural Gypsy working-class poor white trash high femme dyke,” and an undersung theorist of the intersections of class, queerness, and desire.*

Margot Weiss and Debanuj DasGupta (co-organizers), Lisa Duggan, Janet Jakobsen, Martin F. Manalansan IV, Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, Juana María Rodríguez, and Rebecca Jordan Young

## 6:00–7:00pm

**VIRTUAL KEYNOTE ADDRESS** →  
Proshansky Auditorium, livestreamed

**ELI CLARE** “Sing Ourselves  
Cherished: Confronting Capitalism,  
Ableism, and Disposability.”

*All-conference watch party hosted  
by the Mark S. Bonham Centre for  
Sexual Diversity Studies, University  
of Toronto*





**Saturday**

**APRIL 18, 2026**

**CONCOURSE LEVEL**

**Breakfast 9:00–10:30am**

**Registration 9:00am–4:00pm**

**10:15–11:30am**

**AESTHETICS OF QUEER-CLASS-RACE**

**RESISTANCE** led by Debarati Biswas → Proshansky Auditorium, livestreamed

**Coming (Out) to Class: Julio Torres's Queer Aesthetics** Bri Fehler

**Unsettled Lives and Unlikely Coalitions in Black Photography and Short Fiction** Debarati Biswas

**Searching for "Queer Moments": Queering Self-portraiture Photography through Failures in Contemporary China**

Xiangyu Dong

**Cutting Filiality: On Queer Freedom with Xiyadie** Scofield Zou

**QUEERNESS AND CLASS IN CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN AND INTERNATIONAL GAY WRITING** led by

Ju Ly Ban → C197

*Three contemporary writers will read excerpts from a memoir, a novel, and a short-story collection and discuss class complications across their work*

Jonathan Corcoran, Javier Fuentes, and Serkan Görkemli

**CARE NOT COPS: CARE CONTINUITY AND GEOGRAPHIES OF "UNLIKELY AND UNPRECEDENTED COALITIONS"** led by

Natalie Willens → C198

*A roundtable conversation to sustain queer-class solidarities that nurture, as Dr. Angela Y. Davis offers, "unlikely and unprecedented coalitions."*

Mattie Beaton, Ivy Kwan Arce, Gio Capone, Exx Nottage, Rachel Joy Bell, and Elie Al Kazzi

**NEW QUEER AND TRANS METHODS** led

by Mary Zaborskis → C201, livestreamed

**Eco-queer Participatory Action Research (EqPAR) and the Politics of Becoming-With: Queering Methodological Praxis for an Age of Planetary Polycrisis** Meg Fowler and Rory Crath

**"How to win the strike": Welding Queer-Class Relations in William Attaway's Blood on the Forge** Samuel Wood  
**Practicing Expansive Definitions of Guinaiya: Love, Land, Queerness, and Abolition** Lauren Taijeron  
**WV's Hawks Nest Tunnel Disaster and the Radical Public History Praxis of Muriel Rukeyser** Corey Clawson

**QUEER LABOR** led by Olivia Wood → C202

**Contesting Inclusion: The LGBTQIA+ Backlash within French and Spanish Labour Unions** Estelle Fisson  
**Queer Rhetorics are Labor Rhetorics with Starbucks Workers United** Olivia Wood

**On the Hunt for a New Cornucopia: The Possibilities and Limits of Unions in Addressing Trans Economic Need** Skylar Moehs

**Transmen in Uniform: Negotiating Gender, Class, and Militarization** Maisnam Arnopal

**QUEER AND TRANS MARXISM AND INTERNATIONALISM 3** led by Emmanuel

David → C203

**What Worlds Can Memes Construct? The Contagious Memetics of Trans Marxism** Tessa Harper

**Trans Capital: A Marxist Theory of Gender in Trans NYC** Benjamin Porter

**Emancipatory Publishing Practices: DIY Queer Press in Translation and Community-Building** Aleksandra Kamińska  
**From Flesh to Commodity: Queer Erotics of Class in Rachilde's Monsieur Vénus** Erin Consla

**EMERGENT QUEER AND TRANS CLASS FORMATIONS** → C204 (pre-recorded)

**Found Family: Queering Families as a Method of Survival** Sameera Akella

**Beyond the Rainbow: Working-Class Queer Lives and the Politics of Survival in Urban India** Vanshika Pandey

**The Price to Pass: Cisnormativity, Capitalism, and the Policing of Gender Through Moral Panic** Kat Fuller

**QUEER REPRESENTATION UNDER NEOLIBERALISM** → C205 (pre-recorded)

**Seizing the Means of Opera Productions: Towards a Future of Creativity, Prosperity and Power for Trans Artists** Danielle Buonaiuto and Katherine Goforth  
**The Strength of the Rainbow Indian: Heterosexual Marriage as a Cinematic Trope Influencing the Indian Boys' Love Genre** Angadbir Kakkar  
**Visibility Over Seeability: The 2024 Mainstream 'Lesbian Renaissance' Discourse Within the U.S. War on Gender** Carol Rynkevich  
**Politics and Pride: How DC's Queer representation has shifted 2021-Present** Laura Grafton

**11:45am–1pm**



**FEATURED PANEL: QUEER BLACK HISTORIES: CREATING ARCHIVES FOR OURSELVES** led by Nick Boston → Proshansky Auditorium, livestreamed all-conference session

*This panel explores Black queer archival work thriving in spaces where communities tell their own stories. It highlights projects that foreground Black queer life, love, resistance, and resilience created and sustained outside of traditional institutional boundaries.*

Steven G. Fullwood, Miranda Mims, Christopher Stahling, and Yanni Young

**1:15–2:30pm**

**LGBTQ IN THE UNION** led by Jen Gaboury → Proshansky Auditorium

*A panel of workers from local and national unions and labor organizations*

Jen Gaboury (Professional Staff Congress), Kayleigh Truman (ATSE Local One), Emily Drabinski (President, American Library Association), and Kai Fritz (Starbucks Workers United)

**QUEER LABOR, QUEER ART** led by Julie Enszer → Segal Theatre

**Queer Worker Portraits and Other Projects: An Artist Talk** Yevgeniy Fiks  
**The Work of Love, The Queer of Labor: A Curator Talk** Olga Kopenkina  
**Judith Waterman, Art, and Lesbian-Class Relations** Irena Klepfisz and Ariel Goldberg

**DICTATORS, CAPITALISTS, AND ECONOMIES OF QUEER RESISTANCE** led by Carla González Paul → C197

**“Esta lucha siempre ha sido una lucha popular”:** Queer Activism in Chile during the 1980s and 1990s Carla González Paul  
**Reading Gramsci in Trump’s America: A Queer Reflection on Grief and Resistance** Kenji Cataldo  
**Elitism, Exclusion, and Mutual Antagonism in the Homosexual Politics of Pre-Nazi Germany** Andrew Shapiro

**RIIS BEACH: A SITE OF REFUSAL, RESISTANCE, AND REHEARSAL** led by Natalie Willens → C198

*This actionist roundtable will consider how place-based research has refined place-based advocacy in iterative ways, as when researching working-class and Black queer histories pushes against the anti-Black limits of queer-class relationality.*

Dean Labowitz, jah elyse sayers, Mars Plater, J Wortham, and Anna Campbell

**QUEER ANTI-CAPITALISM** led by Emmanuel David → C201

**From Warmi to Chola: Queer-Feminist Autogestión and Anti-Capitalist Cultural Production in Peru** Fabs Reyna  
**Anti-capitalist Time and Queer Sociality in the Epistolary Pandemic Memoir: A Close Reading of The End Doesn't Happen All at Once** Destry Maria Sibley  
**Beyond Trans Liberalism** Phi Bachsleitner  
**Queer Delulu: “Manifestation” at the Edge of Economic Collapse** Tahereh Aghdasifar

**REPORT FROM THE QUEER CLASS/ROOM SYMPOSIUM IN PHILADELPHIA** led by Rylee Smith → C202

*Share outs from participants at the April 15-16 graduate student symposium held at the University of Pennsylvania as a companion to the Queer-Class Relations Conference*

**GEOGRAPHIES OF QUEER AND UNEVEN DEVELOPMENT** led by Liliana Valvano → C203

**Queer Economic Migration? Complicating the Trope of the Persecuted Queer Refugee and Asylum-seeker** Alex Novitskaya  
**Between Binaries: The Uneven Circulation of fei er'yuan Identity in China** Tianyi Bai  
**The Struggle to Be Gay** Roger Lancaster

## QUEER-CLASS AESTHETIC

### CIRCULATIONS → C204 (pre-recorded)

**Comics in Queer Activist Publications: Counter-Cultural Circulation and Solidarities between Argentina and the Global North, 1970s–1990s** Marie Lorinquer-Hervé  
**Meme Economies: Queer/Class Performativity in Digital Culture** Ishan Tripathi  
**Counter-Capitalist Cultures of Queer Sociality in Claude McKay's Romance in Marseille** Sakshi Kashyap  
**Hierarchies within Resistance: Examining Caste-Class Privilege in Emerging Indian Queer Women's Narratives** Shreya Nair

## QUEER PEDAGOGIES AT THE CLASS

### MARGINS → C205 (pre-recorded)

**Mentorship Phenomenology: Queer, Working Class, and Immigrant Sharing, Opposition, and Generosity** Ela Przybylo  
**'Trash, Low Life, Scum': The Disturbances of Dorothy Allison, Eli Clare, and Leslie Feinberg in Conversation with Sins Invalid** Ari Burford  
**Slamming the Class Ceiling: Examining Joelle Taylor's Queer Spoken-Word Practices** Camellia Choudhuri

**2:45–4:00pm**

## INCARCERATION AND QUEER/TRANS

### ANTI-RACIST ORGANIZING led by Debarati

Biswas → Proshansky Auditorium

*A panel that explores queer resistance to capitalism and imperialism over the past half century in the U.S. and Germany with a focus on queers who have been incarcerated*

Soheli Asefi, Emily Hobson, and Bob Lederer

## BLOOD WORK: ASIAN AMERICAN

### CONGEALMENT AND VISCERAL

### ABSTRACTION led by Laura Westengard →

Segal Theater

*A panel that navigates the entanglement of desire, intimate labor, and capital by exploring visceral abstraction as practice, strategy, and method*

Lena Chen, Zihan Loo, Empress Wu, and Riven Ratanavanh

## QUEER-CLASS LITERATURE, PUBLIC

### CULTURE, AND ART led by Mary Zaborskis → C197

**Kaam and Naukri: India's Hijra Community and the Hierarchies of Labour** Karthik Shankar  
**Drag's Erotic Capital: Working Sex in Latinx Literature** Ethan Trejo  
**Caryl Churchill's Cloud 9: A Counter-Hegemonic Attempt and Hierarchies of Oppression** Amrita Bakshi  
**Tomorrow Belongs to Me: Broadway's Cabaret Revivals as Working Class Queer Resistance Since 1987** Josh Adamek

## QUEER RURAL AND SUBURBAN LIVES led

by Aaron Lecklider → C198

**Shifting Gossip, Lasting Pleasure: Class and Precarity in a Suburban Cruising Park in Eastern China** Taihao He and Andrew Wortham  
**From the Rural Margins to the Mainstream: La Veneno and Trans Visibility in 1990s Spain** Gadiel Gongora  
**Coming Home Empty** Ally Krueger-Kischak  
**Queerness in Rural Northern Nevada and the HIV/AIDS Epidemic** C McCombs

## QUEER EDUCATORS AND THE POLITICS OF CARE: LABOR, LOVE, AND RESISTANCE

### IN THE CLASSROOM led by Maurice

Blackmon → C201

*Stories of LGBTQ educators who navigate classrooms as sites of labor and resistance.*

Proud Educators: Maurice Blackmon, Lissette Vergara, and Robb Davis

## TRANS MATERIALITIES 2 led by Liliana

Valvano → C202

**"It's Hard Being the Trophy Wife and the Breadwinner": Trixie Mattel and the Queer, Femme American Dream** Drake Hansen  
**Suffering for Solidarity: Trans Jews in the Anti-Zionist Movement** Koda Sokol  
**Mourning at the Margins: Queerness, Class, and Resistance in Una mujer fantástica** Sydney Wilson  
**queer-underclass play: subversion in theatre, games, and the performance of everyday life** brynn walker

## MEDIATING SEX WORK led by Kassandra

Sparks → C203

**"In the surveillance state we're all cam girls"** Dove Sandy  
**The Cost of Being the Girls Next Door** Kay Mullen  
**Shimmering and Sex Work: Interrogating (Un)Happy Phantasmagoria through Representations of Trans Femme Sex Workers in Crossing** Sanchari Sur  
**Sex in Captivity: (Trans)sexual Labor, Human Violence, and the Prison as Synecdoche** Ishaana Khanna

## QUEER-CLASS ART AND ARCHIVES 2 →

C204 (pre-recorded)

**Against the Factory Bell: Queer Traces in the Archive of 19th C. Workingwomen's Writings** Emily Coccia  
**Barbara Gittings and Attempted Professionalization in the National Gay Archives** Iz Klemmer  
**'My butchy-one': Postal Intimacies and Transnational Activism in India** Gauri Yadav  
**Queer Gangsters in Taiwanese Films: Silent Sparks and the Use of Queering the Marginalized** Rex Tsung-wei Lin

## NEW QUEER AND TRANS METHODS 2 →

C205 (pre-recorded)

Self-Fiction and Depictions of Sex Workers in the Travesti

Narratives of Amara Moira's "So what if I'm a puta?" and

Camila Sosa Villada's "Bad girls" Anna Luiza Staino

Queer Inclusion & Exclusion in an Upper-Class Heritage

Suburb of Cape Town, South Africa Nic le Roux

Measuring the Gap: Well-Being and Gender Essentialism  
Among LGBTQ+ Adolescents in Buenos Aires

Verónica Stewart

Precarious Employment Policy Scan in the Context of  
Queer Class Relations in Canada Nick Mulé

**4:15–5:30pm**



### **FEATURED ROUNDTABLE: THE FUTURE OF QUEER-CLASS STUDIES FOR EVERYONE** led by

Matt Brim → Proshansky Auditorium  
(all-conference closing session)

*A roundtable that asks, What did we learn this weekend  
about queer-class relations in and beyond the academy?  
What models for queer-class crossover did we see?  
What's next?*

# BEYOND the CONFERENCE

**Wednesday**  
**APRIL 15**  
**6:00–8:00pm**

→ Segal Theatre,  
livestreamed

## **SINISTER WISDOM 50TH-ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

*Sinister Wisdom* will celebrate its 50th anniversary with readings by Irena Klepfisz, JP Howard, Alexis Clements, Meremu Chikwendu, Scarlet Gomez, Ofi Davis, Aliyah Blattner, and Sara Youngblood Gregory.

*Sinister Wisdom* is a lesbian literary journal founded in 1976. *Sinister Wisdom* works to create multi-class, multicultural, multi-gender, multi-racial, world-wide intergenerational queer and lesbian spaces. Through publishing quarterly issues, a Sapphic Classics book series, and offering educational programs, *Sinister Wisdom* nurtures lesbian communities. Learn more at [sinisterwisdom.org](http://sinisterwisdom.org)

**Friday**  
**APRIL 17**  
**7:00–9:00pm**

→ Room 5414



## **GRADUATE STUDENT SOCIAL**

Hosted by the Advanced Certificate in LGBTQ Studies Program, QUNY, the Doctoral and Graduate Students' Council, Evren Savci @ Yale Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and CLAGS

**Sunday**  
**APRIL 19**  
**11am–1pm**

→ Washington Square Arch  
(north side of Washington  
Square Park; Fifth Avenue  
and Waverly Place)

Free, but registration  
required (limited to 25)



## **QUEER-CLASS WALKING TOUR OF GREENWICH VILLAGE**

Join Esther Crain, founder and editor of Ephemeral New York and licensed New York sightseeing guide, for a queer-class tour of Manhattan's ever-changing Greenwich Village.

Be sure to visit Ephemeral New York, where Crain documents New York City through photos, newspaper archives, and other artifacts that form part of New York City's forgotten history. <https://ephemeralnewyork.wordpress.com/>

# TECH INFORMATION

## LIVESTREAMING, RECORDING, AND ARCHIVING QUEER-CLASS RELATIONS

All sessions in the Proshansky Auditorium and room C201 will be livestreamed. Recordings will be preserved in the CLAGS Research Archive and available on the CLAGS YouTube channel.

Register for livestreamed sessions on the conference website, linked at [clags.org](http://clags.org). All other sessions will be audio recorded and made similarly available. We ask presenters to sign, when possible, the audio/video release form available at registration and in panel rooms.

**Group effort:** If you are a presenter and prefer not to be recorded, please remind the volunteer on duty to pause the recording during your presentation and Q&A participation and to restart it afterward. Thank you for this important bit of help.

Nine conference sessions were pre-recorded to accommodate virtual presenters' needs. Those recordings are ready to view on the CLAGS YouTube channel and will be played in real time during the conference in rooms C205 (Friday/Saturday) and C204 (Saturday).

## INTERNET ACCESS

Guest internet access is available on the network GCguest. To login you will need to enter your email. Internet access is also available through eduroam.

## SHOWING SLIDES DURING PANEL PRESENTATIONS

All rooms on the Concourse Level have projectors and Dell laptops or computers. All rooms have audio capabilities for playing videos with sound.

If you plan to show slides as part of your 15 minute presentation, please:

➤ Bring your slides on a flash drive. We are not able to support connecting outside laptops to the projectors.

➤ Arrive 10 minutes before your panel so that a volunteer can help you load the slides from your flash drive onto the laptop at the podium.

You will not be able to sign in to an online account (e.g., email) to access your slides using the Graduate Center computers/laptops at the podium due to the headaches of double authentication and new user login snafus (even on our own computers!)

Thank you for your understanding around our tech capacity.

# ACCESSIBILITY & COMFORT

## ASL

American Sign Language interpretation will be available via webinar for all sessions in the Proshansky Auditorium. Please see a volunteer at the registration desk if you need to borrow a device with a screen or need help viewing webinars in the Proshansky.

## SEATING

Chairs with more cushioning are available at the registration desk. Volunteers will be happy to move the chairs for you. The Proshansky Auditorium has reserved flexible seating space on the Concourse level for wheelchairs and scooters. If you need rolling access the stage area of the Proshansky Auditorium, please tell a volunteer at the registration desk and they will request the elevator key from Graduate Center facilities. We apologize for the slight delay this will cause.

## RESTROOMS

A gender-neutral restroom and a women's restroom are located on the Concourse level. A single-serve restroom is available on the seventh floor, which is also home to the CLAGS office.

## FOOD

Breakfast, lunch, and snacks will be provided both days of the conference. We have ordered plenty of vegetarian lunches, as well as vegan and gluten free lunches, for those who requested them. Thank you for reading the catering signage so that you don't mistakenly take a vegan or gluten free meal. Please use the round tables on the Concourse level to eat with friends and make new acquaintances. There is no food allowed in the Proshansky Auditorium.

## NEARBY

If you would like to take a break, the steps of the New York Public Library are a great place to sit, eat, and people watch. Walk north on 5th Avenue to 42nd Street. The library is on the corner. Behind the library is Bryant Park where there is also ample seating and space to rest and enjoy the outdoors.

### **CONFERENCE COHOSTS**

- ☛ Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies at the University of Toronto
- ☛ University of Pennsylvania: Department of English, The Program in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies, The Center for Research in Feminist, Queer, and Transgender Studies, and the Gender and Sexuality working group (Gen/Sex)

### **COSPONSORS**

- ☛ CUNY LGBTQIA+ Consortium
- ☛ Mable's Smokehouse
- ☛ CUNY Academy
- ☛ Sinister Wisdom
- ☛ Center for the Humanities, Graduate Center
- ☛ Advanced Certificate in LGBTQ Studies, Graduate Center
- ☛ CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies
- ☛ CUNY Graduate Center
- ☛ Martin Duberman

### **COLOPHON**

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