



# KENYON QUEER AND TRANS STUDIES CONFERENCE

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APRIL 9-11, 2021  
VIRTUALLY FROM  
GAMBIER, OH

**Kenyon**

# ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

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The Kenyon Queer and Trans Studies Conference is a new and growing biennial conference. Sponsored by the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Kenyon College, this conference developed from our recognized need to provide a place for queer and trans scholarship, activism, and community building. The conference is also built upon a model of interdisciplinarity, intersectionality, and equity.

In regards to interdisciplinarity, the Kenyon Queer and Trans Studies Conference holds four distinct tracks--1) healthcare and technology; 2) visual and performing arts; 3) humanities and popular culture; and 4) politics, society, and the law. Each of these carefully selected tracks encompasses our desire to facilitate spaces for discussions about queer and trans issues in distinct areas of scholarship and everyday life.

By recognizing the unique set of identities throughout the broader LGBTQ+ community, the Kenyon Queer and Trans Studies Conference proudly offers drop-in networking/socializing spaces for both queer and trans femme-identified people and people of color. These dedicated spaces are offered with the intent of creating intersectional spaces exclusive to attendees who may want intra-community discussions throughout the day.

Finally, the Kenyon Queer and Trans Studies Conference models itself on practices of equity building in a number of ways. By making this conference free, we hope to eliminate some economic barriers that may prohibit students from attending. When offered in-person, we also consciously select to offer a free breakfast and lunch, given that food insecurity is often an issue in marginalized communities. Lastly, we have also made a conscious effort to only utilize accessible spaces both virtually and across our campus, when possible. We hope that these decisions will help you in further enjoying this growing conference at Kenyon College!

# SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

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## Friday, April 9

5:00pm - 5:45pm EDT \_\_\_\_ Virtual Welcome and Overview of Day 1 via YouTube

6:00pm - 6:45pm EDT \_\_\_\_ Session 1 via Zoom

7:00pm - 8:00pm EDT \_\_\_\_ HIV Prevention Panel via GoTo Webinar

## Saturday, April 10

10:00am - 10:45am EDT \_\_\_\_ Virtual Overview of Day 2 via YouTube

11:00am - 11:45am EDT \_\_\_\_ Session 2 via Zoom

12:00pm - 12:45pm EDT \_\_\_\_ Session 3 via Zoom

1:00pm - 2:00pm EDT \_\_\_\_ Lunch Break

2:00pm - 2:45pm EDT \_\_\_\_ Session 4 via Zoom

3:00pm - 3:45pm EDT \_\_\_\_ Keynote Address via Zoom

4:00 - 4:45pm EDT \_\_\_\_ Session 5 via Zoom

5:00 - 5:45pm EDT \_\_\_\_ Meet-Up Group 1

6:00 - 6:45pm EDT \_\_\_\_ Meet-Up Group 2

# SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE, CONT.

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## Sunday, April 11

10:00am - 10:45am EDT \_\_\_\_ Virtual Overview of Day 3 via YouTube

11:00am - 11:45am EDT \_\_\_\_ Session 6 via Zoom

12:00pm - 12:45pm EDT \_\_\_\_ Session 7 via Zoom

1:00pm - 2:00pm EDT \_\_\_\_ Lunch Break

1:00pm - 3:00pm EDT \_\_\_\_ Legal Clinic via Zoom

2:00pm - 2:45pm EDT \_\_\_\_ Aromanticism Panel via Facebook

3:00pm - 3:45pm EDT \_\_\_\_ Session 8 via Zoom

4:00pm - 4:45pm EDT \_\_\_\_ Session 9 via Zoom

5:00pm - 5:30pm EDT \_\_\_\_ Closing Plenary via Zoom

## Important Reminders

- All times listed in the conference program and online are in EDT.
- On the morning of each day of the conference, specific links will be emailed to the address that you used to register.
- Closed captions are provided in all virtual spaces, but Otter.ai is our recommended back-up in the event of a technology access issue.

# VIRTUAL WELCOME AND OVERVIEW OF DAY 1 (5:00PM-5:45PM EDT)

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To mark the start of our 2021 program, members of the conference organizing committee will host a virtual welcome session to briefly discuss the purpose of the conference and a brief overview of its history.

Additionally, various members of the conference organizing committee will also share some insights on virtual sessions that are upcoming for the day, and they'll also highlight some of the resources provided to our conference attendees.

During this asynchronous session, members of the conference organizing committee will also provide an overview of the surprise raffles--featuring prizes from qc2b, We Are Fluids Cosmetics, Kenyon College, and more--that will be held during the first day of the conference.

In short, you won't want to miss this informative and fun session, where we'll be celebrating the start to the 2nd biennial Kenyon Queer and Trans Studies Conference--the state of Ohio's largest LGBTQ+ student conference!

# SESSION 1 (6:00PM-6:45PM EDT)

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## Visual and Performing Arts (cross-listed with Healthcare and Technology)

**Title:** Surviving Mental Health Self-Advocacy: A Guide to Affirmative Counseling and Art Therapy

**Synopsis:** Page 29

**Featuring:** Elena Nail (she/they/any) and Madeline VanHorn (she/her)

## Community Interest

**Title:** Gender? I Barely Even Know Her: The Intersections of Gender Identity and Neurodiversity

**Synopsis:** Page 29

**Featuring:** Kai Davis (they/them)

# HIV PREVENTION PANEL (7:00PM-8:00PM EDT)

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To ensure access to resources at the conference, we have coordinated a panel on HIV prevention, as we aren't able to provide free HIV testing in a virtual setting.

This resource is being provided by the Equitas Health Institute, as they regularly provide community-facing events and programs focused on LGBTQ+ and HIV+ health equity. We encourage all interested attendees to register for and attend this panel discussion to learn more about HIV prevention, U = U, and much more.

If you'd like to check your HIV status and you reside in Ohio, Equitas Health also offers free at-home HIV tests via the OHIV Program. To obtain a free at-home HIV test, simply visit the OHIV Program's website at [OHIV.org](http://OHIV.org), where you can request to have one mailed to you.

If you requested a conference kit to be mailed to you, you'll also find free safer sex supplies and additional information about pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in your package. Please feel free to use this information to encourage discussions about HIV prevention in your respective communities.

Equitas Health and the OHIV Program have information about a number of other topics related to HIV prevention and treatment. For more information about this, please visit their respective websites.



**Equitas Health  
Institute**

# VIRTUAL OVERVIEW OF DAY 2 (10:00AM-10:45AM EDT)

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Members of the conference organizing committee will host a virtual welcome session for the second day of the conference.

In this session, various members will highlight some of the day's upcoming virtual sessions, and they'll also highlight some of the resources provided to our conference attendees.

During this asynchronous session, members of the conference organizing committee will also provide an overview of the surprise raffles--featuring prizes from qc2b, We Are Fluide Cosmetics, Kenyon College, and more--that will be held during the second day of the conference.

And finally, they'll also share some insights about this year's keynote speaker--Dr. Travis Chi Wing Lau (he/him), who is an Assistant Professor of English at Kenyon College.

In short, you won't want to miss this informative and fun session to start off the second day of the Kenyon Queer and Trans Studies Conference!



# SESSION 2 (11:00AM-11:45AM EDT)

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## Healthcare and Technology

Title: Belongingness in the Trans Community: A Psychological Study

Synopsis: Page 30

Featuring: Bethany Gen (they/them) and Avery Grace (she/her)

## Visual and Performing Arts

Title: Representing the Positive Body in "Equipped" by Ray Navarro

Synopsis: Page 30

Featuring: Sarah Pazen (she/her)

# SESSION 3 (12:00PM-12:45PM EDT)

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## Humanities and Popular Culture

Title: 'Coming Out' in the Modern Novel

Synopsis: Page 31

Featuring: Stephanie Brooks (she/her)

## Politics, Society, and the Law

Title: 'I Refuse to be an Anomaly': Trans Surveillance Practices in a Neoliberal Security State

Synopsis: Page 31

Featuring: Finn Johnson (he/him)

# SESSION 4 (2:00PM-2:45PM EDT)

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## Politics, Society, and the Law

Title: Cruising the Queen City: News Coverage of Public Sex in Cincinnati from 1960 to 2010

Synopsis: Page 32

Featuring: Kyle Shupe (he/him)

## Community Interest

Title: From Living in Fear Towards Living Queer: A Workshop on Trauma-Informed Queer Space Making

Synopsis: Page 32

Featuring: Gene Dockery (they/them) and Alyx McLuckie (they/them)

# KEYNOTE ADDRESS (3:00PM-3:45PM EDT)

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Our keynote address will be delivered by Dr. Travis Chi Wing Lau (he/him), and his address will center around the importance and impact of queer and trans studies in today's sociopolitical climate, while also making connections to his current scholarship and poetic work on disability's relationship to queerness.

Dr. Travis Chi Wing Lau completed his Ph.D. in English at The University of Pennsylvania and is currently Assistant Professor of English at Kenyon College. His research and teaching focus on eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British literature and culture, health humanities, and disability studies. Lau is currently working on a book manuscript entitled *Insecure Immunity: Inoculation and Anti-Vaccination, 1720-1898*, which explores the British cultural history of immunity and vaccination and the rise of the security state in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Alongside his scholarship, Lau frequently writes for venues of public scholarship like *Synopsis: A Journal of Health Humanities*, *Public Books*, *Lapham's Quarterly*, and *The Los Angeles Review of Books*. His poetry has appeared in *Barren Magazine*, *Wordgathering*, *Glass*, *South Carolina Review*, *Foglifter*, and *The New Engagement*, as well as in two chapbooks, *The Bone Setter* (Damaged Goods Press, 2019) and *Paring* (Finishing Line Press, 2020). [travisclau.com].



# SESSION 5 (4:00PM-4:45PM EDT)

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## Healthcare and Technology

Title: Queering the Birthing Body (During a Pandemic)

Synopsis: Page 33

Featuring: Zoe Fawcett Freggens (she/they)

## Humanities and Popular Culture

Title: Two-Spirit Daimonics: (Re)Membering Karuk Knowledge-making to Craft  
Indigequeer Futures

Synopsis: Page 33

Featuring: Leece Oliver LaRue (they/we)

# QUEER & TRANS POC MEET-UP (5:00PM-5:45PM EDT)

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Attendees, who identify as queer and/or trans people of color, have an opportunity to network and collaborate with other attendees who also share that identity.

A loosely structured meet-up session is being hosted by QTPOC at Kenyon and Unity House, and the purpose is to ensure that meaningful intra-community connections are made for our attendees who identify as queer and/or trans people of color.

Conference volunteers, who also share this identity, will be present to assist with the maintenance of this space. While this year's conference setting is virtual, our conference volunteers have worked to make this session as interactive and meaningful as possible.

**Note:** This meet-up is reserved for people who identify as queer and/or trans people of color. Other attendees, who do not share this identity, are asked to respect this designated space by not attending this session.



# WHITE ANTI-RACIST MEET-UP (5:00PM-5:45PM EDT)

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Attendees, who are white queer and/or trans people, have an opportunity to network and collaborate with other attendees who also share that identity.

A loosely structured meet-up session is being hosted by Unity House, and the purpose is to ensure that meaningful intra-community connections are made for our attendees who can leverage their own white privilege against white supremacy.

Conference volunteers, who also share this identity, will be present to assist with the maintenance of this space. While this year's conference setting is virtual, our conference volunteers have worked to make this session as interactive and meaningful as possible.



# QUEER & TRANS FEMME MEET-UP (6:00PM-6:45PM EDT)

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Attendees, who identify as queer and/or trans femme people, have an opportunity to network and collaborate with other attendees who also share that identity.

A loosely structured meet-up session is being hosted by the Crozier Center for Women and QDubs, and the purpose is to ensure that meaningful intra-community connections are made for our attendees who identify as queer and/or trans femme people.

Conference volunteers, who also share this identity, will be present to assist with the maintenance of this space. While this year's conference setting is virtual, our conference volunteers have worked to make this session as interactive and meaningful as possible.

Note: This meet-up is reserved for femme-identifying queer and/or trans people. Other attendees, who do not share this identity, are asked to respect this designated space by not attending this session.





# SOLIDARITY WITH FEMMES MEET-UP (6:00PM-6:45PM EDT)

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Attendees, who do not identify as queer and/or trans femme people, have an opportunity to network and collaborate with other attendees who also share that identity.

A loosely structured meet-up session is being hosted by Unity House and the Queer Masculinities Society, and the purpose is to ensure that meaningful intra-community connections are made for our attendees who can leverage their own privilege against femmephobia and related oppressions.

Conference volunteers, who also share this identity, will be present to assist with the maintenance of this space. While this year's conference setting is virtual, our conference volunteers have worked to make this session as interactive and meaningful as possible.



# VIRTUAL OVERVIEW OF DAY 3 (10:00AM-10:45AM EDT)

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Members of the conference organizing committee will host a virtual welcome session for the third and final day of the conference.

In this session, various members will highlight some of the day's upcoming virtual sessions, and they'll also highlight some of the resources provided to our conference attendees.

During this asynchronous session, members of the conference organizing committee will also provide an overview of the surprise raffles--featuring prizes from qc2b, We Are Fluide Cosmetics, Kenyon College, and more--that will be held during the third day of the conference.

And finally, they'll also share some insights about this year's closing plenary speaker--Ashton Colby (he/him), who is the founder of Gender YouPhoria.

In short, you won't want to miss this informative and fun session to start off the final day of the Kenyon Queer and Trans Studies Conference!

# SESSION 6 (11:00AM-11:45AM EDT)

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## Politics, Society, and the Law

Title: Out in the Courtroom and Classroom: Gay and Lesbian Professors and the Legal Battle for Inclusion

Synopsis: Page 34

Featuring: Adam Kocurek (he/him)

## Community Interest

Title: Exploring LGBTQ+ Identities in Asian Communities

Synopsis: Page 34

Featuring: Kelly Ha (she/her) and TBA

# SESSION 7 (12:00PM-12:45PM EDT)

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## Healthcare and Technology (cross-listed with Community Interest)

Title: First Queer Counseling: Assessing Your Behavioral Health Provider for Queer and Trans Affirmative Care

Synopsis: Page 35

Featuring: Lyn Alexander (they/them) and Patrick Muro (he/him)

## Community Interest

Title: Small Town Queers: The Presence of LGBTQIA+ Community Building in Rural, Southern Spaces

Synopsis: Page 35

Featuring: Hayden Nolan (he/they)

# GENDER AND/OR NAME CHANGE CLINIC (1:00PM-3:00PM EDT)

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To ensure access to resources at the conference, we have coordinated a free gender and/or name change clinic. In coordination with volunteer attorneys from across Ohio, this resource is being provided by Equitas Health and TransOhio, who facilitate legal clinics across the state. We encourage all interested attendees to utilize this free resource.

If you'd like to update your name and/or gender marker on state and/or federal documents, simply drop into this virtual clinic anytime during the open hours. As noted in the information shared before the conference, pre-registration is strongly preferred but not required.

The amount of time needed to complete this process is dependent upon everyone's individual situation, and there are multiple attorneys volunteering their time to assist as many people as possible.

TransOhio also has information about scholarship opportunities to assist with the associated costs of updating your name and/or gender on various state and/or federal documents.



# AROMANTICISM PANEL (2:00PM-2:45PM EDT)

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In recognition of the organizing committee's commitment to represent additional LGBTQ+ identities at the conference, we have coordinated a panel discussion on aromantic identities.

This panel discussion is being coordinated by Ace Space and Aro Place (ASAP), which is Kenyon College's asexual and aromantic spectrum student group, and it is being hosted in collaboration with the Ace and Aro Alliance of Central Ohio, which ensures this discussion is available to the broader community. We encourage all interested attendees to attend this panel discussion to learn more about aromantic identities. (Please note that this is being broadcast via social media, so that legal clinic participants may engage this content at a later date.)

If you'd like to learn more about aromantic identities, the Ace and Aro Alliance of Central Ohio has a variety of free resources available. To access these resources, simply visit the Ace and Aro Alliance of Central Ohio's website, where you can download them as desired.

If you requested a conference kit to be mailed to you, you'll also find additional information about both asexual and aromantic identities in your package. Please feel free to use this information to encourage discussions about aromantic inclusion in your respective communities.



ACE + ARO  
ALLIANCE OF  
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# SESSION 8 (3:00PM-3:45PM EDT)

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## Healthcare and Technology

Title: **Select Your Gender: Current Issues and Potential Solutions in Data Representation and Collection in Health Care**

Synopsis: **Page 36**

Featuring: **Clair Kronk (she/her)**

## Humanities and Popular Culture (cross-listed with Politics, Society, and the Law)

Title: **Gaga for MAGA: Conservative LGBT Media and Politics**

Synopsis: **Page 36**

Featuring: **Francesca Petronio (she/they)**

# SESSION 9 (4:00PM-4:45PM EDT)

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## Healthcare and Technology (cross-listed with Community Interest)

Title: Aging in the LGBTQ+ Community

Synopsis: Page 37

Featuring: Aleister Avenmarch (he/they)

## Community Interest

Title: COVID-19 and Queer and Trans Student Housing

Synopsis: Page 37

Featuring: Mattie Schaefer (they/them), Max Cordes Galbraith (he/they), and  
Jeremy Torres (he/they)



# CLOSING PLENARY SESSION (5:00PM-5:30PM EDT)

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To conclude the conference, our closing plenary session will be delivered by Ashton Colby (he/him), founder of Gender Youphoria. His address will center upon trauma-informed, mindfulness-based emotional resilience tools that everyone can use to find balance in today's world. These practices are tailored with LGBTQ+ experience in mind, and attendees can expect to leave this session feeling both uplifted and empowered.

Ashton is a social entrepreneur, trauma-informed yoga teacher, and conscious creative reimagining what it means to be transgender. His social enterprise Gender YOUphoria is a lifestyle and education company focused on creating new possibility models for transgender experience. He speaks on integrative health topics to doctors and helps major brands craft authentic LGBTQ+ media representation. Ashton is a TEDxColumbus speaker, and his advocacy has been featured by *People*, *Today*, *Columbus CEO Magazine*, and more. He is an unwavering mentor and coach for LGBTQ entrepreneurship. He is on advisor board for LE.A.P. LGBTQ Entrepreneurship Accelerator Program and Pride Fund 1, which is a venture capital fund for LGBTQ founders.



# OUR CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS

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**Our conference organizing committee consists of the following representatives from Kenyon College:**

- Lena Alpern, Member of the Program Planning Sub-Committee and Co-Facilitator of Ace Space and Aro Place
- Dr. Timothy R. Bussey (they/them), Chair of the Conference Organizing Committee and Associate Director, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Rory Dreyfus (he/him), Member of the Program Planning Sub-Committee and Co-Manager of Unity House
- Alex Felleson, Member of the Proposal Review Committee and Co-Facilitator of oSTEM
- Willow Green (they/them), Member of the Conference Organizing Committee and Co-Facilitator of Gender Group
- Nyandeng Juag (she/her), Member of the Proposal Review Sub-Committee and Co-Facilitator of Ace Space and Aro Place (ASAP)
- Jess Karan (she/they), Member of the Program Planning Sub-Committee and Co-Facilitator of QDubs
- Lilia Leroy-Bell (she/they), Member of the Conference Organizing Committee and Co-Manager of the Crozier Center for Women
- Morgan Paik (she/they), Member of the Conference Organizing Committee and Co-Facilitator of the Queer and Trans Literary Society
- Ceci Rodriguez (they/them), Member of the Proposal Review Sub-Committee and Co-Manager of the Crozier Center for Women
- Micah Smith (they/he), Member of the Program Planning Sub-Committee and Co-Manager of Unity House

# OUR CAMPUS CO-SPONSORS

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This conference was organized by the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Our campus co-sponsors include the following departments, groups, and organizations from Kenyon College: Ace Space and Aro Place (ASAP), the Crozier Center for Women; Gender Group; the Kenyon College Bookstore; the LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee; the Office of Student Accessibility and Support Services; oSTEM at Kenyon; QDubs; QTPOC at Kenyon; Queer Masculinities Society; Unity House; and the Women's and Gender Studies Program.

Funding for this conference was provided in part by the Kenyon College Community Development Fund and the Student LGBTQ+ Diversity Fund.

**Kenyon**

Office of  
**Diversity, Equity  
and Inclusion**

# OUR COMMUNITY CO-SPONSORS

Our community co-sponsors, who are providing services, support, and/or other contributions to this conference and its attendees, include the following:



ACE + ARO  
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# OUR COMMUNITY CO-SPONSORS, CONT.

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Our community co-sponsors, who are providing contributions to the conference mailers and raffle, include the following:



# OUR CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS FOR DAY 1 (SESSION 1)

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## - Surviving Mental Health Self-Advocacy: A Guide to Affirmative Counseling and Art Therapy

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders had listed homosexuality and later ego-dystonic homosexuality as a mental disorder until the third revised edition in 1987 (2 ed.; American Psychiatric Association [APA], 1973). Despite the removal of homosexuality as a mental disorder, disaffirming therapies, such as conversion therapy, have continued to plague the clinical mental health field. This makes navigating access to affirmative mental health services increasingly more challenging for the LGBTQ+ community. Affirmative therapy is briefly defined as an approach that embraces a positive view of LGBTQ+ clients and their relationships, and addresses the negative effects of oppressive forces in their lives (Ginicola, M.M., et al., 2017). This presentation will include information on the historical actions that continue to impact current counseling and art therapy settings, what affirmative counseling and art therapy is, how to identify and access affirmative mental health services, and how to self-advocate within the therapeutic setting.

## - Gender? I Barely Even Know Her: The Intersections of Gender Identity and Neurodiversity

On average, neurodivergent people are statistically more likely to be transgender, nonbinary, or gender non-conforming than neurotypical individuals. This presentation will explore this link, while also examining the experiences of people who find themselves at this intersection, and some of the potential explanations for this connection. There will also be an opportunity for neurodivergent audience members to share their own experiences exploring gender identity and expression.

# OUR CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS FOR DAY 2 (SESSION 2)

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## - Belongingness in the Trans Community: A Psychological Study

Transgender, non-binary, and gender-nonconforming/gender-diverse (TNG) individuals experience oppression at elevated rates. As a result, they also experience higher rates of depression, anxiety, substance use, suicidality, non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI), and disordered eating compared to their cisgender peers. However, TNG individuals are some of the least studied populations in psychology research and face large and often systemic barriers to mental health care. The existing literature is rarely inclusive and often ignores the voices of the TNG community. Further, psychology as a field has a long history of pathologizing queer and trans people and causing harm. With this in mind, we turn to liberation psychology as it provides a framework that shifts from focusing on the individual to understanding the causal relationship between systemic oppression and mental health. This study examines the role of TNG community support as a specific potential protective factor against transphobic discrimination. We found that feelings of belongingness in the trans community are associated with higher resiliency and emotional support as a coping mechanism. Thus, feelings of belonging in the trans community can serve as a protective factor in multiple ways for TNG individuals. We preliminarily validated the Trans Community Belongingness Scale (TCBS), indicating that this is a useful tool for serving trans populations and further empirically supporting the importance of trans-specific mental health care.

## - Representing the Positive Body in "Equipped" by Ray Navarro

This presentation provides an overview of Ray Navarro's career as a self-described "HIV-positive Chicano gay man from Simi Valley, California" ("Eso, me está pasando," 1990). His artistic work and activism contests the hegemony of white American culture and the Catholic Church, as well as the marginalization and prejudices against queer people within Chicanx culture in the late 20th century. Drawing upon the perspectives of writers such as Kevin Michael DeLuca in his essay "Unruly Arguments: The Body Rhetoric of Earth First!, Act Up, and Queer Nation" and Debra Levine's "Another Kind of Love: A Performance of Prosthetic Politics," this presentation discusses Navarro's work and his portrayal of queer Chicanx people, particularly those who are HIV/AIDS positive like himself, and its intersection with disability representation and its stereotypes. This presentation references the depiction of Navarro as Jesus in the protest and ensuing DIVA TV documentary "Like A Prayer" and primarily focuses on his final visual art piece, the triptych "Equipped" and its corresponding structural elements. In this piece, Navarro reclaims the representation of the HIV-positive body to change the stigmatization of queer, disabled, positive Chicanxs at the time and deconstructs the notion that queer and positive Chicanx people are entirely victims of their conditions or homophobia. "Equipped" functions as a self portrait, and due to his choice to not depict his own body directly, he subverts homophobic stereotypes and prejudices of popular forms of representation for queer, positive people. This presentation and its essay were originally presented in Spanish.

# OUR CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS FOR DAY 2 (SESSION 3)

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## - 'Coming Out' in the Modern Novel

This presentation is derived from my undergraduate thesis on the coming out plot in young adult novels. The thesis focused on *Simon vs the Homo Sapiens Agenda*, by Becky Albertalli, and *The Miseducation of Cameron Post*, by Emily M. Danforth. Through this examination, the presentation hopes to further understanding about why the coming out plot—which was initially an adult genre—came to be adopted by a younger audience and consider the impacts of popular YA novels featuring a coming out narrative. It is my contention that the YA novels follow general trends and as people come out at younger ages, the novels follow. With that said, in the near future, the popularity of YA coming out novels will lead to more novels featuring more main characters of the LGBTQ+ spectrum. This presentation ultimately asserts that these books are gradually beginning to represent and model the varied experiences of queer American youth.

## - 'I Refuse to be an Anomaly': Trans Surveillance Practices in a Neoliberal Security State

Trans surveillance practices in the United States have become increasingly normalized and prioritized amongst national security agencies such as the Transportation Security Administration, the National Security Administration, the Department of Vital Statistics, the Department of Revenue, the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Motor Vehicles, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Post-9/11, the United States government created and promoted policies and procedures that worked to position some bodies, particularly those of people of color and trans\* people, outside of the boundaries of normalcy and citizenship and in turn created the idea of “anomaly bodies” as national security threats. By connecting the present to the racialized and gendered colonial project of identity classification from our not so long ago past, I outline how transphobia and fear of the sexual and gendered “other” is embedded in American political ideologies as a result of white supremacy and colonialism. This presentation explores how trans surveillance practices have impacted the trans\* community in the United States, and the ways in which they can safely transition and exist within a culture that privileges neoliberal forms of identity policing and identification.



# OUR CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS FOR DAY 2 (SESSION 4)

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## - Cruising the Queen City: News Coverage of Public Sex in Cincinnati, 1960-2020

I conduct a historical comparative analysis of 137 local news articles on men's cruising for public sex in Cincinnati, OH and the surrounding areas. Comparing reports on cruising over time, I examine how journalists depict it as a social problem between 1960 and 2020. I find that news coverage tends to represent cruising as an issue of criminal sexual indecency. However, reporters' narratives shift over time with the majority of coverage in the 1970s-80s emphasizing police "crackdowns on homosexuals" participating in illegal and immoral sex practices in city parks or public restrooms (i.e., sodomy, public indecency); whereas more recent reports are sporadic, ignore cruisers' sexual identities, and emphasize sensational arrests (e.g., Catholic priest or high school teacher). Despite these thematic changes in coverage, reporters continue to depict cruising and public sex as an unequivocal threat to people who use public space for socially sanctioned means, especially families and children. Over time, reporting on cruising and public sex becomes less about gay men, although the perceived social harms of cruising remain the same. I argue the explicit disassociation of homosexuality from cruising in local news coverage of public sex is related to three trends: 1) the normalization of gay identity; 2) the national mainstreaming of LGBTQ rights and the liberalization of local politics, including nondiscrimination ordinances; and 3) diminishing support from local gay activist organizations for men arrested while cruising. However, I argue subtle forms of homophobia still shape news coverage, including mentions of Grindr as a facilitator of public sex.

## - From Living in Fear Towards Living Queer: A Workshop on Trauma-informed Queer Space Making

Research shows that trauma occurs at higher rates among LGBTQIA+ individuals. Trauma is often exacerbated by social rejection and isolation. Therefore, having safe and affirming community spaces can make a substantial difference in wellbeing and general life outcomes for queer individuals. Trauma-informed care provides a helpful framework for intentional queer space making. The trauma-informed lens can be especially important when addressing the intersectionality of queer identities. Trauma-informed care is an approach to interaction with roots in social work that recognizes individuals and groups are affected by trauma, and this trauma impacts how they view and interact with the world. By incorporating trauma-informed care practices in queer spaces, our communities will become more accessible and inclusive. This session will provide a brief history of trauma-informed care, followed by practical examples of its implementation across a variety of contexts.

# OUR CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS FOR DAY 2 (SESSION 5)

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## - Queering the Birthing Body (During a Pandemic)

There is a long and pervasive history of conflating ‘womanhood’ and ‘motherhood’ in the contexts of human reproduction. Expectations (and privileging) of certain femininities and “what it means to be a woman,” leads to a narrow depiction of what pregnancy (and those who do and don’t go through it) should look like. What happens when those roles and identities diverge from the standards you tend to expect? This presentation examines the ways in which not-conventionally-feminine pregnancies and births (and the individuals going through them) navigate their associated medical and/or midwifery care. In this presentation, special attention is given to a subsample of respondents that were actively or very recently pregnant at the time of their participation in the research, in order to share how an unexpected global pandemic (COVID-19) also impacted their pregnancies—in both positive and negative ways.

## - Two-Spirit Daimonics: (Re)Membering Karuk Knowledge-making to Craft Indigequeer Futures

This mini-lecture seeks to offer an alterNative (Harjo 2019) epistemology and ontology to understandings of gender variance and multiplicity through the traditional and ongoing knowledge formation of the Karuk Tribe of the Klamath River Nations. As a Two-Spirit, trans\*, nonbinary Indigequeer youth and future elder, I use this work as a means of reconnecting and (re)membering the vast knowledges embedded within the place-based lifeworld of my culture which have been brutally attacked and attemptedly disappeared by Spanish colonizers during first contacts and continually desecrated by Western social and religious traditions today. Utilizing archival curation and original methodology regarding the uniqueness of Two-Spirit N2ition due to our cultural and spiritual roles as community guides across major forms of change and growth through life and being, I offer an Otherwise (King, Navarro, Smith 2019) articulation of what un/gendered being and becoming can take when we rely on Indigenous and Black understandings of what it means to be with/in a gendered embodiment.

# OUR CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS FOR DAY 3 (SESSION 6)

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## - Out in the Courtroom and Classroom: Gay and Lesbian Professors and the Legal Battle for Inclusion

This presentation will be on a recently completed research paper by Adam Kocurek. The presentation will explore the lived experiences and legal enterprises taken on by LGBT+ faculty since the 1970s. Adam has gone through case files, newspaper articles, and other textual sources from the past 5 decades in an attempt to chart how LGBT+ professors have historically used the court system to seek personal justice and community advancement, advocating for themselves as marginalized scholars and workers. Since the 1970s, as LGBT+ professors have turned to judicial and legal mechanisms to fight discrimination in the academy, their legal strategies and tactics changed, coinciding with the broader movement for LGBT+ rights in the American political discourse as well as shifting worker crusades and labor battles against heightening neoliberalism. The presentation addresses a wide range of faculty profiles and geographies, ultimately concluding during the Bush years. Trained as a labor and cultural historian, this is Adam's first foray with legal history, and he is eager to receive constructive feedback.

## - Exploring LGBTQ+ Identities in Asian Communities

#IAmNotAVirus presents a panel discussion with a Q&A to explore our participants' experiences with their Asian and LGBTQ+ identities. We will explore topics of self-worth/self-esteem, mental health journey, Asian experience, and how their identities have impacted them.

# OUR CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS FOR DAY 3 (SESSION 7)

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## - First Queer Counseling: Assessing Your Behavioral Health Provider for Queer and Trans Affirmative Care

How do you find a queer and transgender affirming behavioral health provider? This workshop will discuss tools to help find a mental health provider. Participants will learn what questions to ask a provider and what to look for when finding a provider. This workshop will explain the difference among various mental health providers and level of care options. Participants will learn about the signs of when they need to terminate a provider and how to terminate their provider.

## - Small Town Queers: The Presence of LGBTQIA+ Community Building in Rural, Southern Spaces

Queer studies is a diverse and theoretically rich multidisciplinary field. Amidst this breadth of scope, a great deal of scholarship focuses on the lives of LGBTQIA+ individuals in major metropolitan areas, particularly those outside of the Southeastern United States (but see Gray 2009). Indeed Gray's discussion of the subversion of cities as "queer utopias" (Gray 2009) is the driving idea behind my research. However, within these studies of rural queers, there is typically a focus on LGBTQIA+ identities as related to sexualities rather than gender identities. The results of my research on the intersection of queer experiences in the rural Southeastern United States considered from an anthropological lens is an area that I discuss in this presentation. The purpose of this research is to explore whether or not Gender Non-Conforming (GNC) individuals from rural spaces throughout the southeastern United States negotiate family relations and build community in these regions/within their hometowns or whether this community formation occurs elsewhere. These regions not only have particularly problematic histories with racialized violence, but also broadly celebrate norms and cultural practices which reinforce heteronormative standards of behavior and interaction. While the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have put constraints on the focus of participants solely from the rural, southeastern United States, participants from other regions were invited to discuss their perspectives on such regional cultural comparisons.

# OUR CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS FOR DAY 3 (SESSION 8)

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## - Select Your Gender: Current Issues and Potential Solutions in Data Representation and Collection in Health Care

Almost every trans and gender-diverse person has that dreaded moment where they are handed a form or survey: “What’s your gender?” What is the context? What information is being asked for? What is the individual or organization expecting? Am I being excluded or being othered? Who designed it this way and why? In December 2020, @GenderRate opened an account on Twitter, collecting dozens of the worst ways to ask, including everything from “transgender” alongside “male” and “female” to “transsexual” as a sexual orientation. Over the past few decades, many systems have been proposed, most of which do not include direct trans and gender-diverse representation. Today, that trend unfortunately continues. What are some of the most common pitfalls and how do we avoid them? How does one harmonize the disparate worlds of health care and gender studies with the inevitable mismatch of theory and reality? How does colonization contribute to the conversation? We will discuss some of the best and worst systems past and present and have a facilitated discussion about current best practices in the field, from the perspectives of patients, medical providers, and researchers.

## - Gaga for MAGA: Conservative LGBT Media and Politics

LGBT branded programming, aimed specifically at queer teenagers, is a genre which reveals decades of shifting Overton windows in the raging culture wars of race, gender and sexuality. In true Foucauldian fashion, these shifts appear to be polyvalent in nature, swinging like a pendulum between themes of pride and shame, light and dark, the center and the margins. This polyvalence is often replicated in politics, eliciting the experience of alienation and the sensation of a time warp. While previous studies with gravitas have examined, for example, the post-industrial landscape of the Midwest, stagnant wages, white male aggrievement and anti-establishment populism, this presentation turns to lowbrow culture and the role of nostalgia in identity crisis, reactionary politics and the rise of Trump. Using an interdisciplinary approach grounded in queer studies, political science and television studies, this presentation connects the recent proliferation of reboots of popular television shows from the 90s and early 2000s, to the politics of nostalgia and the rise of Donald Trump. A thorough analysis of “gay-positive” and “post-gay” programming reveals the disintegration of intergenerational and ideologically unified queer community. The close-viewing of several television series is followed by a case study of the #WalkAway movement, in their words, the exodus of Black, Hispanic and LGBT former liberals who now identify as Trump supporters. This interdisciplinary analysis reveals the role of trauma as a precursor to political activism, as well as the larger role of nostalgia in variant queer temporalities and reactionary populist movements.

# OUR CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS FOR DAY 3 (SESSION 9)

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## - Aging in the LGBTQ+ Community

Aging adults who belong to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and other sexual and gender minority (LGBTQ+) community experience significant health disparities compared to their cisgender, heterosexual counterparts. Barriers to their care include distrust of the medical community, a lack of cultural humility and competence within the medical community, and high rates of discrimination from medical providers. Only 22% of LGBTQ+ older adults feel they can be open with their long-term care staff and medical professionals about things relating to their identity. Drawing from current research and policy, this presentation utilizes a minority stress theoretical approach to explore opportunities for growth within the field of aging as well as evidence-based ways to reduce the rates of health disparities among LGBTQ+ older adults. Research and practice recommendations to eliminate barriers to health equity for LGBTQ+ older adults will be explored.

## - COVID-19 and Queer and Trans Student Housing

This interactive presentation focuses on Queer and Trans (QT) students who identify the COVID-19 pandemic as having a significant effect on their housing situation. As nonbinary researchers, we recognize the importance of narrative space for trans and nonbinary students. In the fall of 2020, we collected survey responses and narratives from QT students from various institutions on how they decide(d) where to live during the fall 2020 semester. We also examined the impact their housing choice has on their feelings of safety and access to queer, trans, and nonbinary community. Our data showed many Trans students experienced hardship when the number of housing options decreased, forcing them into uncomfortable and less safe housing options. In this presentation, we will be engaging the audience in their experiences finding housing and providing housing and community support. We challenge the audience to consider their role in supporting the Queer and Trans community and challenging the institutional policies and practices that disproportionately impact Queer and Trans students.

# OUR CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

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Listed in alphabetical order by surname, our conference presenters include the following:

Lyn Alexander (they/them) is a MSW/MPA candidate from the University of Connecticut. They identify within the queer community and are behavioral health clinician-in-training.

Aleister Avenmarch (he/they) is an advocate for health equity among LGBTQ+ older adults. They are currently enrolled in The Ohio State University's MSW Program, concentrating in health and aging. Aleister's efforts are grounded in love, vulnerability, and curiosity; sharing their own experiences and listening carefully to hear the diverse experiences of others.

Stephanie Brooks (she/her) is graduating from the University of Vermont's Master's English program this spring. Her hobbies include reading and knitting.

Kai Davis (they/them) is a third-year student at The College of Wooster, where they are pursuing a double major in Psychology and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. When they aren't in the classroom, Kai enjoys reading books, listening to podcasts, and helping to fight back against the many injustices in our world.

Gene Dockery (they/them) is working towards a PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision at Ohio University. Their research focuses on identity development in individuals who have multiple minority identities, addressing systems of oppression in higher education and in mental health care, and advocacy for marginalized groups.

Zoe Fawcett Freggens (she/they) is a sociologist of gender, sexuality, and health. She is currently in the process of (remotely) completing the dissertation portion of her PhD program in Sociology at Georgia State University. She resides in Columbus, OH with her spouse and their three cats.

Max Cordes Galbraith (he/they) is a queer, trans, and genderqueer cyclist, plant lover, language nerd, and kombucha brewer. Professionally, Max is a grad student studying Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration at the University of Vermont and works as a hearing computational linguist for a Deaf company working to create an automated ASL translation app.

Bethany Gen (they/them) is a fourth-year Psychology and Politics double major from Sacramento, CA. They are the captain of the Oberlin soccer team, and love gardening, vegan cooking, making art, and being outdoors! They plan to pursue clinical psychology after graduation.

# OUR CONFERENCE PRESENTERS, CONT.

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Avery Grace (she/her) is a fourth-year at Oberlin College majoring in Psychology and minoring in Hispanic studies and Gender Sexuality and Feminist Studies. She plans to pursue Social Work with a focus on adolescent development and support. She is invested in bilingual services, working with marginalized populations, and near-peer mentorship.

Kelly Ha (she/hers) is currently pursuing her Masters of Social Work from the University of Connecticut as well as her Certificate in Foundations of Public Health. She is also the Campaign Manager for #IAmNotAVirus. Her passions lay in mental health, public health, and child welfare.

Finn Johnson (he/him) is a queer and trans master's student in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Oregon State University. His work predominately focuses on trans studies, queer studies, southern queer studies, and transnational sexuality studies. Finn currently lives in Portland, OR, but grew up in Louisiana and Texas.

Adam Kocurek (he/him) is a PhD candidate in American History at The CUNY Graduate Center. He is progressing in the Women's Studies Certificate Program through the Women's and Gender Studies program at The Graduate Center, and teaches American History at Hunter College.

Clair Kronk (she/her) is a Ph.D. candidate in biomedical informatics at the University of Cincinnati. She is the creator of the first LGBTQIA+ controlled vocabulary for usage in health care, the Gender, Sex, and Sexual Orientation (GSSO) ontology. She serves on HL7 and SNOMED committees considering sex and gender terminology.

Leece Oliver LaRue (they/we) is a Two-Spirit, Indigequeer, nonbinary, trans\* graduate student and teaching assistant in the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program at Oregon State University. Minoring in Queer Studies and relying on their undergraduate education in Philosophy, their work centers on multigenerational Indigenous Knowledge Production, Formation, and Rematriation, thinking through and working within their community spaces to produce lifegiving change for multiply marginalized people(s).

Alyx McLuckie (they/them) is a doctoral student at Ohio University within the School of Communication Studies. Their research interest predominantly revolves around interpersonal relationships, identity, community violence, and trauma-informed care as a means to recognize how to mitigate institutionalized forms of violence and how everyone, especially educators, can move towards fostering emancipatory and healing spaces within their work.



# OUR CONFERENCE PRESENTERS, CONT.

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Patrick Muro (he/him) is a Masters in Social Work and Public Health candidate from the University of Connecticut. He identifies within the queer community and is a behavioral health clinician-in-training.

Elena Nail (she/they/any) is currently a counseling and art therapy graduate student at Ursuline College. Elena has completed a workshop in LGBTQ+ Affirmative therapies as part of her coursework. They graduated from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology in 2019. She lives in Solon, Ohio with her family, cat, bunny, and blue-tongue skink. They occasionally volunteer at the Cleveland Community Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Their interests include Transformative Justice, Radical Psychology, Neurodiversity, Deaf Culture and ASL, and Queer related topics. They enjoy playing D&D and Animal Crossing.

Hayden Nolan (he/they) is a senior anthropology major and religious studies minor at the College of Wooster. He was born and raised in South Carolina, but absolutely loves the winters here in Ohio. He has been on the College of Wooster's Queer Student Union executive board for the past two and a half years. He loves statistics and his numerous plants.

Sarah Pazen (she/her) is a poet and visual artist from Chicago, Illinois. She is in her third year at Kenyon College, studying Spanish and Chinese Literatures in addition to Socio-Legal Studies and Studio Art. She is a member of HIKA Magazine and Sunset Press and has two cats, Tofu and Odie.

Francesca Petronio (they/them) is a first-year PhD student at Stony Brook University, in the department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Francesca received their BA from Smith College in Psychology and Italian Studies, and an MA in Liberal Studies from The Graduate Center, CUNY. Francesca is interested in para-social interaction, popular culture, youth culture, political engagement, and the construction of identity and community in online spaces.

Mattie Schaefer (they/them) is a queer non-binary student, residential worker, and southerner. Presently, they live with their many unfinished books in Burlington, VT, while completing their M.Ed in Higher Education & Student Affairs.

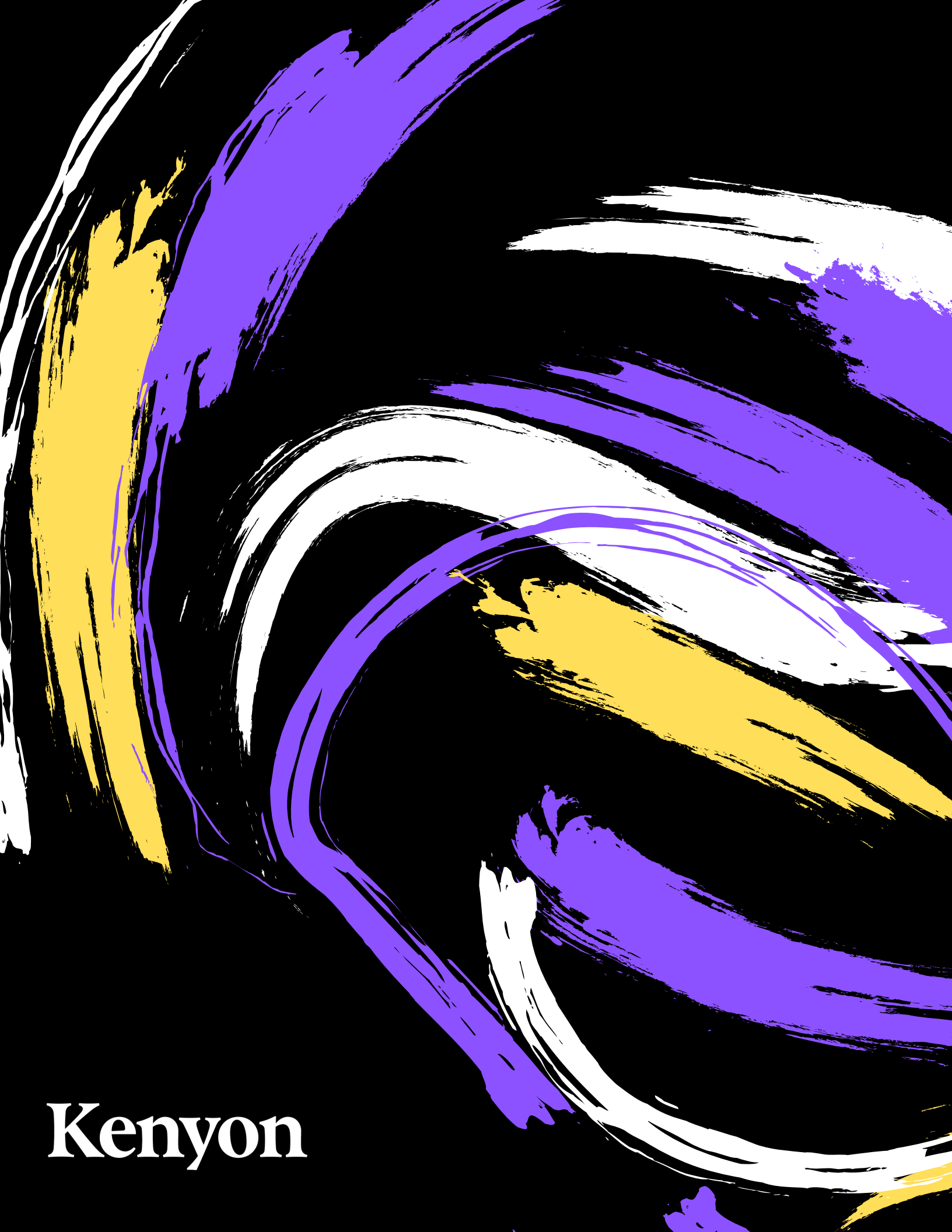
Kyle Shupe (he/him) is a PhD student in Sociology at the University of Cincinnati. He researches sexuality, deviance, surveillance, and space. These broad areas coalesce in his dissertation research project on the practice and surveillance of cruising and public sex by men who have sex with men in Greater Cincinnati.

# OUR CONFERENCE PRESENTERS, CONT.

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Jeremy Torres (he/they) is a Latinx queer person who graduated with a B.A. in Political Science with a concentration in Queer Studies from Denison University. Jeremy currently works as an Assistant Residence Director at the University of Vermont, where he is working on obtaining his master's degree in Higher Education Student Affairs/Administration in the School of Education and Social Services. Before his current role, Jeremy's work specialized in program development that assisted in uplifting queer and trans student populations.

Madeline VanHorn (she/her) is a counseling and art therapy graduate student at Ursuline College near Cleveland, Ohio. She also works at Ursuline College's Women's Center to assist in writing articles on gender issues and helping to coordinate events promoting student wellness. As a part of her training, Madeline learned more about LGBTQ+ affirmative and feminist therapies through educational workshops. She earned her undergraduate degree in child and family development at The University of Akron. Madeline lives in Tallmadge with her partner, three adopted cats, and a cope's gray tree frog.



**Kenyon**