



LTCS 131: THE FUTURE OF QUEER/TRANS HISTORY

Prof. Sal Nicolazzo

M/W 6:30-7:50, Center 203

Applicable to CGS major

Do queer and trans futures depend on visibly queer and trans pasts? How do we narrate histories of gender nonconformity and sexual dissidence that predate the contemporary categories through which these histories resonate as recognizable, powerful, political, or desirable? Do we look for pasts we can identify with, or do we look to the past as a source of productive estrangement from what's familiar today? What do we do with pasts we want to reject? Do the methods developed for theorizing queer history work for thinking through trans history, or do these categories of analysis demand different approaches?

These questions have profoundly shaped queer and trans theory in recent decades, as archives of gender and sexual diversity that predate Stonewall—sometimes by centuries—demand that we generate new methods for theorizing what “queer” and “trans” might mean for an unfamiliar past, while also proposing how the past might help us rethink what we believe about the present. This course centers on theoretical and methodological approaches to queer and trans pasts and the impact of historiography on theoretical conversations about gender and sexuality more broadly. We will read a variety of both classic and recent theoretical texts on queer/trans historical methods, the politics of history, and queer/trans theories of time itself.

