CALL FOR PAPERS

Queer Intimacies

The Seventh Annual DC Queer Studies Symposium
University of Maryland, College Park

Friday, April 25, 2014

Deadline for submission of materials: February 10, 2014

Same-sex lovers touch. Or build a network of ties and commitments based on something other than biological kinship. These are queer intimacies. Trans people navigate a labyrinth of state regulations and religio-cultural codes concerning proper gender conduct in order to craft livable lives. Young LGBT African-American activists take to the streets, the pews, and their kitchen tables to organize support in the black community for a referendum affirming the right to same-sex marriage. These close encounters of bodies, church, community, and state are also queer intimacies.

DC Queer Studies invites proposals for presentations at QUEER INTIMACIES, the 7th Annual DC Queer Studies Symposium at the University of Maryland. The symposium will be a daylong series of conversations in critical queer and gender studies focused on what is happening to queer intimacy as the legal and social status of LGBT people and same-sex relationships undergoes change, in the US and throughout the world. Events will include concurrent paper sessions, a buffet lunch, and an evening reception. The day will culminate with the keynote address by Katherine M. Franke, Isidor and Seville Sulzbacher Professor of Law and director of the Center for Gender and Sexuality Law at Columbia Law School. She was a Guggenheim Foundation Fellow in 2011-2012. She has written numerous articles on the curious role the right to marry plays in larger civil-rights struggles and is completing a book, Wedlocked: How Ex-Slaves and Gay People Thought Marriage Would Set Them Free.

In recognition of the multifaceted aspects and meanings of queer intimacies, we invite papers that explore the topic from a range of perspectives and disciplines. We also encourage proposals that address any of the following (or related) points of contact with this year’s theme:

- Queer Erotics: sex, desire, lust, and pleasure; unsettling and re-writing sexual and bodily identities; bodies and behaviors; HIV/AIDS; queer sexual subcultures; asexuality; art
- Queer Formations: reconsidering what is sexy and sexualizable; meanings and possibilities of family; thinking about and beyond monogamy; queer parenting/parenting queerly; ally activism
- Forced Intimacy: uneasy collaborations and tensions between people and the state (poverty; incarceration; military; schools; marriage; immigration); public safety and policing; queer sexual violence; mandating equality through legislation
- Communities/Technologies of intimacy: intimacy in a digital age; online queer grassroots organizing; grindr; tumblr; chat rooms; live webcam videos
- Revolutions/Resistances: practicing radical love as activism; queer kiss-ins; passing, pride, and in/visibility; sexual rights movements

Proposals for 15-minute presentations should include name, affiliation, e-mail address, title of paper, a 250-word abstract, and a 1-2 page CV. Please send materials by e-mail attachment (Word or PDF only) by February 10, 2014 to lgbts-dcqueers@umd.edu. Put “Submission for Queer Intimacies” in the subject line of your message. For more information, contact JV Sapinoso at sapinoso@umd.edu. Selected participants will be notified by March 7, 2014.

DC Queer Studies is a group of faculty from schools in the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area formed in 2006 to discuss new works in the field and to exchange, support, and cultivate new ways of engaging with LGBT/Queer/Sexuality Studies across the disciplines and across institutions. The DC Queer Studies Symposium is hosted and sponsored by the University of Maryland and co-sponsored by American University, George Mason University, Georgetown University, and the George Washington University. See http://www.lgbts.umd.edu for details.