



# Lesbian Lives 2025

New York City  
October 23-26

# Welcome Letter from Julie & Ella



## Welcome to Lesbian Lives 2025 in New York City

Lesbian Lives brings together scholars, activists, artists, and community organizers to center lesbian lives. Over the next two days, hundreds of lesbians will gather to exchange knowledge, participate in workshops across a wide range of topics, engage with scholarly presentations advancing the field of lesbian studies, and experience poetry and literary works celebrating lesbian subjectivities. Lesbian Lives is a space for sharing ideas, making new friends and collaborators, and honoring both our differences and our commonalities. The Lesbian Lives conference did not begin here in New York; it migrated from Ireland. The first gathering took place on February 5, 1994, at University College Dublin as a one-day event organized by the Women's Education Research and Resource Centre (WERRC) and Lesbians Organising Together (LOT), under the guidance of Ailbhe Smyth, Ger Moane, and Rosemary Gibney. As Ger Moane recalls: "We called it Lesbian Lives to mark that this was about 'us'—not an abstract conference on sexuality. To see almost 100 lesbians in the Arts Block in Belfield was amazing for everyone" (Han Tiernan, 2022). From that first gathering, the conference grew, alternating between Cork,

Ireland, and Brighton, United Kingdom, for nearly three decades.

Ella first attended Lesbian Lives in Cork in 2022, just as COVID-19 restrictions were lifting and Russia began its brutal invasion of Ukraine. The grief and isolation of the pandemic, compounded by the horrors of war, made the sense of community especially vital. Lesbians of all ages—artists, scholars, and activists—gathered from across Europe and beyond. There was joy and laughter, alongside a deep recognition of the importance of sharing knowledge, theories, and lived lesbian experiences. That year, trans lesbian scholar Susan Stryker delivered the keynote address. The contrast between the joy in the room and the transphobic threats circulating on social media underscored the necessity of creating spaces of joy, friendship, and solidarity—across lesbian genders, generations, and cultures.

This power of community inspired us to bring Lesbian Lives to New York City. With the support of Katherine O'Donnell, Kath Browne, and Olu Jenzen—organizers of Lesbian Lives in Ireland and the UK—we envisioned a transnational conference centered on building networks of lesbian knowledge across time and place. The path here was not without challenges: marshalling financial resources, visa restrictions, hostile

policies targeting LGBTQ+ people, and the broader political climate of the United States all raised urgent questions about feasibility. Yet once word spread, the response was overwhelming. We received more than 500 submissions for presentations at the conference. Due to space limits, hundreds of participants remain on the waiting list, but today we welcome lesbians from across the globe.

The enthusiasm surrounding this conference is already a success, but for it to truly thrive, we invite you to treat Lesbian Lives as an emerging lesbian oasis—one that depends on our collective care and cultivation.

Although we can gather in the Graduate Center of CUNY thanks to the generous support of CLAGS, this conference has minimal institutional support. Everyone here has contributed their labor uncompensated. Please be kind and considerate to the volunteers who organized this gathering out of love and commitment.

Lesbian Lives gathers scholars, activists, and artists to be in community and to imagine worlds that center and celebrate lesbians. Our greatest hope for this conference is that it offers a spark of creation for more lesbian collaborations, partnerships, organizations, and celebrations among the people gathered. We encourage you to meet new people and to imagine work that you might do together to benefit us all.

To make the most of our time together: attend the panels, be attentive and curious listeners; ask thoughtful questions; compliment and encourage young people; and seek out conversations and

connections with people with experience. Step outside your comfort zone—attend workshops and panels that challenge you to learn. If you are a New Yorker, share your knowledge of the city. If you are visiting, enjoy New York's vibrant lesbian culture. Dance, flirt, and make new friends.

This conference is about being together not just here in New York, but for the long run. We gather at a time when authoritarian leaders undermine protections for women, trans people, and lesbians, and when feminist and DEI institutions are increasingly underfunded and understaffed. To resist, we must sustain one another by supporting lesbian feminist institutions. Lesbian Lives, along with community-based journals such as the *Journal of Lesbian Studies* and *Sinister Wisdom*, depend on you—your scholarship, your creativity, your participation as knowledge producers, artists, reviewers, and editors, and your citations of other lesbian scholars. Your work shows that lesbian is not just an abstraction, but a community. As you chart your own work, please consider leadership roles as guest editors, organizing events, and using your time and your money to amplify lesbian studies, and celebrate lesbian genius.

Together, we continue to create and preserve spaces where lesbian lives, histories, and futures are celebrated.

**Ella Ben Hagai**

*(Journal of Lesbian Studies)*

**Julie R Enszer**

*(Sinister Wisdom)*

# Appreciation and Gratitude

First and foremost, we honor the activists who launched the Lesbian Lives Conference in Ireland in the 1990s and those who have kept the torch burning ever since. We are especially grateful to Katherine O'Donnell, Kath Browne, and Olu Jenzen, whose leadership in organizing Lesbian Lives in the UK and Ireland enabled us to bring this magical gathering to the United States. We are indebted to Matt Brim and Lisa Rubin, supported by Sophia Senderak and Rachel Schriber, for providing the conference a home at CUNY and The New School and for managing countless logistical details. We also thank our friends at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center. The visual identity of this year's conference—welcoming, vibrant, and inspiring—was created by Şafak Şule Kemancı, through her stunning poster and merchandise designs, and Ori Moran, whose graphic design skills brought everything together.

We are deeply grateful to our keynote speakers and performers—Holly Hughes, Moe Angelos, Mecca Jamilah Sullivan, Arlene Stein, Sarah Schulman, Cindy Cruz, Wen Liu, Briona Jones, Ghadir Shafie, Tzeli Hadjidimitriou—for generously sharing their time and brilliance. We also thank the The American LGBTQ+ Museum for collaborating with us to feature presenters

Jyotsna Vaid, Amy Hoffman, and M Gessen, and we extend special thanks to Meghan McDonough for coordinating the film program.

This event could not have happened without the many volunteers who gave their time and energy. The early informal organizing committee included Sarah Chinn and Julia Ehrhardt. Hannah Yore ensured the success of the oral history component. Sydney Guntharp, a *Sinister Wisdom* summer intern, played a tremendous role in organizing the program. Avery Woods Weber and Beatrice Shooter, also *Sinister Wisdom* interns, managed the detailed and often tedious work of preparing the program. Sara Youngblood Gregory, a *Sinister Wisdom* board member, organized the *Sinister Wisdom* table, while fellow board member Bell Pitkin served as the official Lesbian Lives 2025 photographer, and Rachelle Annechino for copyediting the program.

We also acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of students from Smith College and California State University, Fullerton—Laura Lorenzana, Nico Vazquez, Janet Tian, Cindy Cabuguason, Megan Louie, Paris Quintero, Sarah Seligman, and Jessie Zhou—whose outreach brought this event to so many and who will assist you finding your way in the conference.

Finally, we offer personal thanks: Julie thanks Kim Sherrill for her labor and support in making her volunteer work possible, and Ella thanks Lily House-Peters for her love and wise counsel throughout this journey.

Thank you to the sponsors of Lesbian Lives 2025:

***Ideas on Fire***

***Barnard College Libraries***

***The Elana Dykewomon Literary Estate***

***California State University, Fullerton***

***Lévy Gorvy Dayan Gallery***

***Olivia Travel***

***Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies at Duke University***

***New School Gender Studies program***

***University College Dublin***

***Henrietta Hudson Bar***

***Cubbyhole Bar***

***Esther Rothblum***

***Laurie Essig***

***Nizza Heyman***

***Blanche Wiesen Cook & Clare Coss***

***Patricia M. Fontaine***

***Bonnie Zimmerman***

***Robin Becker***

This event is made possible by generous funding from the New York City Council to the CUNY LGBTQIA+ Consortium, and supported by the LaGuardia and Wagner Archives.



Thank you to all of the presenters, participants, and attendees!



# Plenary Events

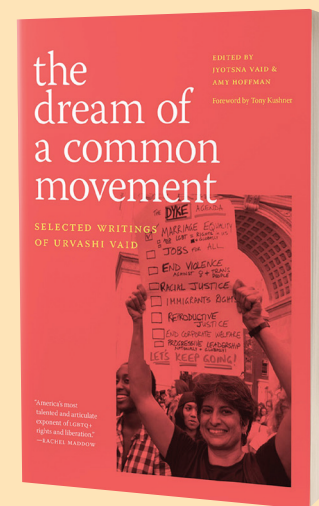
## Thursday 6:30–8:30 pm Opening Program

Location: The New School, The Auditorium,  
Room A10 Alvin Johnson/A. M. Kaplan Hall  
66 West 12 Street, New York City



Join us on October 23rd for a special edition of the American LGBTQ+ Museum's Lavender Literary Society, as part of the 2025 Lesbian Lives Conference, featuring editors of "The Dream of a Common Movement" Jyotsna Vaid and Amy Hoffman. M Gessen will moderate an inspiring conversation exploring the works of Urvashi Vaid, whose pioneering writing and organizing over the course of four decades fundamentally shaped the LGBTQ+ movement. (The introduction to "The Dream of a Common Movement" is available to download at <https://www.dukeupress.edu/the-dream-of-a-common-movement>).

**Presenters: Jyotsna Vaid, Amy Hoffman, and  
M Gessen (Moderator)**



Co-Sponsored by The American LGBTQ+ Museum with special thanks  
to The New School  
This Event is Free and Open to the Public

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## Friday 1–2:15 pm Responding to Authoritarianism

Proshansky Auditorium



Prospects for Liberation in Authoritarian Times — *Arlene Stein*

The Uses of Imagination in Authoritarian Times — *Mecca Jamilah Sullivan*

Friday 5:30–7 pm  
**Evening Performance**

Proshansky Auditorium

*Featuring Holly Hughes  
and Moe Angelos*



Saturday 4:00–5:30 pm  
**International  
Solidarity  
and Coalitions**

Proshansky Auditorium

How do we broaden  
our tents? How do we create  
practices of solidarity and coalitions?



*Katherine O'Donnell, moderator, Ghadir Shafie, Wen Lui,  
Sarah Schulman, Cindy Cruz, Briona Simone Jones*

Sunday 11:00 am – 1:00 pm  
**Lesbian Lives  
Book Celebration**

BGSQD at The Center

*Featuring Lana Lin, Sara Ellen Strongman, Padraig Rooney,  
Cheryl Clarke, and Diane DiMassa*



# Films @ Lesbian Lives

## Segal Theatre

Friday 8:30–9:45 am

### Works in Progress

Start the conference with a special screening of seven works in progress by some of the best dyke (and queer and trans) directors working today. Works in progress include: ***Adventures in Miscarriage*** (Cheryl Furjanic, USA), ***The United States of Urvashi*** (Nancy Kates, USA), ***DYKELAND*** (Elana Margo Santana and Kate Linhardt, USA), ***Free Beer Tomorrow*** (Julia A. Applegate and LuSter P. Singleton, USA), ***Tip/Alli*** (Jed Samer, USA), ***Going Santa Fe*** (Anne Mulford, USA), and ***Elsie: Connecting the Dykes*** (Meghan McDonough, USA).

Friday 10:00 am–12:45 pm  
(Special Double Session)

### Lesbian Spaces

A screening of the short feature ***Ferro's Bar*** (24 min) co-directed by Aline A. Assis, Fernanda Elias, Nayla Guerra, Rita Quadros. ***Ferro's Bar*** documents a Brazilian lesbian bar of the same name, which became the site of a "Brazilian Stonewall" as a military dictatorship catapulted lesbians into political and public discourse throughout 1970s and 1980s Brazil. Feature film ***Lesvia*** (78 min) directed by Tzeli Hadjidimitriou tells the story of a lesbian beach on the Greek island Lesvia that shaped the Greek

lesbian community from the 1970s and onwards, highlighting the public space's potential for intergenerational gathering and representation.

Friday 2:30–3:45 pm

### Lesbian Lives

***Black Rainbow Love*** (10 min) directed by Angela Harvey, is about the "truth, lives, and stories" of queer Black American couples navigating relationships, healing, and transformation through sharing their lives by and for their communities. ***Es la reducción mínima del abismo*** (15 min) directed by Delfina Romero Feldman is an intimate reflection on "the distance that can only exist between lovers." ***Thanks, Babs!*** (14 min) directed by Jen Rainin and Rivkah Beth Medow is about "an optimistic octogenarian speed-racing through life, one five-year plan at a time." ***There Must Be a Word*** (5 min) directed by Alexis Clements asks through a lesbian lens how geography and place shape sexuality, desire, and identity.

Friday 4:00 pm–5:15 pm

### Lesbian Lives 2

***Saigon Kiss*** (22 min) directed by Hong Anh Nguyen follows the budding romance between two Vietnamese women who meet by chance on the streets of Saigon.



***The Roaming Center for Magnetic Alternatives*** (13 min), directed by Brydie O'Connor, follows a mobile archiving center in a cargo trailer as it crosses the Midwest to digitize the VHS tapes of LGBTQ+ folks living in Middle America. ***Homofónia*** (11 min) directed by Irish filmmakers Alana Daly Mulligan and Luke K. Murphy, explores the conflicts of a closeted adolescent couple as they seek to work out their issues in Gaeilge to hide their relationship from their community and classmates. In ***How to Live Here*** (3 min), filmmaker Alisha Doody explores her desire to return to rural Ireland after leaving in search of community.

Saturday 10:00 am–12:45 pm  
(Double Session!)

## Lesbian Activism

This double session screens the short film, ***Because of You*** (40 min) co-directed by Barbara Malaran and Desireena Almoradie, and the feature film ***SALLY!*** (96 min) directed by Deborah Craig. ***Because of You*** is an archival documentary that traces the history of Kilawin Kolektibo, a pioneering collective of Filipinx who came together in NYC in the mid-nineties. Having experienced marginalization in Filipino culture because of their queerness and in mainstream gay culture because of their race, language, and gender, the members of the group sought political empowerment and increased visibility. Above all, they create a space of friendship and safety for those who found themselves suspended between cultures and identities. ***SALLY!*** brings into focus

the life and legacy of Sally Gearhart—a charismatic lesbian-feminist, activist, professor, and fantasy author. A trailblazer in the 1970s and '80s U.S. lesbian feminist movement, Balancing humor, insight, and heart, ***SALLY!*** is both a celebration of a radical icon, a meditation on the tensions inherent in revolutionary movements, and a powerful reflection on the lessons her work offers for today's struggles for civil rights, justice, and equality.

Saturday 1:00–3:45 pm  
(Special Double Session)

## Lesbian Foremothers

Explore lesbian motherhood and lesbian foremothers through two short films, ***Lesbian Custody*** (18 min) directed by Molly Skonieczny and Samuael Topiary Landberg, and ***Old Lesbians*** (29 min) directed by Meghan McDonough. ***Lesbian Custody*** looks back on the lesbian filmmaker behind ***In the Best Interests of the Children***, the first documentary film to detail issues on lesbian custody and motherhood during the 1970s when lesbians often lost custody of their children for coming out. ***Old Lesbians*** honors the joyful, resilient voices preserved in the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project. Followed by the feature film ***A Mother Apart*** (90 min) directed by Laurie Townshend. An emotionally sweeping tale of healing and forgiveness, ***A Mother Apart*** accompanies powerhouse Jamaican-American poet and LGBTQ+ activist Staceyann Chin as she re-imagines the essential art of mothering—having been abandoned by her own mother.

# Friday

**8:30–9:45 am**  
CUNY Graduate Center

8:00 am –  
5:30 pm  
Registration

## 1. Polish Perspectives: History, Publishing, and Lesbian Collectives

C-Level Concourse Room 201

Reclaiming the animal that we are  
*Krystyna Mazur*

Staging unrepresentable

*Rita Müller & Ada Adu Ręczka*

Artivism and (Self)Archiving: Lesbian Publishing Practices in Poland

*Barbara Dynda & Aleksandra Kamińska*

Lesbian Poetry Between the United States and Poland

*Julia Wajdziak*

## 2. Getting Hands-on with a Northern Canadian Lesbian Archive

C-Level Concourse Room 202

An interactive workshop on Edmonton's Womonspace newsletter archive (1982–2007) and its use for intergenerational dialogue and confronting lesbian erasure.

*Kristy Harcourt*

## 3. A Queer Chicago

C-Level Concourse Room 203

Lesbian, Dyke, Queer Organizing in Chicago

*Ann Russo & Divanna Eckels*

Between Heterotopias: Chicago's Lesbian Bars

*Wendi Xue*

Trash or Treasure? Lesbian Pulp & Valerie Taylor

*Jen Dentel*

She Is On Her Way: Artemis Singers

*Ariel Rodriguez*

## 4. Thinking About Lesbian Health

C-Level Concourse Room 204

Lesbian Futures and Health Care

*Karyl Ketchum*

Sapphic Survival Tips

*Angie Wootton*

What's Killing Us?

*Jaime Grant, Amelie Zurn & Ignacio G. Rivera*

Protecting Against Gambling Harms

*Matt Smith, Laetitia Zeeman*

## 5. A Queer Coming of Age: Lesbian Childhood and Youth

C-Level Concourse Room 205

Lesbian Girlhood and Youth

*Amanda Littauer*

Anatomy of a Lesbian Breakup

*Alice Hughes*

Curiosity is not trivial

*Jen Gilbert*

Models of Sapphic Girlhood in the American Girl Franchise

*Lo Riddell*

## 6. Lesbian and Queer Zines in Libraries and Archives: Undergraduate Perspectives

C-Level Concourse Room 197

Student panel exploring zines as spaces for lesbian gender expression, visibility, and archival preservation

*Zoë Benavidez, Alexandra Owens, Zoe Foshee, Olivia Callanan, Claudia Acosta. Moderated by Jenna Freedman.*

## 7. Mapping Lesbian Solidarity Across Borders, Time, and Generations (Workshop)

C-Level Concourse Room 198

Facilitate participatory mapping to explore intergenerational lesbian solidarity, gentrification, care, and imaginative futurisms.

*Charlotte Wilcox and Roni Guetta*

## 8. In the Public Eye: Claiming and Navigating Public Space

9th Floor Conference Room 9205

Public Desires: Copenhagen

*Marie Lanau & Sofia Bakhsh*

Lesbian Life Between Buildings: Milwaukee

*Alex Volgyesi*

Infrastructures of Care & Neglect:

Cycling and Trans Health

*Matt Smith*

Queerly Imagined: Off Our Backs

*Caroline Dadas*

Memorial To A Marriage

*Patricia Cronin*

## 9. Imagining the Otherwise: Queer Identities and Pluriversal Healthcare

9th Floor Conference Room 9206

*Jan Oosting, PhD, RN, Moderator*

*Denise Hinds, MSW*

*Susanna Shaul, MA*

*Amarna Williams, MS*

## 10. Lesbian Fiction

9th Floor Conference Room 9207

The Present in Our Past: Historical Fiction

*Linda Garber*

Reimagining Lesbian Health in Han Suyin's *Winter Love*

*Eden Rea-Hedrick*

"Una palabra donde quepamos todas" – Complexities of Gender and Desire in Latin American

Lesbian Fiction

*Fernanda Hernandez Paredes*

From Giving Violets to Gaining

Visibility: Looking at Lesbian Artworks

*Zella Vacaron*

Je veux aller à Lesbos en août, et

ensuite à Constantinople: Retreating

Intercultural Sapphic Intimacies in

Early 20th Century Ottoman Empire

through Renée Vivien's Letters to

Kérimé

*Deniz Efsuncar Cazu*

## 11. Turning the Tide: The Lesbian Tide in Community and Culture (Roundtable)

Proshansky Auditorium

the history, politics, and legacy of *The Lesbian Tide*

*Lynn Harris Ballen (Moderator), Kate*

*Marks, Margie Adam, Alice Coffin,*

*and Karla Jay*

## 12. Works in Progress (Film Screening)

Segal Theatre

Screening of works-in-progress

*by Cheryl Furjanic, Nancy Kates, Elana*

*Margot Santana, Kate Linhardt, Julia*

*A. Applegate, LuSter P. Singleton, Jed*

*Samer, Anne Mulford, and Meghan*

*McDonough. Conversation to follow.*

*Moderated by Alex Juhasz.*

# Friday

10:00–11:15 am  
CUNY Graduate Center

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**1. Poetry as Correspondence:  
A Lesbian Poetry Reading**  
C-Level Concourse Room 201

Roundtable with four poets reading from debut collections, exploring apostrophe as queer lineage and correspondence across geographies, languages, and lineages erased or unremembered. *Sanam Sheriff, Bridget Huh, Esther Kondo Heller. Moderator: Aishvarya Arora*

**2. The Luxury of the Archive**  
C-Level Concourse Room 202

Joint presentation by the June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives, The Lesbian Home Movie Project, and Wanderground Lesbian Archives on the archive as a luxury and active collecting as vital practice. Multimedia presentation on ephemera, partnerships, and intergenerational documentation. *Angela Brinskele (Moderator), Sharon Thompson, Mev Miller*

**3. Past as Praxis:  
Intergenerational Queer  
Dialogue as Resistance**  
C-Level Concourse Room 203

Roundtable spanning ~65 years of dyke activism. Panelists reflect on direct-action events like the Biltmore Invasion and Dyke Marches, emphasizing intergenerational conversations as resistance to erasure and as tools for ongoing justice work. *Carolyn Weathers, Mel Saywell (Moderator), Gino Conti, Marie Cartier, Sara Angevine, Robin Podolsky*

**4. Girls Our Mothers Warned Us  
About: Latina Lesbians on Love,  
Resistance, and Solidarity**  
C-Level Concourse Room 204

Intergenerational roundtable sharing testimonios, coalition building, and Latina lesbian genealogies across generations. *Cindy Cruz, Andrea Del Carmen Vazquez, Juanita Diaz-Cotto, Marta*

*Elena Esquilin, Alicia Gaspar de Alba, Ileana Jiménez (Moderator), Emma Pérez*

**5. Remembering Russ**

C-Level Concourse Room 205

Roundtable on Joanna Russ, author of *The Female Man* (1975). Panelists revisit her multigenre feminist vision and discuss Russ's broader contributions to lesbian and feminist culture.

*Victoria Hesford (Moderator), Joan Lubin, Alec Pollak, Erica Rand, Alexis Lothian, Jed Samer*

**6. Listening to Our Elders:  
Preservation Practices, Art  
Making, and Research From  
Lesbian Spaces**

C-Level Concourse Room 197

Roundtable exploring archival practices, oral histories, research ethics, and intergenerational connections across lesbian spaces. Focus on collaboration, responsibility, and imagining future research. *Sarah Cooper (Moderator), Deborah Edel, Sasha Archibald, Cassandre Di Lauro, Elana Margot Santana, Annelise Heinz*

**7. Reflections on Monique Wittig**

C-Level Concourse Room 198

Panel revisiting Wittig's work across poetics, resistance, imagination, and transatlantic networks. Presentations explore Wittig's enduring impact and relevance today.

*Dominique Bourque, Jules Balen, Katherine Costello, Audrey Rogulski*

**8. Lesbian Ephemera**

9th Floor Conference Room 9205

Panel on lesbian lives in archival ephemera, examining intimacy, privacy, repression, and how queer archives unsettle literary and historical narratives.

*Elizabeth Blake, Kate Schnur (Moderator), Omari Weekes, Dalia Davoudi*

**9. LBQ+ Women's Economic  
Empowerment Idea Lab  
(Workshop)**

9th Floor Conference Room 9206

Global research on economic vulnerability of LBQTI people. Idea Lab format invites participants to share and develop strategies for empowerment and opportunity. *Lee Badgett, Naomi Fine, Kathy Levinson, Dragana Todorovic*

**10. 18th and 19th Century Lesbians**

9th Floor Conference Room 9207

Papers on sapphic representation in Anglophone literature, women soldiers' relationships, Poet Lore's queer founders, and sapphic desire in the late Ottoman Empire. *Anne-laure Sabathier, Natalia Toporowska, Emily Holland, Tuğçe Kayaal. Moderator: Robin Bernstein*

**11. "All The Blacks are Men, All the  
Lesbians are White, but Some of  
us are Brave"**

Proshansky Auditorium

Panel on Black lesbian desire as haunting. Papers explore how it unsettles Black heterosexuality, white lesbianism, and colonial texts, gesturing toward Black lesbian futurities through art and culture. *Rosamond King (Moderator), Warren Harding, Natassja B. Gunasena, Caitlin O'Neill*

**12. Lesbian Spaces (Double  
Session, Film Screening)**

Segal Theatre

Screening of *Ferro's Bar* (24 min, co-dirs. Aline A. Assis, Fernanda Elias, Nayla Guerra, Rita Quadros) and *Lesvia* (78 min, dir. Tzeli Hadjidimitriou). Followed by Q&A *Meghan McDonough, Tzeli Hadjidimitriou*

# Friday

11:30 am–12:45 pm  
CUNY Graduate Center

## 1. Queer Narratives of Trauma, Identity, and Resistance in Italian–American Lesbian Literature

C-Level Concourse Room 201

Explores queer Italian–American literature with papers on Mary Saracino, Nicole Santalucia, and Annie Lanzillotto, highlighting trauma, identity, and resistance.  
*Ellis Kierans, Alan J. Gravano, Ryan Calabretta-Sadler. Moderator: Nicole Santalucia*

## 2. Lesbian Cultures from Central and Eastern Europe: Critical Perspectives

C-Level Concourse Room 202

A panel on CEE lesbian studies, addressing invisibility, epistemic violence, pleasure, community, and intersections with feminist and trans discourses.  
*Jasmina Tumbas, Natalie Cornett. Moderator: Aleksandra Gajowy*

## 3. Building a Movement: Infrastructural Histories of Lesbian Communities

C-Level Concourse Room 203

Roundtable on infrastructures that sustained lesbian communities across fifty years, with case studies from archives, performance, correspondence, AIDS activism, and dyke bars.  
*Jessica Lapp, Rachel Corbman, Taylor Marie Doherty, Marika Cifor, Jen Jack Giesecking. Moderator: Rianka Singh*

## 4. Ancient Moments in Sapphic Time: Material and Text from Classical to Early Modern History

C-Level Concourse Room 204

Panel foregrounding early-career scholars analyzing Sapphic histories through curse tablets, medical texts, and erotic albums, linking past to modern lesbian experiences.  
*Sophia Taborski, Chuwen (Wendy) Xiao, Nicolette D'Angelo, Q Wilson. Moderator: Allyson Blanck*

## 5. Diverse Uses of the Archive

C-Level Concourse Room 205

The Archive Is a Body: Gloria Anzaldúa Papers *Natasha Tiniacos*  
Unforgettable Soul: Black Queer Repertoire *Victoria Bazan Thomas*  
Lesbian Counter-archiving *Bee Gray*  
Lonely Hearts: Queer Historiography *Irene Melix*  
Archiving the Lesbian Music Movement *Bonnie Morris*

## 6. New Work in Lesbian History: Queer Lessons for Challenging Times

C-Level Concourse Room 197

Becoming Lesbian: A Queer History of Modern France *Tamara Chaplin*  
I Will Not Abandon You: Queer Women in Nazi Germany *Samuel Clowes Huneke*  
At the Lesbian Tent: Experiments in International Lesbian Organizing at the World Conferences on Women, 1985–1995  
*Hannah Leffingwell*  
Chair: *Joanne Meyerowitz*  
Comment: *Christopher Ewing*

## 7. Digital Landscapes for Lesbian Lives

C-Level Concourse Room 198

Imagining Digital Queer Utopias: Queering the Map *Reese Schaffer*  
Lesbian Housing Practices and Switchboard Call Logs *Maggie Schreiner*  
Sapphic Historiography in the Postdigital *Niamh White*  
Dykes A Lot!: Encoding Lesbian Lexicon *June Murphy*  
To Bring the Boat Ashore: Utopian Orientations *Ellen Sears*

## 8. Twentieth-Century Sapphic Cultures: 1900–1950

9th Floor Conference Room 9205

Calling Out the Black and Blues: Bentley & Smith *Rose Poku*  
When Creatives Imagine/Realize a Life Together, 1920s–1970s  
*Shad Reinstein & Jody Laine*  
Printed Voices and Hidden Realities:

Weimar to War's End *Noelle Mendelson*

Annemarie Schwarzenbach in New Deal America *Padraig Rooney*

## 9. Working Through Stereotypes

9th Floor Conference Room 9206

Too Soft, Too Hard? Lesbian Military Officers *Yun-Hsi Hsieh*  
Not Man Enough: Social Media Stereotypes *Sydney Hofstra*  
Predatory Lesbian and Lesbian Anxieties *Nicole Chrenek*  
Unwanted Consensual Sex Narratives *Sarah Swanson*  
Matter/s of Resistance: Gender Diverse Teachers in Schools  
*Lis Bundock*

## 10. What is a Lesbian? Language, Identity, and Embodiment

9th Floor Conference Room 9207

Methodology of Ambivalence in Lesbian Identity *Anna Celska*  
Is 'Lesbian' a Gender? *Mary Maxfield*  
The Lesbian Body as Archive  
*Sylvia Herzog*  
Who Owns the Word 'Lesbian'?  
*Sylvia Sukop*  
Recipe for Resistance  
*Astrid Knox-McConnell*

## 12. Lesbian Spaces (Double Session, Film Screening)

Segal Theatre

Screening of *Ferro's Bar* (24 min, co-dirs. Aline A. Assis, Fernanda Elias, Nayla Guerra, Rita Quadros) and *Lesvia* (78 min, dir. Tzeli Hadjidimitriou). Followed by Q&A with Tzeli Hadjidimitriou. Moderator: Meghan McDonough.

**1:00–2:15 pm**  
**Plenary Event —**  
**Responding**  
**to Authoritarianism**

Proshansky Auditorium

# Friday

2:30–3:45 pm  
CUNY Graduate Center

## 1. Femme Rule: A Method for Performing Elsewhere

C-Level Concourse Room 201

Workshop exploring femme rule as theorized by Dana Seitler, drawing on worldmaking practices and participatory writing/visual exercises.

*Ruth Ramsden-Karelse, Jessica Fields, T.L. Cowan. Moderator: Dana Seitler*

## 2. Erotic Accounts of Lesbian/Trans Bodies of Color

C-Level Concourse Room 202

Ambivalent Desires in Natalie Diaz's Postcolonial Love Poem

*Fernanda Cunha*

Butch Latina Camp in Carla Trujillo's

What Night Brings *Sofi Chavez*

The Butch Commons: Archiving

Masc/Butch of Color Life on

Instagram *Gregoria Olson*

Audre Lorde's papelitos: scents, images and sounds of the Mexican 1954 *travesía* *Geo Vidiella*

## 3. Critical Perspectives on East Asia

C-Level Concourse Room 203

A Memory Crisis: Lesbianism, Trans Masculinity, and Renyao in China

*Howard Chiang*

The Becoming of the Body: A Transgender Allegory of the Chinese Snake Sister Myth *Lijin Yang*

Filial Piety and Constraints on Queer Reproduction in Thailand

*Sirada Kananurak*

To Desire and Hurt Otherwise: Lesbian Bed Deaths in East Asia

*Yunning Zhang & Yee Lok Wong*

## 4. Narrating Lesbians Who Resist (Us!)

C-Level Concourse Room 204

Scholars of queerness in Latin America, Spain, and the wider Iberian worlds examine how lesbian erotic, identities and subjectivities enter the present via historical archives, ephemera, activisms, and other cultural texts.

*Lucía Fernanda Bonilla, Zeb*

*Tortorici, Sandra Baena Velázquez (Moderator), Arcelia Paz*

## 5. Butch and Femme Identity

C-Level Concourse Room 205

The Butch Bostonian and *The Well of Loneliness* *Natalie Pititto*

Our Own Kind of Anarchy: Minnie

Bruce Pratt *Sayer Kirk*

Contemporary Butch Identity in

Political Crisis *Megan O'Brien*

Femme Resistance – Then and Now

*Hannah Dickson*

Analyzing the Construction of

Butch/Femme Gender Roles in

Lesbian Literature *Chloe Bollin*

## 6. Hot off the Press: Lesbian Print Culture

C-Level Concourse Room 197

Third World Lesbians in *Azalea*

*SaraEllen Strongman*

Lesbian Connection and Archival

Specificity *Hannah Renda*

Classifieds and Calendars in

Underground Press *Ruth Kramer*

Transnational Lesbian Solidarity in

Sappho Magazine *Sarah Feustle*

*Feminist Bookstore News*: Visualizing

30 Years *Salome Grasland*

## 7. Thinking on Taiwan

C-Level Concourse Room 198

New Political Readings of Taiwanese Lesbian Documentaries *Tsung-wei Lin*

Print Utopias in Taiwan and South

Korea *Eno Pai-Jean Chen*

Contemporary Lesbian Theater in

Taiwan (1990–2025)

*Fan-Ting Cheng*

Lesbian Parenting Before Marriage

Equality in Taiwan *Yen-Jung Tseng*

## 8. A Spotlight on Contemporary Sapphic Fiction

9th Floor Conference Room 9205

Fantasy, Desire, and Empire in C.L.

Clark *Kiana Murphy*

Disrupted Intimacies in Eileen Myles'

*Inferno* *Loida Hernandez*

Heroic Grief in *The Locked Tomb*

Series *Oliver Richards*

Black Lesbian Relationality in *Mia*

McKenzie's *The Summer We Got Free*

*Alyiah Marie Gonzales*

Reading from *The Invisible Mask*

and Other Stories *Estela Gonzalez*

## 9. Lesbian Poetry: Sappho, Sonnetry, Love, and Lyric

9th Floor Conference Room 9206

Lyric, Lyre, Lesbian Poetics

*Diya Abbas*

The Lesbian Erasure of Sappho

*Gia Schember*

Reclaiming the Lesbian Love Poem

*Kara Olson*

Queer Women of the San Francisco

Poetry Renaissance *Alison Fraser*

Finding and Unfinding Utopia in

Rich's 'Twenty-One Love Poems'

*Abigail Cuttle*

## 10. Critical Perspectives on Western Europe

9th Floor Conference Room 9207

In Search of Butch: Stone Butch

Blues in Italy *Irene Villa*

Becoming Cisgender: Portuguese

Lesbian Press *Joana Matias*

Lesbian Communities in Ireland,

1970–1999 *Anna Durning*

## 11. Queer and Lesbian Generations

Proshansky Auditorium

Papers reflect on generational differences in lesbian lives, from Baby Boomers to TikTok, highlighting continuity and divergence in visibility, resilience, and activism.

*Cati Connell, Mignon Moore, Kristin*

*Esterberg. Moderator: S.L. Crawley,*

*Ashley Green*

## 12. Lesbian Lives I (Film Screening)

Segal Theatre

Screenings: *Black Rainbow Love* (Angela Harvey), *Es la reducción mínima del abismo* (Delfina Romero Feldman), *Thanks, Babs!* (Jen Rainin & Rivkah Beth Medow), *There Must Be a Word* (Alexis Clements). Discussion to follow.

*Angela Harvey, Jen Rainin, Rivkah*

*Beth Medow, Alexis Clements.*

*Moderator: Sara Warner*



# Friday

4:00–5:15 pm  
CUNY Graduate Center

## 1. Chicana Feminisms and Futurities

C-Level Concourse Room 201

Black and Chicana Lesbian Feminist Cultural-Representation  
*Camila Wise Robles*  
Queerolxauhqui, Lo Que Pasa  
Cuando Te Partes *MJ Hernandez*  
Femme/Butch Dreaming for Healing Futures *Imelda Cortez*

## 2. Trans Lesbian Representations: A T4T Politics, History, and Philosophy

C-Level Concourse Room 202

Panel addressing novels, films, journals, and media on trans lesbian representation, visibility politics, and evolving histories.  
*SM Rodriguez (Moderator), Euryale Cliché-Laroche, Eli Erlick, L'or Malhotra-Gaudet*

## 3. A Politics of Pleasure

C-Level Concourse Room 203

Let's Get Trashy: Lesbian Hedonism  
*Catherine Angell*  
Big Fat Brown Pleasures  
*Eliza Rodriguez*  
Pleasures of Sex & the Sex Wars  
*Jay Szpilka*  
Reframing Pleasure: Later Life & Lesbian Desire  
*Giulia Nazzaro & Morgan Gwenwald*

## 4. Twentieth-Century Sapphic Cultures: 1950–1999

C-Level Concourse Room 204

Jewish Lesbian Poetics of Exile  
*Aliyah Blattner*  
Advertised Desires & Intimacy During the AIDS Crisis *Mad Sundquist*  
Backlash to Gender Separatism & the Lesbian Death Drive  
*Eva Astrid Jones*  
The Halleluja Girls in Sweden  
*Hanna Hallgren*

## 5. Sapphic Voices: Poetry as Memory

C-Level Concourse Room 205  
Sapphic Voices in Pride and Joy  
*Jen Cheng*

Then, Here, and Now: The Legacy of New York City's Lesbian Poetry  
*JP Howard*

The Lesbian Poet as Time-Traveler  
*Sandra Yannone*  
"When Kissing Was Still Subversive:" Lyric Strategies of Personal Docupoetics *Lily Kaylor Honoré*

## 6. Eco-Lesbians: Frameworks for the Future

C-Level Concourse Room 197

Lesbian Land Communities  
Then & Now *Alice Barczak*  
Lesbian Longing as Ecological Ache  
*Danae Barnes*  
The Articles of Artemis *Elianajoy Volin*  
Lesbians in the Weeds *Nat Xu*  
The Wild Geeze: Ecofeminist Comedy Duo *Breda Larkin*

## 7. Sapphic Cinema

C-Level Concourse Room 198

Women Seeing Women: Sideways Glance *Daviel Shy*  
Lesbian Life Onscreen in Hitchcock  
*Jordan Bernsmeier*  
Cyber Cinema & Flaming Ears  
*Sophia Schrock*  
Chantal Akerman's Lesbian Performativity *Lauren Bakst*  
Lesbian Intimacy in Daughters of the Dust *Juahl Ganaway*

## 8. The Power of Coalitional and Collective Politics

9th Floor Conference Room 9205

Black Lesbian & Feminist Solidarities  
*Esther Heller*  
Wages Due Lesbians *Jess Fournier*  
Jewish Lesbian Feminist Coalition Work *Sammi Maza*  
Queer Abolitionist Activism & ACT UP  
*Sydney Guntharp*  
Lesbian Feminist Peace & Queers for Economic Justice *Jamie Hagen, Ann Cvetkovich (Moderator)*

## 9. The Role of Sapphic Space in Queer Worldmaking

9th Floor Conference Room 9206

Violet Valley Bookstore & Queer World-Making *Jaime Harker*  
Lesbian Desire in Reality Dating

Shows *Rena Bivens*

In Defense of Modern Butch & Femme Subjects *Sam Fitz*  
See you Motherland *Chinging Huang*  
Colorado Lesbians & Community in the 20th Century *Addison Price*

## 10. Lesbian Resistance in Brazil

9th Floor Conference Room 9207

ChanacomChana Newspaper & Resistance *Ana Koch*  
Female Homosexuality in Early 20th-Century Brazil *Augusta da Silveira de Oliveira*  
Lesbians in Power Post-Bolsonaro  
*Laira Tenca*  
Black Lesbian Testimonies & Memory Work *Mariana Meriqui Rodrigues*  
Yet We Resist  
*Simone Cavalcante Da Silva*

## 11. Extraordinary Dreaming: Remembering Dorothy Allison, Elana Dykewomon, and Amber Hollibaugh

Proshansky Auditorium

Roundtable honoring three lesbian writers and activists with reflections on their writings, activism, and impact on lesbian liberation.  
*J. Bob Allotta, Jennifer Brier (Moderator), Jewelle Gomez*

## 12. Lesbian Lives II (Film Screening)

Segal Theatre

Screenings include: *Saigon Kiss* (Hong Anh Nguyen), *The Roaming Center for Magnetic Alternatives* (Brydie O'Connor), *Homofónia* (Alana Daly Mulligan & Luke K. Murphy), and *How to Live Here* (Alisha Doody). Discussion to follow.  
*Meghan McDonough (Moderator), Alisha Doody, Brydie O'Connor*

5:15–6:15 pm

Reception

6:30–7:30 pm

Performance: Holly Hughes & Moe Angelos  
Proshansky Auditorium

# Saturday

8:15–9:30 a.m  
LGBT Center

8:00 am –  
5:30 pm  
Registration

## 1. Marshaling Under the First Amendment: Lesbian Street Power (Workshop)

Auditorium 101

Workshop on organizing nonviolent direct action, with strategies for marshaling vigils, pickets, and marches, emphasizing First Amendment rights and de-escalation tactics.

*Alexis Danzig*

## 2. (BLACK) DYKE DECK (Workshop)

Auditorium 103

Hybrid workshop to co-create a dyke deck centering Black lesbianism, inspired by Catherine Opie's Dyke Deck and Naima Green's Pur-suit. Participants adapt card symbolism into visual storytelling formats.

*Nnenne Ogbonnaya*

## 3. Ethical Digitization Considerations: Preserving Lesbian Culture (Workshop)

Medium 110

Explores challenges of digitization in queer contexts, drawing from archival practices at The Feminist Institute and applying a Feminist Ethics of Care model to collaborative cataloging.

*Allison Elliot*

## 4. Let's Process, a Lesbian Procession! (Workshop)

Medium 202

Collaborative workshop envisioning a lesbian parade, drawing on global activist traditions and eco-lesbianism. Participants design visual, sonic, and choreographic elements for a speculative procession.

*Angela Beallor, Elizabeth Press, Hana van der Kolk*

## 5. Fat Lesbians: Intersectional Identities, Positive Representations, and Naked Photos (Workshop)

Medium 203

Explores intersectional narratives of fat lesbian identity through creative and scholarly work. Includes discussion of Substantia Jones' Adipositivity Project and Kimberly Dark's scholarship.

*Kimberly Dark, Substantia Jones*

## 6. Re-mem-bering: The Lesbian Poetic Body (Workshop)

Medium 214

Movement-theatre workshop exploring matriarchal legacies and embodied queer memory using mask work, improvisation, and somatic practice.

*Karen Anne Light*

## 7. The Sound Revolution: Sonic Practices for Lesbian Liberation Across Space and Time (Workshop)

Medium 302

Experiential workshop engaging sound as a tool for lesbian resistance, spirituality, embodiment, and community across cultures and generations.

*Megan McFadden, Mel Harris*

## 8. Empowering Lesbian Art & Artists (Workshop)

Medium 310

Explores lesbian visual art as healing, resistance, and inspiration. Includes discussion of iconic works, group sharing, collaborative art-making, and contributions to an online gallery.

*Kelly Frankenberg*

## 9. Radical Imagination as Resistance: Dreaming the Future to Transform the Present (Workshop)

Small 201a

Guided reflection and storytelling workshop centering visions of

thriving, liberated futures for queer people of color. Participants explore their roles in social change and craft narratives of liberation.

*Leah Ecaruan*

## 10. Decentering Men and Redefining Lesbianism (Workshop)

Small 304

Explores lesbianism as radical resistance to patriarchy and the male gaze, reclaiming the 'angry lesbian' as a figure of empowerment while fostering intergenerational dialogue.

*Khush Mathur, Bre O'Reilly*

## 11. Radical Resonance: Queer Embodiment, Co-regulation, and Femifesto Writing (Workshop)

Small 305

Embodied workshop blending somatic practice, queer identity, and manifesto writing. Participants use movement and writing to transform personal and political narratives.

*Michelle Goldsmith*

# Saturday 10:00–11:15 am

CUNY Graduate Center

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## 1. Queer Craze 2.0: An Intergenerational Conversation and Centennial Celebration

C-Level Concourse Room 201

Intergenerational discussion of queer political and cultural trajectories, beginning with the 1920s Pansy Craze as depicted in Margaret Vandenburg's most recent novel, *Craze*.

Margaret Vandenburg, Hanu Shahdadjuri, T. George  
(Moderator)

## 2. Lesbian Genius

C-Level Concourse Room 202

Panel exploring what 'lesbian genius' can do across art, activism, therapy, and sex work, with a focus on creativity, community, and collective power.

Nicollette Barsamian (Moderator),  
Chatham Molloy, Amy Ackerman,  
Ari Finard, Margaux Binder

## 3. Publish your lesbian studies research: Meet the Editors

C-Level Concourse Room 203

This panel brings together editors to share practical insights into the publishing process—from submitting your research to academic journals to securing a book contract for your manuscript.

Róisín Ryan-Flood, Editor: *Sexualities*;  
Ella Ben Hagai, Editor-in-Chief,  
*Journal of Lesbian Studies*; Regina  
Kunzel, Yale University, and Series  
Co-Editor, *Sexuality Studies*, Temple  
University Press

## 4. The Evolution of Sapphic Spaces: From the 1920s to the 2020s

C-Level Concourse Room 204

Tracing sapphic spaces from private salons and communes to contemporary pop-up bars and community hubs, highlighting the ongoing challenges and joys of creating lesbian space.

Brooke Sopelsa (Moderator), Elina  
Street, Alex Berg, Sekiya Dorsett

## 5. A Queering: Lesbians in Fiction Across Time and Space

C-Level Concourse Room 205

Portrait of a Manor on Fire

Aliza Peltó

Impossible Love in Mrs. S

Jess Shollenberger

Lesbian Pulp Fiction & Violence

Lily Weeks

Language Learning & Desire

Madeline Shuron

Border Intimacies in The Artificial

Silk Girl Vera Geranpayeh

## 6. Let's Get Organized!: Lesbian Activism

C-Level Concourse Room 197

Wages Due Lesbians &

Transnational Solidarity Bella Ruhl

Lesbian Student Organizing in the

Long Seventies Ella Briggs

Seattle's 1978 Lesbian Feminist

Protest Gracie Anderson

Origins & Rearticulations of the Dyke

March Sara Angevine

Lesbian Leadership in LLEGÓ

Lourdes Torres & Leti Gomez

## 7. In the Lens: Lesbian Photography

C-Level Concourse Room 198

Vernacular Photography & Lesbian

Life Cathleen Rhodes

Lesbian Gender Trouble in 1990s

Sicily

Soraya Cipolla

Her Body Series Molly Jae Vaughan

Rings of Kerry: Marriage & Activism

in Ireland Rena Blake

Play, Dress Up, and Drag

Dana Lovasz

## 8. Memory Work

9th Floor Conference Room 9205

Preserving the Lesbian Home  
Archive

Tina Meister

Saving Black Lesbianism through

Memory Angel Griot (Thompson)

Colonialism & the Girls' Boarding

School Narrative Chris Roulston

Lesbian Memory Practices in

Cookbooks Crystal Stone

Gender in Troubled Times:

Reflections on the past and future of

Gender Trouble Gwendolyn Beetham

## 9. Oral Histories and Audio Projects

9th Floor Conference Room 9206

Lesbian & Sex Worker Coalitions

(1980s–90s) Giulia Sbaffi

Working-Class Lesbian Milieus &

Trans Histories Ana Grujić

Claire's Choice: NOW & Lesbian

Feminism Paige Avarett

Oral Histories of Old Lesbians in the

Rural South Hannah Leisure

Lesbian Culture in the WNBA —

Montinique McEachern, Nan Alamilla

Boyd, Moderator

## 10. Exhibited Queerness: Museum and Gallery Representations

9th Floor Conference Room 9207

Lesbian Lives in Museums

Lisa Hinkins

Indigiqueer Possibilities at Montclair

Art Museum Laura Allen

Rosa Bonheur's Menagerie

Mal Meisels

Trial BALLOON Gallery

Ksenia M. Soboleva

## 11. Exploring Intimacies

Proshansky Auditorium

Queer Sexual Joy Project JJ Wright

Lesbian Entanglements in Swiss

Writers Laura Tscherry

The Mentor in the Text Marcie Bianco

Reconceptualizing Sex as Rehearsal

Taylor Harmon

## 12. Lesbian Activism (Double Session)

Segal Theatre

Screenings: *Because of You*

(40 min) — Barbara Malaran &

Desireena Almoradie; *SALLY!* (96

min) — Deborah Craig. Followed by

Q&A with Deborah Craig, Desireena

Almoradie, Barbara Malaran.

Presenters: Meghan McDonough

(Moderator)

# Saturday

11:30 am–12:45 pm

CUNY Graduate Center

## 1. Lesbian Creativity and Nostalgia

C-Level Concourse Room 201

Feral Dyke Spaces

*Chloe Diamond Lenow*

Lesbian Poetry

*Jocelyn Heath*

Lesbian Creativity

*Joanna Eleftheriou*

Techno-Dyke Headquarters

*Ira Beare*

## 2. Latina Lesbian Archival and Literary Practices of Resistance

C-Level Concourse Room 202

Panel on archival and literary practices of Latina lesbians as forms of radical care, affective memory, and resistance to state repression, drawing from San Diego, the Rio Grande Valley, Arizona, and Latin America.

*Alexandra Nichole Salazar, Nancy Liliana Godoy, Bettina Aptheker, Kassel Garibay*

## 3. Fifty Years of Women's Music

C-Level Concourse Room 203

Roundtable reflecting on the Women's Music Movement, its political visions, cultural impacts, trans in/exclusion, and its ongoing significance for contemporary lesbian and queer musical artists.

*Poe M. Allphin (Moderator), Judith Casselberry, Jessica Pruett, and Emily Hunt*

## 4. Lesbian, Queer and Trans Visual Activism as Method, Materiality and Resistance

C-Level Concourse Room 204

Panel exploring global lesbian, queer, and trans visual activism across aesthetics, protest, and everyday resistance in the UK, USA, and Turkey.

*Olu Jenzen, Tessa Lewin (Co-moderators), Louise Siddons, Ace Lehner, WS*

## 5. Visualizing Lesbian Land Across Generations

C-Level Concourse Room 205

Roundtable examining lesbian intentional communities ('lesbian lands') as spaces of political, cultural, and artistic production from the 1970s to today.

*Leah DeVun, Clarity Haynes (Moderator), Louise Toth, Sam Wrigglesworth, Carol Newhouse*

## 6. The Lesbian Bar: Real and Imagined

C-Level Concourse Room 197

Where Have All the Lesbians Gone?

*Emily Kreller*

What Are We Talking About When We Talk About Lesbian Bars?

*Japonica Brown-Saracino & Alexis Clements*

The Lesbian Bar, Now: Against Anxiety

*Julia Harris*

Mythologization & Marketing in the Lesbian Bar Renaissance

*Maggie Needham*

## 7. Thinking Globally: International Perspectives on Lesbian Lives

C-Level Concourse Room 198

Filipino Reflections on Lesbian/Trans Masculine Pop Culture

*Veronica Salcedo*

Excavating Urban Intimacies in Uruguay

*Lucia Gonzalez*

African Lesbian Lives in Art & Writing

*Kweku Schmidt*

## 8. The Sapphic Pop Star

9th Floor Conference Room 9205

Chappell Roan and Lesbian Pop Stardom

*Beans Fernandez*

Tracy Chapman Meets Chappell Roan

*Melissa Hidalgo*

Dyke Music & Humor at Festivals

*Alex Pasqualini*

Sappho Was a Pop Star

*Trish Bendix*

## 9. Marriage and Family in Lesbian Lived Experience

9th Floor Conference Room 9206

Queer Motherhood & Masculinity

*Brie Radis*

Married Women Who Love Women

*Carren Strock*

Family Making & State Policing

*Shelagh Patterson*

Reproductive Politics in China

*Xiaowei Long*

Lesbian Lives & Queer Families (1920s–2020s)

*Claudia Cabello Hutt*

## 10. Intergenerational Dialogue for Lesbian Futures

9th Floor Conference Room 9207

Reclaiming Radicalism

*K.A. Harper*

Lexicons & Virtual Realities Across Time

*S.L. Crawley*

Old Age, Inventiveness & New Beginnings

*Jeanne du Roure*

Mapping Lesbian Futures in Japan

*Anna Tatton*

Intergenerational Lesbian Media

*Pearl McAndrews & Ivy Malbourne*

## 11. 50 Years of Combahee: The Combahee River Collective and Radical Black Lesbian Feminist Politics

Proshansky Auditorium

Roundtable marking the 50th anniversary of the Combahee River Collective, with reflections from founding members and contributors on its ongoing legacy and relevance.

*Demita Frazier, emerald faith, Karla Méndez, Jaimee A. Swift (Moderator), Sol Elias, Olivia R. Polk*

## 12. Lesbian Activism (Double Session)

Segal Theatre

Film screenings: *Because of You* (40 min, dir. Barbara Malaran & Desireena Almoradie) and *SALLY!* (96 min, dir. Deborah Craig), followed by Q&A with filmmakers. *Meghan McDonough (Moderator), Deborah Alice Craig, Desireena Almoradie, Barbara Malaran*

# Saturday 1:00–2:15 pm

CUNY Graduate Center

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## 1. Indelible Ink: The Power of Lesbian Cartoonists

C-Level Concourse Room 201

Roundtable with celebrated lesbian cartoonists reflecting on comics as community-building, politics, and representation.

*Bishakh Som, Diane DiMassa, Jennifer Camper, Sharon De La Cruz, Margaret Galvan (Moderator)*

## 2. Remembering Dorothy Allison

C-Level Concourse Room 202

Greedy Women: Food and Sex in Transatlantic Lesbian Culture

*Rachel Cleves*

Love & Pussy Juice: Allison & Nestle Letters

*Noémie Grunenwald*

'A Student of Cancer:' Dorothy Allison on Illness and Fiction

*Peggy Lee*

## 3. Lesbian and Women's Space: History, Complexities, and Potential

C-Level Concourse Room 203

Accountability at Trans-Inclusive Festivals

*Beth Currans*

Midwestern Women's Music Festivals

*Hannah Fuller*

Lesbian Feminism as Mutual Aid

*Chelsea del Rio*

Divagaciones: Dominican Lesbian Community

*Jacqueline Jiménez Polanco*

Female Soccer Teams in Italy

*Marah Dolfi*

## 4. Lesbian Thespians: Sapphics on Stage

C-Level Concourse Room 204

Adapting Fun Home for Stage

*Adin Walker*

Dyke Drama: Adaptation & Theatre

*Janet Werther*

Off-Broadway Lesbian Lives, 1970s

*Mary McGuire*

Lorraine Hansberry's Closet Dramas

*Sara Warner*

Sapphic Odes of Love & Domination

*Sarah Luna and Paz*

## 5. Telling Our Stories: Memoir, Autobiography, Autoethnography, and other Writings

C-Level Concourse Room 205

Compos(t)ing the Self

*Jack Helton*

Lesbian Encounters with Archival Silence

*Megan Paslawski*

Desire's Inherited

*Nicole Goodwin*

Crippling Queer Intimacies

*Quinn Meehan*

Ser Lesbian: Permission to Exist

*Cristina Medina*

## 6. Archives in the Making: Community Strategies, Practices, and Politics

C-Level Concourse Room 197

Panel on lesbian and queer archival practices as ongoing processes of remembering, representation, and community-building.

*Paola Bacchetta, Sam Bourcier,*

*Angeliki Sifaki (Moderator)*

## 7. Bringing Back Bush: Merkin Making, Lesbian Erotics, and Feminist Futures (Workshop)

C-Level Concourse Room 198

Workshop on the history and reimagining of the merkin as a site of resistance, performance, and queer craft. Includes collaborative merkin-making.

*Serenity Garcia, Kasey Kutcher, Lily*

*Moskowitz, Audrey Zelinka*

## 8. Latina/e Lesbian Archival Praxis and Memory Work: A Plática/Roda de Conversa with Malflora Collective

9th Floor Conference Room 9205

Roundtable with Malflora Collective on Latina/e lesbian archival and memory practices as forms of resistance and decolonial praxis.

*Guadalupe Ortega, Meagan Solomon (Moderator), Melissa Aslo de la Torre,*

*Anahi Ponce, Mia Santoscoy*

## 9. Lesbian Representation in Video Games

9th Floor Conference Room 9206

Pornographic Pixels & Futurity

*Al Valentin*

Sapphic Zombies in Dystopian Games

*Kat Little*

Aya Brea & Lesbianism in Parasite Eve

*Viola Glubok*

## 10. Jill Johnston: Lesbian Genius?

9th Floor Conference Room 9207

Roundtable on Jill Johnston, the Village Voice critic and lesbian feminist provocateur. Scholars and artists share writing, film, and performance inspired by her cultural impact.

*Pauline L. Boulba, Aminata Labor, Clare Croft (Moderator), Hillary Miller*

## 11. Queer Relationality: Exploring Lesbian Worlds, Life Narratives, and Intimacies

Proshansky Auditorium

A Lineage of Lesbian Life-Making: Telling the Work of Tongues, 1999–2010

*Stacy Macias*

A Butch-Femme Kiss Across East Los Angeles: The Queer Portraits of Verónica Reyes and Laura Aguilar

*Wanda Alarcón*

Lesbian and Queer Women and Online Dating: creating intimacy in the digital era

*Róisín Ryan-Flood*

Queer at Work

*Rosalind Gill*

## 12. Lesbian Foremothers (Double Session)

Segal Theatre

Lesbian Custody (Film)

*Molly Skonieczny & Samuael Topiary Landberg*

Old Lesbians (Film)

*Meghan McDonough*

A Mother Apart (Feature Film)

*Laurie Townshend*



# Saturday

2:30–3:45 pm  
CUNY Graduate Center

## 1. Trans Subjectivities

C-Level Concourse Room 201

**Who's Afraid of Leslie Feinberg?**

*Kierra Harrigan*

**Trans Lesbianism Is Magical, But Not Magic**

*Riley Hannah Lewicki*

**The Robot Haunts my Dreams**

*Lily Pando*

**From WOMB to the TSTubs**

*Rosza Daniel Lang/Levitsky*

**White Womanhood Must Be Defended**

*Tai Davidson Bajandas*

## 2. Oh, the Horror!: Sapphic Representation in the Horror Genre

C-Level Concourse Room 202

**Black Girl Burning**

*Annaya Baynes*

**Twin, Doppelganger, Model**

*Madeleine Collier*

**From Casualty to Heroine**

*Victoria Jamilé Hernández*

## 3. Lesbian Bars: Then and Now

C-Level Concourse Room 203

**Glances, Gestures, and Names**

*Emma Wood*

**Inclusive in Name, Exclusive in Practice**

*Huanyue Li*

**Not Just a Lady's Place**

*Izzy Ozeki*

**Nightlife Narratives and New**

**Lesbian Bars**

*Maura Burns*

## 4. Sex, Kink, and Erotica

C-Level Concourse Room 204

**Digital Desire**

*Katherine Noble*

**Nonbinary BDSM as a Site of Process**

*Cali McKenzie*

**Miss Ogilvy Loses Herself**

*G. Reed Richardson*

**Ricochet Into New Forms**

*Mae Howard*

## 5. Our Windows onto the Garden, Our Windows onto the Street (Workshop)

C-Level Concourse Room 205

Participatory poetry writing & collaborative reading — Lesbian, Queer and Women-Identified Sum Poets Collective

*Alexis Ask, Lilian Elizabeth, Eliana*

*Espinal, Nini Lee, Luleta Mehareena,*

*Bobbie Richards, Deborah Schwartz,*

*and Tairyn Venerable*

## 6. Black Lesbian Archival Memory Work across the Diaspora

C-Level Concourse Room 197

Black Lesbian Archival Practices

*Kiahra Read*

Self-Archival Practices & Activism

*Shawn(ta) Smith-Cruz*

Black Lesbian Aesthetics

*Briona Simone Jones*

Community Networks in the Mid-20th Century

*Mignon R. Moore*

## 7. Zines and Comics: Imagining Sapphic Culture, Politics, and Identity in Print

C-Level Concourse Room 198

Lesbian & Queer Zines Workshop

*Danielle Bullock*

Off Our Spocks

*Gil Hatcher*

Finding & Preserving Lesbian History

*Meg Metcalf-Joyce*

Rural Butch Brotherhood (Comic)

*Al Benbow*

## 8. Queering of the Corn

9th Floor Conference Room 9205

Collaborative project of queer films, zine & Dyke Camp

*Bea Hurd (Moderator), Alexandra*

*Juhasz, Z Behl*

## 9. Art in History and in Practice

9th Floor Conference Room 9206

Lesbian Visual Artists in Magazines

*Alexis Johnson*

Lesbian Identity in Contemporary

Art in Exile

*Victoria Suvoroff*

**Drawing into Life**

*Lisa Fingleton*

**Crocheting Across Time+Space**

*Moss Berke*

## 10. Coming into Our Own: New Lesbian Sex Writing (Workshop)

9th Floor Conference Room 9207

Workshop on lesbian sex writing

*Brandy Wilson, Danielle Blackman*

## 11. Kitchen Table to Gallery and Beyond

Proshansky Auditorium

Roundtable with filmmakers, poets, visual artists, and musicians on lesbian memory & art

*Mara Baldwin, M. Nicole Horsley,*

*Amber Alexander, Heather Bartlett,*

*Jacinta Whitcome, Jaime Warburton*

*(Moderator)*

## 12. Lesbian Foremothers (Double Session)

Segal Theatre

**Lesbian Custody (Film)**

*Molly Skonieczny & Samuael Topiary*

*Landberg*

**Old Lesbians (Film)**

*Meghan McDonough*

**A Mother Apart (Feature Film)**

*Laurie Townshend*

## 4:00–5:30 pm

### Closing Plenary: International Solidarity and Coalitions

Proshansky Auditorium

How do we broaden our tents?

How do we create practices of solidarity and coalitions?

*Katherine O'Donnell (moderator),*

*Wen Liu, Sarah Schulman, Cindy*

*Cruz, Briona Simone Jones,*

*Ghadir Shafie*

# Sunday 9:30–11:00 am

LGBT Center, 208 W 13 St

## Lesbian NYC Walking Tour

Join the LGBTQ NYC Historic Sites Project for a walking tour of Greenwich Village. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the arch in Washington Square Park. (The link opens in Google Maps.) The tour will end at The Center, 208 W 13 St, New York, NY 10011 in time for the 11 a.m. book celebration. Ticket required.

## Soft Places: Preserving the Lesbian and Sapphic Home Archive with Tina Rose Rea Meister | MFA Candidate University of Wisconsin, Madison

The purpose of this project is to archive textiles from the homes of lesbians and sapphic-identifying individuals, and women-loving-women to share the stories and histories of those objects and their homes. Participants are asked to bring any used/worn textile that lives in their self-defined home, (for example: towel, rag, curtains,

tablecloth, robe, blanket, potholder, oven mit, apron, and beyond) that you are willing to part with.

Over the course of the workshop, a one-on-one oral history interview will be recorded with the participant both on the history of the textile and the participant's experiences and associations to home. During the interview, the participant and interviewer will share in mending and adorning the textile. These processes of mending and sharing of stories signify the care, community, and personal history that flow into the objects of the home.

## 11:00 am–1:00 pm


### Lesbian Lives Book Celebration at BGSQD at The Center

featuring Lana Lin, Sara Ellen Strongman, Padraig Rooney, Cheryl Clarke, and Diane DiMassa

# QUEER-CLASS RELATIONS

## Graduate Student Pre-Conference

APRIL 15-16, 2026  
Philadelphia




Hosted by  
**University of Pennsylvania**

## Main Conference

APRIL 17-18, 2026  
New York

Hosted by **CLAGS4\***  
Celebrating 40 years of LGBTQ Studies

 **GRADUATE CENTER**

# Useful information

## for presenters

Technology: Each of the spaces has technology available for individuals and panels to use. As we are all aware, however, technology can be tricky. We are unable to provide human assistance with the technology. Please come prepared to operate the technology systems yourself. Consider a backup plan for your presentation in case there are any technological difficulties that cannot be resolved.

At CLAGS, all rooms on the C-Level (Concourse Level) have projectors. C197 and C198 have GC Dell desktop computers. The other C-Level rooms have Dell laptops. All rooms have audio capabilities for playing videos with sound.

The Segal Theatre, where all film screenings will be held, has VLC and Windows Media Player installed on the computers, enabling mp4 play for all video files.

Moderators have the option to offer introduction to participants, or participants can introduce themselves at the beginning of their presentation. Plan a brief introduction. Full biographies are in the long program.

Moderators and Presenters, please make the front row of seats available to participants with accessibility needs (particularly low-vision people).

## For Participants

Lesbian Lives is full and completely sold out! We are thrilled by this and hope you enjoy the great energy of the conference and have a lot of time to connect with new and interesting people.

This overflowing gathering of lesbians is going to create some challenges. We hope that you will embrace these moments of challenge with joy and levity and take the opportunities to make new friends. In particular, please note:

- You may have to stand in lines—for

registration, for food, for the bathrooms, and more! Please be patient.

- You may encounter full panel sessions. Feel free to sit on the floor and stand in the back. If you are able-bodied and can stand for long periods or sit on the floor, please yield your seat to someone who might need it.
- The Proshansky Auditorium may fill. If that happens, we will have overflow seating with a live stream of the proceedings in the Auditorium.

With patience and kindness, we will all be able to navigate this wonderful conference overflowing with lesbians, queer women, and joy as we gather together.

Please note that we will hold seats near the front of Proshansky Auditorium for people with low vision or other accessibility needs.

Round tables outside of the Proshansky Auditorium in the concourse are where you can sit and eat. There will also be roundtables outside of Elebash Hall on the second floor where you can eat. There is no food allowed in the Proshansky Auditorium.

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.

Hive Mind Books will be selling lesbian, feminist, and queer books throughout the conference.

Lesbians\* over 50 are warmly encouraged to sign up for brief (15-minute) oral history interviews during the Lesbian Lives Conference. These interviews will be conducted in room 3317 of the CUNY Graduate Center (on the third floor) and will contribute to In Time, an international archive dedicated to preserving and amplifying the stories of lesbian elders.

If you would like to take a short walk, 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.

Quiet space to sit, relax, chill is available in the Graduate Student Council Room on the fifth floor, room 5414.

Finally, we hope that you take many photos (with permissions from subjects!) of your time at the conference. If you have photos that you wish to share, please upload them to: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GL4BkwAIBj\\_fwH-WkoDBCWzg7VtPpwUz?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GL4BkwAIBj_fwH-WkoDBCWzg7VtPpwUz?usp=sharing) Please include in the file name a caption and the photographer name as a photo credit.

A long program with complete panel descriptions, paper abstracts, and presenter biographies is available at: [sinisterwisdom.org/lesbianlives2025](http://sinisterwisdom.org/lesbianlives2025)

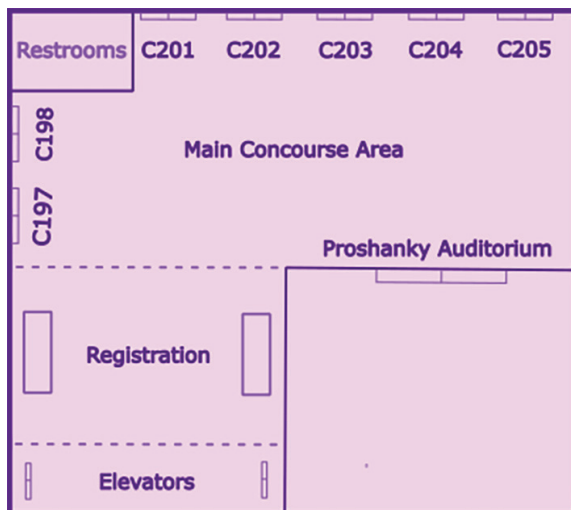


# Maps

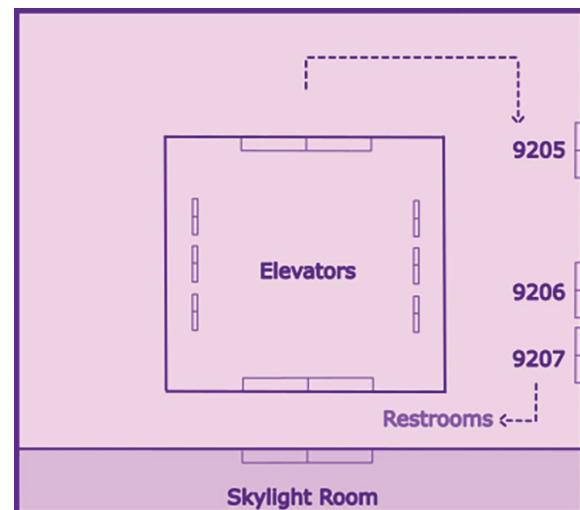
## LL Program Location Map



## CUNY Graduate Center



Concourse (C) Level



9th Floor





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