

UCLA

Queer Cats Journal of LGBTQ Studies

Title

Editors' Notes

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/1521d155>

Journal

Queer Cats Journal of LGBTQ Studies, 3(1)

Authors

Carrillo, Vicente
Silvestre, Audrey

Publication Date

2019

DOI

10.5070/Q531045947

Copyright Information

Copyright 2019 by the author(s). All rights reserved unless otherwise indicated. Contact the author(s) for any necessary permissions. Learn more at <https://escholarship.org/terms>

Peer reviewed

EDITORS' NOTES

Queer Cats Volume III and IV is comprised of selected submissions that were presented at the 2016 and 2017 UCLA Queer Grad Conferences. In this edition of Queer Cats Journal you will find publications from graduate student presenters from each conference.

Queer Cats Volume III explores the new and changing ways queer communities move, mobilize and re-make space. Queer enclaves have long offered the LGBTQ community a safe counter-space in which to live and love, socialize and organize. Considering the important value queer spaces offer to the larger LGBTQ community, the 2016 conference sought to explore the shifting landscapes of LGBTQ space and movement—leaving home/re-making home, transnational migration, locating and dis-locating queer spaces, and seeking sexual encounters in cyberspace. In his essay “Torsos, Selfies, and Blanks: Grindr as a Research Tool and a Field Sit,” Ricardo J. Millhouse offers an analysis of the mobile dating app, Grindr, as a methodological tool for sociological and geographical qualitative research about the (im)mobility of queer bodies. In her essay “The “Gayfication” of Tel Aviv: Investigating Isarale’s Pro-gay Brand,” Satchie Snellings provides an in-depth analysis of Tel Aviv’s political move towards LGBT inclusion and its active incorporation of not only the gay citizen but the accompanying profitable gay-tourism. Lastly, in “Dismembered Bodies of Color: U.S. Imperialisms in the Pulse,” Yazan Zha Zha critically examines the racialization and Islamophobia after the June 12, 2016, Orlando Pulse shootings. Zha Zha argues that the mainstream media portrayed Omar Mateen as the unstable and extreme Muslim terrorist with a pledged to Isis while simultaneously minimizing the violence against racialized queer bodies.

Volume IV, alongside the 2017 QGrad Conference, celebrates the 20th anniversary of LGBTQ Studies at UCLA. Such a momentous occasion called for a moment of reflexivity to consider both the formation of the field and the voices that have been historically elevated in mainstream academic LGBT discourse. Thus, Queer Cats Volume 4 intentionally centers queer of color genealogies, scholarship, and activism. Guided

by Jose Esteban Munoz’s notion of the “here and now” and the “then and there,” the 2017 UCLA Queer Grad Conference theme “Radical Imaginaries: Scholar-Activism Dismantling the Politics of Hate” explores how trans and queer of color art and activism have transformed the world in the last 20 years. “Transforming Emotional Regime: Pai Hsien-yung’s *Crystal Boys*” turns towards literature as a means of exploring emotional hierarchies that both inform and organize homophobia and anti-queer violence within the structure of the family. Linshan Jiang takes us through *Crystal Boys*—a canonical piece of Taiwanese queer literature—a love story between two male lovers up against the social order of *filial piety* in Taiwan during the 1960s. In “Dreams/Myths/Histories: Envisioning More Livable World” we arrive at the duo-keynote conversation between the 2017 keynote speakers: C. Riley Snorton and CeCe McDonald. In their keynote conversation, Snorton and McDonald discuss what it means to be black, trans, and unapologetic in a white violent society. They tackle a variety of topics including Afro-futurism, radical imaginaries, prison abolition, and anti-blackness both in and out the LGBTQ community.

In this final section of the journal, Omar Gonzalez provides a brief book review of gay Chicano novelist John Rechy’s latest book *After the Blue Hour*. Gonzalez’s review, “The Nепantla of John Rechy,” delivers an overview of the breadth of work by Rechy. Through a Nепantla framework, Gonzalez suggests that Rechy’s latest piece of literature not only problematizes the themes of erotic desire and domination but also establishes itself as yet another important contribution for gay Chicano literature.

To our queer gatitx readers: We hope these essays incite critical dialogues about the intersections of racialized bodies, U.S imperialism, anti-blackness, white hegemony and anti-queer violence. Thank you for supporting Queer Cats Journal. Meow.

Vicente Carrillo and Audrey Silvestre, Editors in Chief