

Call for Abstracts

QUEERTOPIA 2020: New Queer & Trans Politics?

Abstract Submission Deadline: January 12, 2020 (Sunday)

Conference Date and Location: February 29, 2020 (Saturday) — Northwestern University

On February 29, 2020, the Northwestern Queer Pride Graduate Student Association will host its 13th annual Queertopia Conference. Queertopia is an event that offers graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, activists, organizers, artists, and community practitioners the opportunity to build intellectual community and interrogate questions about gender and sexuality through art practice and performance, popular and academic research, and community engagement. **We invite submissions by January 12, 2020 (Sunday) of graduate, postgraduate, and practitioner research across disciplines around this year's theme of "New Queer & Trans Politics?"**

This conference invites scholarship from a wide range of disciplines on the topic of LGBTQ+ politics, (in)justice, and activism. Topics we aim to explore include LGBTQ+ engagement with politics both local and global, the continued (neoliberal?) slackening of LGBTQ+ politics, critical queer and trans involvement with prison abolition, and possibilities for renewing or invigorating LGBTQ+ political energies, textures, and performances. The word "new" in our theme is a common attribution to revitalized areas of study or culture (e.g., new media, new materialism, new queer cinema), so here, too, we attach "new" both to prompt inquiries in current LGBTQ+ politics and to irrigate future political forms and formations.

We ask:

- What is the role of LGBTQ+ politics today? What would a "new" queer & trans politics look and feel like? What might a contemporary LGBTQ+ counterpublic look and feel like?
- What has motivated and motivates the waning of LGBTQ+ political formations, especially with respect to political coalition?
- What queer and trans feelings, affects, and embodiments does contemporary LGBTQ+ politics structure, disallow, or create? Do prior instantiations of LGBTQ+ politics offer viable ways to innervate current queer and trans political scenes and sites?
- How does and might LGBTQ+ politics engage the many damaging and deathly effects of the many nationalisms taking shape nationally and internationally?
- How does and might emergent LGBTQ+ political formations counter or re-work the traditional dominances of visibility, representational, and rights-based politics in LGBTQ+ political activism?
- How might staging encounters or re-encounters among queer theory, critical trans studies, Black studies, Indigenous studies, critical race theory, Black feminism, disability studies, Latinx studies, and ethnic studies stimulate and sustain LGBTQ+ politics, activism, and thought?
- What roles do legislation, litigation, and policy-making play in the political participation and social support of LGBTQ+ communities?

- How can social justice organizing and political advocacy protect and support LGBTQ+ communities, especially with respect to healthcare, access to public services, and various civil rights?
- How does or might LGBTQ+ communities envision or revise “justice”? What form does this transformative or restorative justice take, and what are its effects?
- How does art, media, and technology affect political discussion and participation within LGBTQ+ communities?

Submission Instructions:

Please submit an abstract (up to 300 words, attached as a .doc/.docx document with filename - Queertopia - <Your last name>), a 75-word bio, and contact information for a presenter to nuqpgsa@gmail.com by January 12, 2020 (Sunday). The subject line of the email should be ‘QUEERTOPIA 2020 (your last name)’. Please specify any audio or visual needs or other requests you may have. You will receive a response confirming receipt of your submission within three days. Accepted submissions will be selected by conference organizers and announced by end of January. For any questions, please email us at nuqpgsa@gmail.com.

A note on submissions:

Just as Queertopia invites submissions that address a broad range of questions and topics pertaining to LGBTQ+ politics, we also welcome submissions that expansively approach the format (research presentation, critical analysis, story telling, etc.) of presented sessions. We therefore ask that prospective presenters briefly describe the format of their proposed sessions in their abstract.