



# Political Reaction

## How Sexuality Studies Matters to the Struggle for Social Justice

**April 20-21, 2023**  
**Northwestern University**

**S P A N**  
the Sexualities Project at Northwestern

# Thursday, April 20th

Keynote, 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm (followed by reception)

Trienens Forum (Kresge 1-515), 1880 Campus Drive, Evanston, IL

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*"The Squeamish Center:  
Sex, Religion, and Neoliberalism"*

Janet Jakobsen, Barnard College, Columbia University

# Friday, April 21st

Sessions, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Trienens Forum (Kresge 1-515), 1880 Campus Drive, Evanston, IL

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9:00 am - 9:30 am | Continental Breakfast (provided) Kresge 1-525

9:30 am - 9:50 am

Welcome by Nick Davis (Director, Gender & Sexuality Studies)

Introduction by Héctor Carrillo & Gregory Ward (Co-Directors, SPAN)

9:50 am - 11:10 am | Session I

*"Protecting Women's Sports?  
TERFism and White Supremacy in Anti-Trans Youth Sports Bills"*

Mia Fischer, University of Colorado Denver

Session Chair: Tara Gonsalves, Assistant Professor of Sociology

Graduate Student Commentators: Nathan Lamp, Yasmín S. Portales-Machado

11:10 am - 11:30 am | Break

11:30 am - 12:50 pm | Session II

*"What is the Place of Sexuality in the Struggle for Social Justice in Mexico? A Case for Intersectionality"*

Ana Amuchástegui, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco

Session Chair: Diego Arispe-Bazán, Assistant Professor of Instruction in Anthropology

Graduate Student Commentator: Katherine Powell

12:50 pm - 1:50 pm | Lunch (provided) Crowe 1-132

1:50 pm - 3:10 pm | Session III

*"Pornhub's Foes and Woes: Understanding Sexual Politics through Today's Anti-Pornography Movement"*

Kelsy Burke, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Session Chair: Steve Epstein, Professor of Sociology

Graduate Student Commentators: Myrna Moretti, Facundo Suenzo

3:10 pm - 3:30 pm | Break

3:30 pm - 4:50 pm | Session IV

*"The Future of Sexual Politics"*

A facilitated discussion led by Minwoo Jung, Loyola University

4:50 pm - 5:00 pm | Closing Remarks

## Keynote

**Janet R. Jakobsen** is Claire Tow Professor of Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies and Co-Director of the Center for Research on Women at Barnard College, Columbia University. Jakobsen's most recent book is *The Sex Obsession: Perversity and Possibility in American Politics*, a 2021 Finalist for the Lambda Literary Award in LGBTQ Studies. She was the founding editor of the webjournal *Scholar & Feminist Online* and has taught as a Visiting Professor at Wesleyan University and Harvard University. Before entering the academy, she was a policy analyst and organizer in Washington, D.C.

## Guest Speakers

**Ana Amuchástegui** is Social Psychology Professor-Researcher at the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco in Mexico City, and member of the National System of Researchers. She has carried out extensive qualitative studies on subjectivity and governmentality regarding women's sexual and reproductive rights. She recently collaborated in the collective endeavor *Paradoxes of Neoliberalism: Sex, Gender and Possibilities for Justice* (Routledge, 2022), led by Elizabeth Bernstein and Janet Jakobsen. Tired of the neoliberal model of extractive research, she has been involved since 2014 in the long-term project "Yantzin: Women Peer HIV Advisors in Health Services in Oaxaca, Mexico City, and Chiapas."

**Kelsy Burke** is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and an award-winning researcher of sexuality, culture, and politics. Her work has examined a wide range of topics, including religious freedom laws and LGBT rights, evangelical women's ministries, public debates over pornography, and the Christian sex advice industry. Burke's research has been supported by multiple grants and fellowships, including from the National Science Foundation, and has been published by top academic journals and popular outlets, including *The Guardian*, *Newsweek*, *Slate*, and *The Washington Post*. She is the author two books: *Christians under Covers: Evangelicals and Sexual Pleasure on the Internet* (2016, University of California Press) and *The Pornography Wars: The Past, Present, and Future of America's Obscene Obsession* (2023, Bloomsbury).

**Mia Fischer** (she/her) is Associate Professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Colorado Denver. Working at the intersections of critical media, sports, queer, trans, and surveillance studies, her work has appeared in *Feminist Media Studies*, *Communication, Culture & Critique*, *Sexualities*, *Communication & Sport*, and *QED* among other venues. Her first monograph, *Terrorizing Gender: Transgender Visibility and the Surveillance Practices of the U.S. Security State* (University of Nebraska Press, 2019), is the recipient of NCA's Diamond Anniversary Book Award. Fischer is currently working on a larger project that contextualizes the rise of anti-trans legislation since 2020 within the broader resurgence of white supremacy and anti-democratic forces in the U.S.

**Minwoo Jung** is Assistant Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies and Gender Studies at Loyola University Chicago. Drawing on multi-sited fieldwork conducted across East and Southeast Asia, he is working on a book project that presents a comparative ethnography of the intimate entanglements of queer struggles and geopolitics. His work has been published in *The British Journal of Sociology*, *The Sociological Review*, *Social Movement Studies*, and *positions: asia critique*. He received his PhD in sociology in 2021 from the University of Southern California.

## Graduate Student Commentators

**Nathan Lamp** (they/she) is a writer, educator, and theatre artist from Toledo, OH. They are a third-year Ph.D. student in performance studies at NU, where they are also pursuing certificates in gender & sexuality studies and critical theory. Nathan is a graduate mentor in the Brady Program for Ethics and Civic Life, the advisor for the International Studies Residential College, and has served as a graduate assistant for Northwestern's Women's Center. Their research attends to the intersections of feminism, queer & trans liberation, and climate justice, examining how artists & communities respond to the various states of ecological disaster, climate catastrophe, and political emergency that shape the way we live now, as well as how we imagine more just futures.

**Myrna Moretti** is a PhD candidate in the department of Radio/Television/Film. She researches the intersection of emerging technology, gender, and everyday life in North American popular culture. She previously served as one of the Gender & Sexuality Studies Teaching Assistants. Myrna is also a filmmaker with a focus on documentary and experimental video.

**Yasmín S. Portales-Machado** is a Ph.D. Student in Spanish & Portuguese and GSS Cluster Fellow at Northwestern University. She has a Creative Writing Diploma (2003), a B.A. in Theater Critic (2007), and an M.A. in Spanish (2018). She currently combines her academic work with LGBTQ activism and podcasting. Her research examines how science fiction depicts politics, sexualities, and families in Spanish Caribbean Literature, focusing on Cuba. She has published essays in edited volumes from Cuba, Portugal, the U.S., and Spain. Her short stories have been included in anthologies from Cuba, the U.S., Brazil, and Spain.

**Katherine Powell** is a second-year JD-PhD student in African American Studies, born and raised in Chicago. Her major research interests are Black feminisms and Black historical methodologies as an interruption of silences in the archive. Katherine's current project is an history of eugenics and forced sterilization in California in the twentieth century, and looks at the imbrications of race, class, disability, and gender.

**Facundo Suenzo** is a Ph.D. student in the Media, Technology, and Society program at Northwestern. His research interests sit at the intersection of issues of gender, sexuality, and technology. Facundo is the coordinator of the Center for Latinx Digital Media.

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