

Kansas

GENDER @ SEXUALITY

CONFERENCE **CELEBRATING 10 YEARS**

8:30 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

**RHATIGAN STUDENT CENTER
3RD FLOOR**



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIOLOGY



DEPARTMENT OF
**WOMEN'S, ETHNICITY, &
INTERSECTIONAL STUDIES**

COMMUNITY DONORS:
MARYALICE BIRK,
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THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS, WHICH ALLOWS OUR CONFERENCE
TO REMAIN FREE AND OPEN TO THE KANSAS COMMUNITY.

Agenda at a Glance

8:30-9:00 am **Registration and Coffee (Beggs Ballroom)**
9:00-9:30 am **Welcome & Community Organization Showcase (Beggs Ballroom)**

9:45-10:45 am **Session #1**

Breakout A (Beggs Ballroom): Representations of Patriarchy and Heteronormativity

- **Hemberger:** The Language of Choice: A Semiotic Analysis of Signs in the 2022 Kansas Abortion Vote
- **Lynch & Dozier:** Gendered Representation of Popular Archaeology: Pictorial Analysis of Archaeology Magazine (1948-2020)
- **McCowan:** The Queer Ecology of Emily Dickinson: Gender, Sexuality, and the Natural World

Breakout B (Gridley): Workshop

- **Cramer:** “Recognizing, Affirming, and Teaching Diverse Genders and Sexualities Using the Award-Winning Middle Grades and Young Adult Novels of Kacen Callender”

11:00 am – 12:00 pm **Session #2**

Breakout A (Beggs Ballroom): Inclusive Healthcare

- **Floyd:** An Overview on Gender Dysphoria in Adolescents: The Diagnosis and Approach to Management
- **Lynne-Joseph:** Commonalities in Experiences of Gender-Affirming Healthcare in the U.S. and Thailand: Examining Sociocultural Acceptance and Geographic Distribution of Care
- **Heseltine:** Undermining Public Health: Religious Objections to Insurance Coverage for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)

Breakout B (Gridley): Workshop

- **Fiorini:** Women with Disabilities: Invisibility within a Sexist & Ablest Society

12:00 – 1:00pm **Lunch (Beggs Ballroom)**

- *If you purchased a boxed lunch in advance, you will pick it up in the Beggs Ballroom.*

1:00 – 2:00 pm **Session #3**

Breakout A (Beggs Ballroom): Pride and Queer Possibilities

- **Brabec:** MEILÉ YRA VISIEMS: THE EVOLUTION OF PRIDE IN LITHUNANIA
- **Scott:** How to Have Sex in an Epidemic: A Second Approach
- **Wilson:** Building Inclusivity Brick-by-Brick: Observing Twitter Reactions to Lego’s “Everyone is Awesome” Set

Breakout B (Gridley): Gender & Sexuality in Literature

- **Ankrah:** Representation of “Othered” Women in 19th-Century Literature and on Television
- **Partin:** Empowering Female Readers’ Sexual Agency in the Heteronormative Romance and Contemporary Fantasy of Sarah J. Maas’ *A Court of Thorns and Roses* Series
- **Dalhaus:** Never Let Me Go: The Undeniable Fight for Selfhood in Three Works by María Luisa Bombal

2:15-3:15 pm **Session #4 Performance (Beggs Ballroom)**

- **Gingrich-Gaylord, Clawson, Estrada, & McClelland:** SHUSH - Bricks and Burial

3:30-4:30 pm **Keynote (Beggs Ballroom)**

- **Dr. Leandra Hernandez:** “Gender, Identity, and Reproductive Justice in a post-Roe World”

4:30-5:30pm **Networking Reception (Beggs Ballroom/Aster Lounge)**

Conference Locations

Beggs Ballroom

- Welcome Session
- Community Organization Showcase
- Breakout A
- Performance
- Keynote Presentation

Gridley Room (RSC 301)

- Breakout B

Venters Room (RSC 314)

- Quiet Space

Prairie Room (RSC 313)

- Open Space for Continued Conversations and Networking

Restrooms

- Binary and Gender-Neutral Restrooms are available on the 3rd floor behind the stair well

Dining Options

- RSC 1st Floor: Food Court
- RSC Basement: Shocker Sports Grill & Lanes
- Nearby: Shocker Dining Hall: Buffet

Sessions with Abstracts

9:45-10:45am

Session #1 Breakout A (Beggs Ballroom): *Representations of Patriarchy and Heteronormativity*

The Language of Choice: A Semiotic Analysis of Signs in the 2022 Kansas Abortion Vote
Presenter: Kaitlyn Hemberger, Wichita State University

In the 2022 Kansas abortion referendum, Kansans voted to maintain state-level access to and funding of abortion after the loss of federal protection and the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*; however, the fight was an expensive one. Overall, the pro-life and pro-choice movements in Kansas together spent approximately 12 million dollars in advertising, ultimately bringing forth nationwide attention to the cause. Drawing on prior research from Strange (2022)'s breakdown of signage from the Irish abortion referendum of 2018, this study seeks to better understand the depiction of women's agency in signage in Kansas in 2022 used on both political sides using a semiotic analysis through symbolic interactionist theory. In particular, it uses syntactic, euphemistic, spatial, and ideological criteria to categorize and define commonalities in the structuring of gender across any political dogma represented in the linguistic landscape of the Value Them Both Amendment. Preliminary data collection and review suggest that although Kansas maintains more lenient abortion laws than its neighboring states, pro-choice signage seldom depicts women as active agents in their choice any more than pro-life advertisements. Further, pro-choice signage often removes women from the language or imagery in the sign altogether or depicts them as mothers just as often as pro-life signage.

Gendered Representation of Popular Archaeology: Pictorial Analysis of Archaeology Magazine (1948-2020)
Presenters: Siofra Lynch & Dr. Crystal Dozier, Wichita State University

Archaeology is a discipline that has long captured the imaginations of the public. Despite the reality that the academic field has been dominated by female graduates since the 1970s, persistence in the discipline has been only recently parsimonious, if not male dominated. The present study explores patterns in gender representation within popular conceptions of archaeological field and lab work. We recorded visual trends within *Archaeology* magazine, a publication of the American Institute of Archaeology and the field's most popular general public magazine, from 1948 to 2020. Through examination of the photographs featured within the articles, we find that men are over-represented in all aspects of pictorial representation. Although the rates of women photographed as archaeologists has increased through time, average representation of women more than 30% has only occurred after 2015. As the magazine has increased the number of photographs per article throughout the years, our data indicates that the total number of men will continue to outpace the representation of women. We discuss these findings in historical context of gender imbalances within the field, popular conceptions of archaeology, and intersections between gender and other social categories.

The Queer Ecology of Emily Dickinson: Gender, Sexuality, and the Natural World

Presenter: Randi McCowan, Wichita State University

Faculty advisor: Dr. Rebecca Bechtold

INTRODUCTION: With the heteronormative language and patriarchally elevating labels placed upon nature, our understanding of the environment has been greatly narrowed, and has excluded notions of queerness, as well as queer people themselves. As a queer poet and lover of the natural world, Emily Dickinson used ambiguity and wordplay in her poetry to open up the language placed upon the landscape.

PURPOSE: Dickinson's work has seldom been viewed from the perspective of Queer Ecology. Yet, so much of her poems worked towards a fuller and queerer view of nature. Therefore, her work is valuable in reversing our dichotomous view of the environment, and thus is an important tool for bringing about a new, more inclusive, ecology.

METHODS: Combining Queer Theory, Queer Ecology, and Lavender Linguistics (aka LGBT Linguistics), my research will seek to reframe Emily Dickinson within these fields, finding numerous instances of her "queering" the dualistic perceptions of nature.

CONCLUSION: With numerous poems using genderplay and defiance of sexual norms, and often employing natural elements, flora and fauna, to perform her subversions, there are ample examples to demonstrate Dickinson's position as an early proponent of Queer Ecology.

9:45-10:45am

Session #1 Breakout B (Gridley Room): Workshop

Recognizing, Affirming, and Teaching Diverse Genders and Sexualities Using the Award-Winning Middle Grades and Young Adult Novels of Kacen Callender

Presenters: Dr. Katherine Cramer & Caleb Thornton, Wichita State University

GLSEN's National School Climate Survey continues to reveal the need for educator professional development and curricular changes in schools to recognize and affirm diverse sexual and gender identities (Kosciw, et al., 2022). Similarly, the National Council of Teachers of English has taken strong stances in support of embracing and celebrating sexual and gender diversity in our classrooms, curriculums, and pedagogy (NCTE, 2007; NCTE 2018; NCTE 2021). In middle and high school English language arts classrooms, the inclusion of texts with multiple, varied representations of expansive sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and their intersections with other identities is a good starting point, particularly in our current political climate. But as Blackburn and Pennell note, "inclusion isn't enough" (2018, p. 28). We must seize and create opportunities to interrogate assumptions about sexuality and gender in our classrooms. Kacen Callender's award-winning middle grades and young adult books elevate the beauty and excellence of queer, trans, and nonbinary characters of color, thus helping readers develop critical consciousness and celebrate the variability, fluidity, and complexity of all sexualities and genders.

In this interactive session, an English teacher educator (Cramer) and pre-service English teacher (Thornton) will introduce Callender's books for middle grades and young adult readers through book talks, shared readings of compelling excerpts, and learning activities that are easily adaptable for grades six through 16. Using Gholdy Muhammad's Historically Responsive Literacy Framework (2020), we will invite participants to engage in close readings, make connections to their identities and experiences, analyze author craft, and write critically and creatively in response to the texts and our shared dialogue.

11:00am-12:00pm

Session #2 Breakout A (Beggs Ballroom): Inclusive Healthcare

An Overview on Gender Dysphoria in Adolescents: The Diagnosis and Approach to Management

Presenter: Victoria Floyd, Wichita State University

Gender dysphoria (GD) is a medical condition whereby incongruence between one's birth sex and gender identity results in psychological distress as defined by DSM-5 criteria. GD was first reported in the medical literature in the 1960s; and the prevalence among adolescents (age 11-17) has increased dramatically over the last 20 years. Diagnosis and management have evolved to reflect current medical and scientific cultures and now recommends a multidisciplinary approach involving therapists, psychiatrists, endocrinologists, and primary care providers. A mental health assessment and psychotherapy is the recommended first step before implementing pharmaceutical therapy. Gonadotropin releasing hormone (GnRH) therapy is generally considered the mainstay initial medical treatment as this works to suppress sex hormones, which allows the individual time to explore their gender identity with a mental health professional and family without biologic puberty progression. The more controversial and irreversible cross-sex hormones typically follow GnRH therapy later in adolescence or can be initiated if the adolescent has already experienced puberty (around age 16). Delaying treatment is not a neutral act, but initiating treatment also comes with risks including effects on bone mineral density, adult height, and body composition. This presentation discusses current evidence and clinical guidelines regarding diagnosis and management of GD including risks and benefits of treatment and appropriate medical and mental health referrals.

Commonalities in Experiences of Gender-Affirming Healthcare in the U.S. and Thailand: Examining Sociocultural Acceptance and Geographic Distribution of Care

Presenter: Dr. Alyssa Lynne-Joseph, Wichita State University

Medical sociology has adopted a more international focus in recent years. Yet, the subfield – like the field of sociology overall – still tends to use the nation-state as the default unit of analysis. Additionally, this scholarship often adopts a cultural essentialist view that stresses absolute differences between cultures and obscures possible connections in the experiences of marginalized groups across national borders. In this paper, I argue for a postcolonial feminist approach to transnational research on health and medicine that challenges methodological nationalism and cultural essentialism. Using the case of gender-affirming healthcare – or care that transgender and gender diverse (TGD) people may use to affirm their gender identity – I demonstrate how this approach can help reveal commonalities in healthcare experiences across borders. Drawing on 83 interviews with healthcare providers, TGD activists, and TGD patients, I identify three common patterns experienced by TGD people in both the U.S. and Thailand due to variations in sociocultural acceptance and geographic availability of gender-affirming within each country. First, I describe commonalities in barriers to care and delays in accessing gender-affirming healthcare in Thailand and the U.S. due to rural and urban divides. Second, I detail the pattern whereby some TGD people permanently relocate to navigate a pathway to care that had been previously unavailable to them. Third, I analyze how issues of sociocultural acceptance and geographic distribution were mediated by racial identity and social class. This research has important implications not only for gender-affirming healthcare, but also for understanding the healthcare experiences of other marginalized communities on a transnational scale.

Undermining Public Health: Religious Objections to Insurance Coverage for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)
Presenter: Alexa Heseltine, Kansas State University

In March of 2010, The Affordable Care Act (ACA) was passed with the goal of making healthcare more available to citizens of the United States of America. One of the things covered under the ACA is preventative health care. In 2019, the United States Preventive Services Task Force made a recommendation for additions to the ACA which included Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for adults and adolescents who face an increased risk of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) exposure. HIV can lead to Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS). This recommendation ultimately led to the addition of PrEP in the ACA in 2021, which faced almost immediate backlash. During *Braidwood Management v. Becerra*, plaintiffs argued that this addition goes against the Religious Restoration Act (Corlette and Giovannelli, par 1). However, this case is not alone in its efforts to dismantle the ACA. A multitude of other cases have gone to trial in an attempt to remove different sections, or in some cases the entire Affordable Care Act. For public health advancements to ensue, the motivation behind these efforts needs to be fully understood. Thus, this project explores the efforts to remove PrEP as preventative health care from the ACA in order to determine how best to mount a case for keeping it.

11:00am-12:00pm

Session #2 Breakout B (Gridley Room): Workshop

Women with Disabilities: Invisibility within a Sexist & Ablest Society

Presenter: Dr. Jody Fiorini, Wichita State University

Women with disabilities often experience a sense of invisibility in society and even within social justice movements around gender, socioeconomic status, LGBTQ status, and race. Disability policy was originally tailored to the needs of formerly working males – vocational emphasis focused on autonomy and independence. This emphasis has left out issues of child rearing, sexuality, and women’s perspectives and voices in the disability movement. The result has been a dearth of information about women’s experiences with disability. Information that does exist is frequently written by men from a man’s perspective. The presenter will provide information to attendees about inequities related to poverty, unemployment, segregation, loneliness, sexuality, and exploitation faced by women with disabilities and will discuss ways to advocate for women who experience disability. This workshop is designed to help attendees understand the unique needs and problems experienced by women with disabilities. The presenter is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor who has specialized in working with clients with disabilities for 30 years. Much of the data provided is from a qualitative research study asking counselors-in-training about their perceptions of disability and gender roles, and well as a review of literature in the field.

12-1pm Lunch

1:00-2:00 pm

Session #3 Breakout A (Beggs Ballroom): Pride and Queer Possibilities

MEILĖ YRA VISIEMS: The Evolution of Pride in Lithuania

Presenter: Levi Brabec, University of Kansas

Baltic Pride started in 2010 with tremendous political and public opposition but is now a vibrant celebration and protest for the LGBTQ+ community in Lithuania. This project will explore the evolution of Pride, one of Lithuania's most important LGBTQ+ advocacy events, from 2010-2019. According to scholars studying Pride in Eastern Europe, a variety of political and social factors from European Union association to nationalism affect Pride's successful dissemination of rights. This project will add to this body of work by examining the growth of Pride in Lithuania despite continuing opposition in eastern Europe and around the world. Examination of the European International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Intersex Association's (ILGA) annual review, images from each year of Baltic Pride in Lithuania, and local news articles covering the event each year provide data to illustrate Pride and the social and political context of Lithuania. This project will use content analysis and thematic coding of ILGA Europe's annual review and news articles and images of each Baltic Pride to determine then compare themes in each data source from 2010 to 2019. Comparing themes over time in Baltic Pride and the political and social atmosphere in Lithuania may reveal legitimization of sexual minorities' right to assembly and growing representation of multiple gender identities. Researching change in Lithuanian Baltic Pride will further research on the efficacy of this event in expanding LGBTQ+ rights and visibility.

How to Have Sex in an Epidemic: A Second Approach

Presenter: Hunter Scott, Kansas State University

In the early years of the HIV/AIDS crisis, when a negligent and homophobic state proposed gay men limit their sexuality to that of monogamy or celibacy, the landmark safer sex manual "How to Have Sex in an Epidemic: One Approach" (1983), written by and for (white) gay men, offered an interpersonal approach to queer sexual health across twelve sex acts, six sex settings, and seven other sex contexts in order to inspire an erotics of community care. Building on queer theorists like Foucault (1984) and Muñoz (2009) who identify creativity as a pathway to liberation, I read creatively the subordinated list form(s) of the safer sex pamphlet to highlight the queer potentiality of the text. I argue that the enumerative rhetoric of the manual's lists function as a queer medium that proliferates the communal pleasures of physical intimacy necessary for both survival and gay liberation; however, simultaneously, following semiotician Umberto Eco's claim that lists inevitably point to what is absent (2009), I suggest that the elision of race from the pamphlet's concerns emphasizes the queer temporality of its form. As an incomplete list that troubles boundaries between the practical and the poetic, presence and absence, I turn to Lorde's writing on the erotic (1984), thereby extending the manual's mission of proliferating intimacies by including in it people, perspectives, and racialized specificities that "How to Have Sex" overlooks. Ultimately, by focusing on the queer potentiality of what is both included and excluded from the erotic lists of the safer sex booklet, I reveal how the liberatory desires of a proliferative rhetoric create new intimacies in opposition to heteronormativity while simultaneously marking how the very ideas it excludes are necessary to enact a radical queer politics.

Building Inclusivity Brick-by-Brick: Observing Twitter Reactions to Lego’s “Everyone is Awesome” Set
Presenter: Derek Wilson, University of Kansas

Due to the expansion of the internet and social networking sites (SNSs), online forums have become the new home of marketing. Not only are social media platforms the place to advertise new products, but the space where everyone can publicly engage with said products anonymously. More recently, gender and sexuality identity has become a point of interest for marketing, representation, and bigoted hatred on various SNSs. Political and controversial posts tend to attract and amplify combative behavior online. In May of 2021, Lego announced that the company would be releasing an LGBTQ+ representation Lego set titled “Everyone is Awesome”. This set would feature a race/ethnicity and trans-inclusive pride pattern for purchase starting June first (pride month). Additionally, this set would not be available early to VIP members and would be labeled for ages +18. This led to a mass influx of comments and reactions to the post in both positive, critical, and negative forms. The research question of this study: “How do consumers and internet patrons on Twitter react to LGBTQ+ representative Legos?” guides the qualitative review of internet comments reacting to the announcements. Early analyses suggest that commenters primarily react in one of three categories: desire to purchase, phobic reactions, and non-malice critique. This research is also a part of a larger study that applies the same method and research questions to other social media platforms where the announcement was made. The larger study aims to observe reactions and determine which social media platforms are the most extreme in their positive/negative reactions. Implications to these studies can better inform future research as to the atmosphere of acceptance for gender and sexual minorities in various SNSs.

1:00-2:00pm

Session #3 Breakout B (Gridley Room): Gender & Sexuality in Literature

Representation of “Othered” Women in 19th-Century Literature and on Television
Presenter: Maame Adwoa Ankrah, Wichita State University

Ever wondered what storybook characters and real-life actresses could have in common? Throughout the ages, across the world, women have faced a lot of resistance and restraint regarding what they can or cannot do because of gender inequality which stems from living in a patriarchal world. Although women, in general, have had it hard, women of color in addition to women of a lower socio-economic status or of certain religious backgrounds have suffered even more with a spillover effect, including some of those that have made it to the big screens of Hollywood.

To address this situation, I analyze the position of the secondary character, Teresa in *Sab* (1841, Cuba) written by Getrudis Gomez de Avellaneda (1814, Cuba). Teresa is a woman of a significantly low economic background even though she lives with her rich uncle. Also, Maria the main character in *Maria* (1867, Colombia) written by Jorge Isaacs (1837, Colombia). Maria is a woman of an ethno-religion that is different from everyone else living around her. These two novels are very popular 19th-century Latin American literature books since they were included in family libraries and considered a basic part of women's education, their foundational fiction. To add to the depictions of women in the 19th century, I compare the case of Lupita Nyong'o and Yalitza Aparicio, the former a black woman and the latter brown, who have currently broken the status quo for “othered” women their 19th-century counterparts faced. I analyze how being women of color has influenced the general view and reactions of people on their being represented as Latina characters in mainstream media instead of playing second fiddle as was the norm for their companions in the 19th century.

To conclude, the general position of a woman is a complex one. The world already sees and treats her as a second-class citizen and there is an ongoing battle to break and change that image. However, for certain categories of women, it becomes more complicated when the framework of intersectionality comes to play. The struggle for recognition and then equality becomes twice as hard to deal with.

Empowering Female Readers' Sexual Agency in the Heteronormative Romance and Contemporary Fantasy of Sarah J. Maas' A Court of Thorns and Roses Series
Presenter: Sara Partin, Kansas State University

Sex is everywhere: social media, television and film, the news, as a form of work, and in fiction, and readers must consider the ways in which sex, both as an act and as a gendered construct, intersects with race, class, disability, nationality, and caste. Through the context of Amia Srinivasan's *The Right to Sex: Feminism in the Twenty-First Century*, I will analyze how fans of Sarah J. Maas' ongoing series *A Court of Thorns and Roses* (ACOTAR) interpret sexual expression in the series and contemporary culture. ACOTAR is a touchstone of sex in fantasy fiction through which we can view readers' own understandings and application of erotic, pornographic, and sex-positive ideology today. I will analyze how this series has amassed massive popularity on social platforms such as Reddit, Twitter, and TikTok, where fans—especially 18-to-25-year-olds—discuss fictitious sexual expressions as modes of thought for sex-positivity. *The Right to Sex* encourages readers to critique the problems surrounding sex, reframing sex and desire to be ambivalent of politics; in doing so, Srinivasan theorizes sex to be more than just based on the tool of consent that, in conjunction with second and third-wave feminist thinkers, imagines a new wave of feminism where sex challenges the notion of freedom and liberation. Through Srinivasan's recontextualization of sex in culture, we might recontextualize how sex is viewed in ACOTAR, and by extension, in contemporary culture.

Never Let Me Go: The Undeniable Fight for Selfhood in Three Works by María Luisa Bombal
Presenter: Lauren Dalhaus, Wichita State University

The works of María Luisa Bombal (1910-1980) represent feminist milestones in Chilean literature that anticipated the magical realist tendencies which came to define Latin American literature by the second half of the 20th century. In three of her works, *La última niebla* (1934), *La amortajada* (1938), and "El árbol" (1939), Bombal introduces progressive visions of female subjectivity rooted in bodily experience with protagonists who occupy liminal states in male-dominated environments. The marginalization of deeply introspective characters in the archetypal roles of wife and mother creates an isolation particular to her works and allows for rich development of their internal landscapes. Using elements of Dr. Niva Piran's *Developmental Theory of Embodiment*, which analyzes the importance of direct engagement with the world across a woman's lifespan, we can better appreciate the significance of protagonists who live with a firm sense of connection to their physical selves. When faced with the possibility of the erasure of desire and ego, each of Bombal's women finds a way of turning inward to protect, nurture, and luxuriate in a profoundly sensual self-knowledge that reinforces her centrality of being. In drawing on desire as key to selfhood in worlds of mist, daydreams, and death, Bombal's works are a significant contribution to the development of embodied experience in modern fiction.

2:15-3:15pm Session #4 Performance (Beggs Ballroom)

SHUSH- Bricks and Burial

Performers: Micala Gingrich-Gaylord (community artist), Cheyla Clawson, Mina Estrada, & Elleigh McClelland, Wichita State University

This work is a sculpture and performance that calls on community engagement as a primary methodology. It is a collaboration between WSU dancers and a community artist, as the sculptor, to examine the things we collectively carry and how we work in communion with one another to alchemies the heavy parts of our lives into a manageable piece. Over the course of 3 years, Gingrich-Gaylord has collected and transformed bricks that were proxy for heavy concepts in peoples' lives into more contained and less intrusive soft object with my grandmother's linens. The work was selected for the Concept 2020 show that was on exhibit at the AHHA in Tulsa with regional artists. The next iteration of the work was workshopped with contemporary dancers as dance movement with the bricks. This resulted in a recent performance with Clawson, Estrada and McClelland at Harvest Arts for a show Gingrich-Gaylord curated called SHUSH.

The performance and discussion of the project will be presented in a workshop format with participants being asked to consider their own difficult concepts in context to gender and sexuality and then watch a performance with both their concepts and those of others from the project's duration. Gingrich-Gaylord will then lead a discussion of the work through the lens of secrecy and gaze. The implications of the work include the potential for considering how multidisciplinary works can activate community engagement through movements in creative spaces for research and examination.

3:30-4:30pm

Keynote (Beggs Ballroom): Gender, Identity, and Reproductive Justice in a post-Roe World
Dr. Leandra H. Hernandez, Utah Valley University



Dr. Leandra H. Hernandez (Ph.D., Texas A&M University) is an assistant professor in the Department of Communication and the Associate Academic Director for the Center for Social Impact at Utah Valley University.

She enjoys teaching health communication, gender studies, and media studies courses. She utilizes Chicana feminist & qualitative approaches to explore Latina/o/x cultural health experiences, Latina/o/x journalism and media representations, and reproductive justice and gendered violence contexts.

As a reproductive justice expert, she has published one book and several journal articles and chapters about reproductive justice, intersectionality, and border violence. Her work has been published in outlets such as *Women's Studies in Communication*, *Frontiers in Communication*, *Health Communication*, *QED: A Journal in GLBTQ Worldmaking*, *Journal of Applied Communication Research*, *Communication Teacher*, and more. Her book *Challenging Reproductive Control and Gendered Violence in the Americas: Intersectionality, Power, and Struggles for Rights* (with Dr. Sarah De Los Santos Upton) was the recipient of the 2018 National Communication Association Feminist and Gender Studies Division Bonnie Ritter Outstanding Feminist Book Award.

Her equity, inclusion, and diversity efforts have been recognized by three awards at UVU: 1) the 2020 College of Humanities and Social Sciences Inclusion Award, 2) the 2020 Faculty Champion of Inclusion Award, and 3) the 2021 Global/Intercultural Chairs and Deans award.

4:30-5:30 Networking Reception (Aster Lounge)

Special Thanks & Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the presenters, session facilitators & presidors for helping to make our 10th anniversary special. Our deepest appreciation goes out to:

- **LaDawna Hobkirk**, Shocker Sociology, for her work behind the scenes to aid us in conference organizing.
- **Quang Nguyen**, Office of Diversity & Inclusion, for assistance with planning and for putting together marketing graphics.
- **WSU student assistants** from ODI and other campus organizations who helped with conference registration/check in and distributing lunches.
- Our participating **Community Organizations** who provide needed services and help us scholars continue to think about the real-life implications of our gender and sexuality related research to the lives of people in our communities.
- Our **Campus and Community co-sponsors** whose contributions allow us to continue to make this conference free and open to Kansas community members.
- And finally, to our **attendees** who take the time to attend sessions, interact with community organizations, and engage in conversations with our presenters and each other to make our conference a success.

Sincerely,

Your Conference Organizing Team

Dr. Jodie Hertzog & Dr. Jenny Pearson, Shocker Sociology

Funding for the conference was made possible due to contributions from the following:

- Maryalice Birk (community donor)
- WSU Department of Sociology
- WSU Office of Diversity & Inclusion
- The Elliott School of Communications, WSU
- The Women's, Ethnicity, & Intersectional Studies, WSU
- Alpha Kappa Delta: International Sociology Honors Society (professional organization)
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