

LGBTQ+  
STUDIES  
WEBINAR

21  
22  
SEASON



“Resilience in Motion”

Fridays @6:00-7:30pm

Chair/respondent: Anthony Castet

## PROGRAM

**S1 – September 17:**

Dr. Christopher L. Pepin-Neff, University of Sydney:

“LGBTQ+ Lobbying in the United States”

**Abstract:**

With the U.S. Supreme Court set to roll back women's rights and LGBTQ+ rights, there has never been a more important time to consider the role of LGBTQ+ lobbying in the United States. However, there is an underlying political tension. This talk will cover the national LGBTQ+ strategy to protect and defend the superiority of heterosexuality. At a time of need, the LGBTQ+ movement is focused on corporate donations and keeping President Biden happy (and competitive for re-election). The result is an LGBTQ+ movement where the courts are closed and Congress is compromised. What is needed is a new level of institutional integrity and oversight. Gay rights lobbying has failed. It is time for a more intersectional conversation.

**Slides:** <https://view.publitas.com/032ebea6-1dbe-49b3-8a8c-84fd4d7d4ed9/pepin-neff-eea-lgbtq-webinar/>

**Biography:**

**Christopher Pepin-Neff** is a Senior Lecturer in Public Policy in the Department of Government and International Relations. His research interests include theories of the policy process, policy analysis, the role of policy entrepreneurs, and comparative public policy. More specifically, his research looks at policymaking regarding emotional issues such as LGBTQI politics, mass shootings, and the "politics of shark attacks." He has published articles in the Australian Journal of Political Science, Environmental Studies and Sciences, the Journal of Homosexuality, Marine Policy, and Coastal Management.

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**S2 – October 15:**

Dr. Anna Lvovsky, University of Harvard:

“Policing Gay Life before Stonewall”

**Abstract:**

In the mid-twentieth century, gay life flourished in American cities even as the state repression of queer communities reached its peak. Liquor investigators infiltrated and shut down gay-friendly bars. Plainclothes decoys enticed men in parks and clubs. Vice officers surveilled public bathrooms through peepholes and two-way mirrors.

Drawing on research from the book *Vice Patrol: Cops, Courts, and the Struggle over Urban Gay Life*, this lecture examines the tactics used to criminalize, profile, and suppress gay life from the 1930s through the 1960s, and the often-surprising controversies those campaigns inspired in court.

More than simply disputes about the law's proper treatment of queer people, the policing of gay life stood at the center of live debates about the limits of ethical law enforcement, the authority of experts, and the nature of sexual difference itself—debates that had often unexpected effects on the gay community's rights and freedoms. Tracing those institutional and epistemic battles, this talk offers a new look at the possibilities of resistance in the justice system, the role of the police in shaping public understandings of queerness, and the rich, unpredictable intersections between state repression and public knowledge about marginalized social groups.

**Biography:**

Anna Lvovsky is an Assistant Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, where her scholarship focuses on the legal and cultural dimensions of policing, judicial uses of professional knowledge, and the regulation of gender and sexuality. Her first book, *Vice Patrol: Cops, Courts, and the Struggle over Urban Gay Life before Stonewall*, examines the daily realities and legal contests surrounding the policing of gay communities in the mid-twentieth century. At HLS, she teaches courses on evidence, criminal law, American legal history, and the history of policing. She received her B.A. from Yale University, her J.D. from Harvard Law School, and her Ph.D. in the History of American Civilization from Harvard University.

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**S3 – November 12:**

Prof. Jen Manion, Amherst College:

“Female Husbands and the Future of Non-Binary History”

**Biography:**

Jen Manion is a social and cultural historian and professor of History and Sexuality, Women's and Gender Studies at Amherst College. Her research examines the role of gender and sexuality in American life. Manion is the author of [\*Female Husbands: A Trans History\*](#) and [\*Liberty's Prisoners: Carceral Culture in Early America\*](#).

**Abstract:**

Long before people identified as transgender or lesbian, there were female husbands and the women who loved them. Female husbands - people assigned female who transed gender, lived as men, and married women - were true queer pioneers. Moving deftly from the colonial era to just before the First World War, I uncover the riveting and very personal stories of ordinary people who lived as men despite tremendous risk, danger, violence, and threat of punishment. *Female Husbands* weaves the story of their lives in relation to broader social, economic, and political developments in the United States and the United Kingdom while also exploring how attitudes towards female husbands shifted in relation to transformations in gender politics and women's rights, ultimately leading to the demise of the category of 'female husband' in the early twentieth century. Groundbreaking and influential, *Female Husbands* offers a powerful window into the long history of public story-telling about trans and nonbinary lives. What can historians learn from this past to inform future approaches to gender history?

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**S4 – December 10:**

Dr. Marie-Amélie George, Wake Forest University:

“From the Criminalization of Gay Life to Marriage Equality”

**Abstract:**

**Biography:**

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**S5 – January 21:**

Dr. Stefan Vogler, University of Chicago:  
“Sorting Sexualities”

**Abstract:****Biography:**

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**S6 – February 18:**

Dr. Brandon Robinson, University of Riverside:  
“LGBTQ Youth: Coming out to the Streets”

**Abstract:**

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) youth are disproportionately represented in the U.S. youth homelessness population. In *Coming Out to the Streets*, Brandon Andrew Robinson examines their lives. Based on interviews and ethnographic fieldwork in central Texas, *Coming Out to the Streets* looks into the LGBTQ youth's lives before they experience homelessness—within their families, schools, and other institutions—and later when they navigate the streets, deal with police, and access shelters and other services. Through this documentation, Brandon Andrew Robinson shows how poverty and racial inequality shape the ways that the LGBTQ youth negotiate their gender and sexuality before and while they are experiencing homelessness. To address LGBTQ youth homelessness, Robinson contends that solutions must move beyond blaming families for rejecting their child. In highlighting the voices of the LGBTQ youth, Robinson calls for queer and trans liberation through systemic change.

**Biography:**

Brandon Andrew Robinson is an Associate Professor in the Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University of California, Riverside. They are the author of *Coming Out to the Streets: LGBTQ Youth Experiencing Homelessness*, the coauthor of *Race & Sexuality*, and have published in numerous peer-review journals, including *Gender & Society*, *Journal of Marriage & Family*, and *Sociology of Race & Ethnicity*. Brandon's work provides new theoretical frameworks and concepts to help understand LGBTQ life today. These research findings also contribute to working toward social change and queer and trans liberation.

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**S7 – March 18:**

Prof. Lee Badgett, University of Massachusetts Amherst:  
“The Economic Case for LGBTQ+ Equality”

**Abstract:**

## Biography:

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### S8 – April 15:

Prof. John Howard, King's College London:  
“The Queer Codes of 20th Century Cultural Production”

#### Abstract:

Over the 20th century, successive generations of theatre, film, radio, and TV producers developed crafty codes of queer representation to avoid censorship, job loss, and jail. After sexy silent movies and pre-Code talkies, before the 1990s new queer cinema, mid-century makers faced brute structures of oppression. The US lavender scare's well documented war on gays went global, this paper asserts, following the contours of American and British empires. While modern medicine classified nonconforming genders and sexualities as diseased, church and state combined to condemn deviant media.

Defiant against these forces was Cypriot-born, English-educated, internationally acclaimed radio producer, theatre director, and filmmaker Michael Cacoyannis. Best known for triple-Oscar-winner *Zorba the Greek* and its smash Broadway revival, Cacoyannis also attained fame as a major interpreter of ancient Greek tragedy with his Euripides trilogy for stage and screen, starring Katharine Hepburn, Irene Papas, and Vanessa Redgrave. Whereas recent critics proclaim his significance in creating “woman-centered” cinema, my current project argues that Cacoyannis must be recognised, appreciated, and assessed foremost as one of the 20th century's leading queer cultural producers, rivalling Gertrude Stein, Andy Warhol, and Tennessee Williams.

Never married, Cacoyannis never publicly came out as gay either. Instead, he mastered queer practices of euphemism, double entendre, partial disclosure, and selective visibility. Then he invented new codes of astounding artistry and complexity. From his 1920s childhood photographs to his rediscovered radio plays, from his inaugural modern Greece quintet of films to his 1992 homage to Almodóvar, Cacoyannis deployed a distinctive frugal cosmopolitanism to forward queer ideas and pleasures, adopting methods from Africa and Asia, adapting them for Europe and America. Drawn from my hybrid book project—part survey, discourse analysis, and unauthorised biography—the paper offers close readings of key scenes to demonstrate how Michael skilfully revealed the queer “truths up my sleeve.”

#### Biography:

John Howard is Emeritus Professor of Arts and Humanities, King's College London. He has published seven books, including two historical monographs from University of Chicago Press and two documentary photobooks from University of Valencia Press. He has received awards from the AHRC, British Academy, Delfina, Fulbright, Rockefeller, and King's College London Students Union.

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### S9 – May 13:

Prof. Valena Beety, Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law:  
“The Myth of Equal Justice and the Criminalization of Queerness”

#### Abstract:

**Biography:**

**2022/2023**

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**S1 – September 2022:**

(suggestion) Prof. Wendy Rouse, San Jose State University:

“Public Faces, Secret Lives during the Queer Women’s Suffrage Movement”

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**S2 – October: LGBTQ+ History Month – 1 day event**

**Eric Cervini ?**

**Hugh Ryan ?**