



# Gender and Sexualities Workshop

## Spring 2023 Presentations

spring 2023 | Meetings take place in SSMS 3105 this quarter

The Sociology Department's Gender and Sexualities Workshop is a group of faculty and graduate students who meet regularly to present and discuss new research.



### Theorizing Black Trans Masculinities

*Tristen Kade*

Graduate Student, UCSB Sociology

Friday, April 28, 12:00-1:15pm

SSMS 3105 (in person)

In this presentation, I will be workshopping the theoretical frameworks, methodology, and primary research questions that guide my dissertation research project. This project empirically investigates (1) how Black trans men navigate and accomplish masculinity in private and public romantic and sexual interactions, (2) how race, gender, and sexuality interact to shape these accomplishments, (3) how Black trans men's understandings and embodiments of masculinity resist, transform, and reproduce dominant ideologies of race, gender, and sexuality. In order to address these questions, I first situate an interdisciplinary theoretical framework that places the subfields of masculinities, gender and sexualities, and Black trans studies together, in conversation with each other. To empirically address these questions, I discuss the various methods (e.g., ethnographic interviews) that I plan to conduct with Black trans masculine people, an unaccounted-for population within scholarship. In essence, this will be a work in-progress presentation of what I hope will be my dissertation research project.

### "Shameless smut:" Consent, pleasure, and fantasy in sexually explicit fanfiction

*Laura Halcomb*

Graduate Student, UCSB Sociology

Friday, May 12, 12:00-1:15pm

SSMS 3105 (in person)

I will present data and ideas from a work in progress that examines themes of consent, pleasure, and fantasy in sexually explicit fanfiction, an amateur literary genre mostly written and read by young women. During this workshop I will share some preliminary ideas based on a data set of about 11,000 works of fanfiction I collected from the popular website Archive of Our Own (Ao3). I plan to use a mix of computational and qualitative methods to analyze the data. I am interested in many aspects of this data, including the popularity Ao3 as a non-commodified creative platform amid influencer culture, the types of creative works that amass fandoms, the happy coexistence of graphically sexual writing alongside intentionally non-sexual writing, and if and how writing sexually explicit fiction is related to sex work. One idea I am currently exploring is how consent operates as a community practice. I will share preliminary data examining consent practices in both the story narratives (between the characters in the fanfiction) and the tagging conventions on the website (between the readers and authors on Ao3). I am particularly interested in how the authors depict consensual and non-consensual sex, and, relatedly, how the author's tags and notes alert readers to the content of the story and sex depicted. Please note that this will include discussion of non-consensual or rape fantasies.

