

**Queer/cuir/cuy-r Américas**  
**Transnational Theory, Performance, and Activism**  
Graduate course  
Dr. Britta Anderson



“Lo *queer* es, en nuestro argumento, acción, marco teórico, metodología, visión para crear arte y activismo, y no lo usamos como identidad—ni LGBT, ni *queer*—” (Salvador Vidal-Ortiz, María Amelia Viteri, y José Fernando Serrano Amaya, “Resignificaciones, prácticas y políticas *queer* en América Latina: otra agenda de cambio social”).

While it defies a fixed definition, queer is an identity, an approach, and a politics. Queers may stand outside, beyond, or on the edge of institutions. Queer bodies are often unwieldy, moving against normative ways of being in the world. They question history, social structures, and cultural expectations, organizing their lives through unconventional schedules and routes. While queer theory is often deployed within a U.S. framework, queerness has long been theorized throughout the Americas. Marcia Ochoa states that “La genealogía angloamericana de los estudios *queer* es falsa, o a lo mejor incompleta. La primera vez que leí la palabra *queer* fue en la escritura de Anzaldúa” (“Diáspora *Queer*: La mirada hemisférica y los estudios queer latinoamericanos”). This course takes Latin America as a point of departure for tracing new genealogies of queer theory and for highlighting transnational trajectories, dialogues, and alliances. With a focus on the bridges between theory and activism, and on embodied acts of performance, we will examine the queer/cuir currents that flow into, within, and from Latin America, in dialogue with diasporic Latinx voices and the foundational queer archive.

Assignments include leading the class discussion on one theoretical text, a midterm conference-style presentation delivered to me in my office, and a 20-25pp final research paper that utilizes a theoretical framework from this course content to examine a work of your choosing.

**Genealogías: lo queer/cuir/cuy(r)**

**Week 1**

Diego Falconí Trávez, “Resentir lo queer/cuir/cuy(r) en Ecuador”

María Amelia Viteri, “Intensiones: Tensions in Queer Agency and Activism in Latino América”

Gloria Anzaldúa and Cherrie Moraga, *This Bridge Called my Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*, “Speaking in Tongues: A Letter to Third World Women Writers,” and “La Guerra”

---

Carla Trujillo, *Chicana Lesbians: The Girls our Mothers Warned Us About*, Introduction

Juana María Rodríguez, *Queer Latinidad: Identity Practices, Discursive Spaces*, Introduction

## **Week 2**

Annamarie Jagose, *Queer Theory: An Introduction*, Introduction and “Contestations of Queer”

Gayle Rubin, “Thinking Sex”

Warner and Berlant, “Sex in Public”

Judith Butler, “Subversive Bodily Acts,” “Critically Queer”

Foucault, *History of Sexuality*, excerpts.

Marcelo Spitzner, “Judith Butler e Michel Foucault: considerações em torno da performatividade, do discurso e da constituição de sujeito”

## **Lo transnacional: una mirada hemisférica**

### **Week 3**

Marcia Ochoa, “Diáspora *Queer*: La mirada hemisférica y los estudios queer latinoamericanos”

Sayak Valencia, “Del *queer* al *cuir*: ostranénie geopolítica epistémica desde el sur glocal”

Héctor Domínguez Ruvalcaba, *Translating the Queer: Body Politics and Transnational Conversations*, Introduction

Jose Quiroga, “Latino Cultures, Imperial Sexualities” in *Tropics of Desire: Interventions from Queer Latino America*

### **Week 4**

Gregory Mitchell, *Tourist Attractions: Performing Race and Masculinity in Brazil*

Laura Gutierrez, *Performing Mexicanidad: Vendidas y Cabareteras on the Transnational Stage*

---

## **Peripheries beyond the Closet: Desbordes en las Américas**

## **Week 5**

Eve Sedgwick, "Epistemology of the Closet"

José Quiroga, *Tropics of Desire: Interventions from Queer Latino America*, Introduction

Susana Vargas Cervantes, "Saliendo del closet en México: ¿queer, gay o maricón?"

Cristy C. Road, *Indestructible: Growing up Queer, Cuban, and Punk in Miami*

Richard Blanco, poem: "Queer Theory According to My Grandmother"

## **Week 6**

Emma Álvarez Brunel, "Construir disidencia desde lo joto"

María-Amelia Viteri and Salvador Vidal-Ortiz, *Desbordes: Translating Racial, Ethnic, Sexual, and Gender Identities across the Americas*, Introduction

Omar G. Encarnación, *Out in the Periphery: Latin America's Gay Rights Revolution*

## **Desde la teoría al activismo**

## **Week 7**

Daniel Balderston and Arturo Matute Castro, *Cartografías queer: sexualidades + activismo LGBT en América Latina*, Introducción

Salvador Vidal-Ortiz, María Amelia Viteri, y José Fernando Serrano Amaya, "Resignificaciones, prácticas y políticas *queer* en América Latina: Otra Agenda de Cambio Social"

Juan Camilo Galeano Sánchez, "Mobilizing, Negotiating, Surviving: Queer Revolutionary Gestures in Latin America and the Caribbean"

## **Week 8**

Karma Chávez, *Queer Migration Politics: Activist Rhetoric and Coalitional Possibilities*

Uriel Quesada, Letitia Gomez, and Salvador Vidal-Ortiz, *Queer Brown Voices: Personal Narratives of Latina/o LGBT*, excerpts

Julio Salgado, Undocuqueer series

## Queer Citizenship

### Week 9

Sayak Valencia, *Capitalismo Gore*, excerpts

Eithne Luibheid, *Entry Denied: Controlling Sexuality at The Border*, excerpts

Lisa Duggan, "Queering the State"

Jasbir Puar, *Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times*, excerpts

Cherrie Moraga, "Queer Aztlán: The Reformation of the Chicano Tribe"

Amy L Brandzel, *Against Citizenship: The Violence of the Normative*, excerpts

## Performing Excess, Queer Embodiment

### Week 10

tatiana de la tierra, poema: "Ode to Unsavory Lesbians"

Virginia Grise and Irma Mayorga, *The Panza Monologues*

Juana María Rodríguez, *Sexual Futures, Queer Gestures, and Other Latina Longings*

Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes, "Gay Shame: Latina- and Latino- Style: A Critique of White Queer Performativity"

Diana Taylor, *Performance*, Introducción

**In class:** performances by Liliana Felipe y Jesusa Rodriguez (*Boda*), Maris Bustamante (*Caliente-Caliente*), Coco Fusco and Nao Bustamante (*Stuff*), La Congelada de Uva (*Cierra las piernas*), y selección de imágenes de Laura Aguilar

## Racialized queerness

### Week 11

Iván A. Ramos, "Spic(y) Appropriations : The Gustatory Aesthetics of Xandra Ibarra (aka La Chica Boom)"

Colectivo Manada de Jotas, "No soy queer, soy negrx, mis Orishas no leyeron a J. Butler"

---

Jess Oliveira, Toni Toni y Yos Piña, “Fragmentos dispersos entre micropolíticas afectivas del rechazo y la afroafectividad”

Audre Lorde, "Age, Race, Class and Sex”

## **Week 12**

Susana Vargas Cervantes, *Alarma! Mujercitos realizando género en el sistema sociocultural pigmentocrático de México*, excerpts

Alexander G. Weheliye, *Habeas Viscus: Racializing Assemblages, Biopolitics, and Black Feminist Theories of the Human*, excerpts

Brandon Andrew Robinson, Cristina Khan, and Salvador Vidal-Ortiz, “Racialized Sexualities: On Experience, Policy, and Scholarship,” and “Racing Sex Work”

## **Week 13**

Treva Ellison, Kai M. Green, Matt Richardson, and C. Riley Snorton, “We Got Issues: Toward a Black Trans\*/ Studies”

C. Riley Snorton, *Black on Both Sides: A Racial History of Trans Identity*

Karim Ainouz, Film: *Madame Satã*

---

## **Los estudios trans**

### **Week 14**

Susan Stryker, “Transgender Studies: Queer Theory’s Evil Twin”

Marcia Ochoa, *Queen for a Day: Transformistas, Beauty Queens, and the Performance of Femininity in Venezuela*, excerpts

Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes, *Escenas transcaribeñas: Ensayos sobre teatro, performance y cultura*, excerpts

Jaime Cortez, *Sexilio / Sexile*

Sebastián Lelio, Film: *Una mujer fantástica*

**¿un futuro cuir?**

**Week 15**

José Esteban Muñoz, *Cruising Utopia: The Then and There of Queer Futurity*

David L. Eng, José Esteban Muñoz, Jack Halberstam, *Social Text* 84-85: *What's Queer about Queer Studies Now?*

Espinosa Miñoso, Yuderkys, “El Futuro ya fue: una crítica a la idea de progreso en las narrativas de liberación sexogenéricas y queer identitarias”