



Save the date: GSISC 2024 on June 7, 2024 in New Orleans, LA

Our Bodies: Gender and Sexuality in Information Studies

Amid ongoing anti-trans, anti-LGBQ+, anti-critical race theory, and anti-reproductive freedom legislation sweeping the country, libraries and information workers find themselves as frequent targets of debate surrounding censorship, intellectual liberty, and bodily autonomy. This gathering seeks to create an inclusive space for difficult, fruitful conversations that foreground gender, sexuality, and the body, with consideration for libraries and cultural heritage institutions as sites of both liberation and oppression. The planning committee for the 2024 Gender and Sexuality in Information Studies Colloquium (GSISC) invites you to join us June 7, 2024 at Tulane University in New Orleans, LA, to foster dialogue among librarians, archivists, and information workers on our profession and its locus among the intersections of gender, queerness, race, sexuality, and the freedom to exist and thrive in our bodies. We invite proposals that address a range of topics regarding the problems and potential of libraries, archives, and cultural heritage institutions - past, present, and future - as sites that center our bodies.

Questions and considerations might include, but are not limited to:

- **Challenging/Reinforcing Norms** |
 - How do queer and sexuality-based agendas challenge or reinforce white supremacy, heteronormativity, patriarchy, and ableism in GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums) professions?
 - How do you stay engaged with gender and sexuality scholarship when it's not supported by your institution?
 - What role does information organization have in challenging/reinforcing dominant cultural norms regarding gender, sexuality, and bodies?
 - What are the biases in library classification systems and metadata schemas connected to gender, sexuality, and the body?
 - Reclassing, alternative thesauri, weeding, shelf-shifting
 - How do we engage more inclusive, equitable, and just methods and practices in our work to resist the perpetuation of structural oppression and harm to marginalized bodies?
- **Programs, Services, and Spaces** |
 - What are the histories of providing access to gender, sexuality, and reproductive justice materials in libraries and archives?

- How do digital access, linked data (technologies that accelerate resources used in education), and the commodification of information threaten the privacy of protected classes?
- What intersectional perspectives of queerness and gender might we apply to information work?
- How are information workers engaging in queer, sexuality, and reproductive justice-based programming?
- In what ways are information professionals concerned with the materiality of bodies in our spaces - e.g., labor, building design, access, safety, surveillance - beyond the discursive?
- How do we resist/subvert censorship and surveillance of our bodies in libraries?
- **LGBTQ+ Identity in the Workplace |**
 - What are the challenges of being queer or LGBT+ within structures that were not meant to engage queer bodies or queer professionals?
 - How do we cultivate radical self-care in the research process and while being ‘professionally queer’?
 - How do we protect our authentic selves in library spaces?
 - How does the political climate, including anti-trans, anti-LGBQ+, anti-critical race theory, and anti-reproductive freedom legislation, impact our work?

Early deadline for feedback on your proposal – October 1 - October 15, 2023

Feedback received on your proposal - November 1, 2023

Final deadline for proposals – December 1, 2023

Notification of acceptance – January 15, 2024

Registration opens - February 15, 2024

Colloquium date – June 7, 2024

Further Logistics will be unfolding. Website coming soon!

Please direct any questions or concerns to GSISC2024@gmail.com **Please note that we are a fully volunteer run conference, while we staff our inbox, sometimes we may take a few days to get back to you.**

Submit

Link to submission form: <https://forms.gle/n2P3krCEFFjHSjn38>

Program Committee

Sara Howard (chair), Princeton University, August Roberts, Princeton University, Bernadette Birzer, Tulane University, Caitlin Shanley, Temple University, Chloe Raub, Tulane University, Holly Smith, Spelman College, Kristan Shawgo, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Shawn(ta) Smith-Cruz, New York University, Valencia Johnson, Princeton University

Image text: Image of yarn vertically arranged in rainbow colors behind an archival photo of black librarian sorting her books on a table - text reads: Gender & Sexuality in Information Studies Colloquium 2024.

[Photograph](#) from Spelman College Photographs Collection.

