Queertopia! 4.0: Queer(ing) Poetics: Text, Method, Movement, Thought

May 27-29, Northwestern University

Keynote: Sue Golding, University of Greenwich (Director, Institute for the Converging Arts and Sciences), University College London, and the Royal Academy for the Arts. Learn more here.

“to want, and to know that one wants should not be forgotten or thrown away, as if, ‘unimportant’, ‘begging the question’. For those honest enough to admit it, it remains at the very basis of a new socialised being, politics, and indeed, poetics.”

– Sue Golding

“If we knew what we were doing, it wouldn’t be called Research.”

– Albert Einstein

Northwestern University’s Queer Pride Graduate Student Association, OUTlaw, and The Graduate School invite individual papers, complete panels and organized roundtables and workshops for its fourth annual graduate student academic festival, which includes our evening showcase, Queergasm! A Cabaret. This year, Queertopia is supported by Gender Studies, Performance Studies, History, Art History, Art Theory and Practice, English, Philosophy, French and Italian, Comparative Literary Studies, and The Sexualities Project at Northwestern.

To facilitate a truly interdisciplinary queer studies event, Queertopia 4.0 examines the possibility of queer poetics across all disciplines. We invite presentations not just on the poetic, but on queer poetics as method and practice that experiments, radicalizes, disorganizes, and dreams. Scholars are welcome to widely interpret this conception of poetics as experimental method in text, sound, image, movement, thought, and other areas between and beyond.

Scholars from all disciplines are warmly welcome, including but not limited to philosophy, law and justice studies, sociology, anthropology, medical studies, psychology, psychiatry, biology, chemistry, mathematics, communications studies, technology studies, physics, art (and other) practice, art (and other) history, literature, political and critical theory, political science, music practice, musicology, moving image studies, performance studies, library and archival studies and practice, religious studies, theology, and women’s, gender, queer and sexuality studies.

Thinking and enacting poetics as radical, indeed perhaps impossible method, can occur throughout the humanities; but it must also be crucially thought and enacted across non-humanities disciplines: Researchers and practitioners in (not only Western) medicine, psychology, psychiatry, biology, chemistry, and communications studies, to name a few, may engage with the concept of poetics to problematize, redistribute, and render interdisciplinary their method and practice.

As always, Queertopia invites proposals that fall outside the strict realm of our theme. We love our academically diverse community and we want you all back this year for our biggest conference yet! Here are a few possible topics:

What’s poetic about (queer) method, and how can one push method to the point of poetics?

Homotextuality and/as method.

Is poetics as method inherently queer?

Is poetics inherently interdisciplinary?

Is it inherently performative?

Trans method/poetics across disciplines.

Queer method in the study/practice of movement; queer method as movement.

Queer(ing) method in the study/practice of the ephemeral arts, including “life”.

Queerness and the ephemeral.

Queerness and the static/frozen (image)/other types of image as queer.

Queer(ing) “hard data” across disciplines.

Unknowing and experimentation in psychology/psychiatry and other disciplines.

Queer method / queer subjects in the anti-psychiatry movement.

Queer(ing) scientific method.

Is the appropriation of scientific work by the humanities queer?

What is the status in queer studies of the “intellectual impostor”?

Testing.

Queer(ing) method in ethics.

The rhizome and the non-linear as queer method.

Poetics of (queer) activism.

Queer(ing) temporality in/through the methodology of history.

Please send abstracts of 250 words, and a 100 word paper summary / a 75 word bio (for conference booklet) to QPGSA at nuqsga@gmail.com by April 15.