

# UCLA LGBTQ Studies

AY 2015-2016 Newsletter

## Chair's Message

Academic Year 2015-2016 is behind us now, but it brought with it some important changes to the LGBT Studies program. First and foremost, the name of the program has been officially changed to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Studies, or, LGBTQS. We administered an online survey to see if the stakeholders of the program--students, faculty, alumni, and community members--wanted to add the "Q" to our acronym to reflect the increasing diversity of genders and sexualities that we now find within the LGBT spectrum, and 66% of our respondents agreed that adding the Q for Queer to our name was a good move. Our proposal was unanimously approved by the College Faculty Executive Committee, the Undergraduate Council, and the Academic Senate. The name change became effective 7/1/2016.

Another significant change for the program was a modification in our program requirements that will make it easier for students to complete the LGBTQS Minor, and will also draw more diverse students to our program. Because our courses contribute to diversifying our general curriculum at UCLA, we will be submitting proposals for specific courses to "count" for the new Diversity Requirement.

A huge change for the LGBTQ community in general was the 6/26/2015 Supreme Court ruling in Obergefell v. Hodges that marriage equality for same-sex couples is a constitutional right. It is now legal for same-sex couples to marry in 36 states and the District of Columbia, as well as in Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. Paradoxically, violent crimes against transgender youth, men, and women increased exponentially, especially hatred directed at queers and transgenders of color, as we saw in the tragic shootings at the Pulse nightclub in Miami, Florida. Our goal in LGBTQ Studies to educate and empower our community is more prescient than ever.

## Save the Dates!

**Open House '16**  
**Wednesday, 10/12/16**  
 LBTS Open House 1-2pm will be held in A5/A9 Haines Hall.

**QGRAD 2016**  
**Friday, 10/28/16**  
 Annual QGrad Conference will be held in Royce 306/314.

**QScholars 2017**  
**TBD** The 4th Annual UG-Symposium will be held in Spring quarter, TBD.



## Student Org News

### QGrads

QGrads @ UCLA is a Graduate Student Org focusing on LGBT Studies and promoting Queer scholarship on campus. QGrads organizes the annual "QGrad Conference" one of the nation's leading LGBTQ Studies events.

#### Email Contact:

[qgradconference@gmail.com](mailto:qgradconference@gmail.com)

### QScholars

QScholars is an academically based org for undergraduate students who are interested in conducting LGBTQ focused research at UCLA, and helping to coordinate the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium.

#### Email Contact:

[Qscholarsucla@gmail.com](mailto:Qscholarsucla@gmail.com)



# 1. Tomarion Brown welcoming attendees at QGrad 2016. Photo by Winston Luhur.

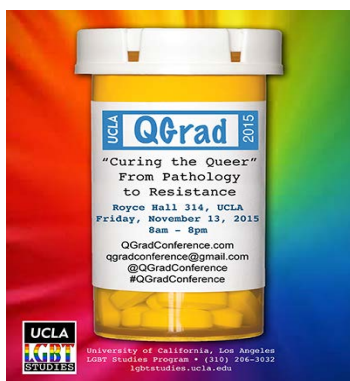


**# 2. Luskin School of Public Affairs Professor Ian Holloway moderating panel at QGrad 2015. Photo by Winston Luhur.**

On Friday, November 13, 2015, Queer Graduates @UCLA and the LGBTQS Program brought together the latest graduate student research from across the country for the annual QGrad Conference. The event's theme "Curing the Queer": From Pathology to Resistance," centered a critical dialogue on the (re)emergence of homo/queer/trans phobic culture under the guise of religious or medical restorative therapies. The conference featured 17 graduate presenters whose research transcended multiple disciplines, including social sciences, humanities, life sciences and professional schools.



**# 5. Keynote Duet: Christopher Argyros and Gary Hayashi with MA student Kevin Medina. Photo by Winston Luhur.**



**#3. Conference Logo by Alma Lopez.**



**# 4. Rachael Greenberg & Kendy Rivera, co-organizers of QGrad 2015. Photo by Winston Luhur.**

Angeles LGBT Center and Gary Hayashi, a Marriage and Family Therapist with a private practice in South Pasadena, where he specializes in working with both LGBT and Asian American communities.

QGrad 2015 was co-organized by Kendy Rivera and Rachael Greenberg, PhD candidates in Chicana/o Studies. Over 150 participants registered for the conference, which was generously supported by the David Bohnett Foundation. Overall, QGrad 2015 was an intimate and successful event where participants and attendees alike had the opportunity to discuss new and unfolding dimensions of LGBTQ Studies, while networking with faculty and graduate colleagues.

A selection of the proceedings from QGrad 2015 will be published in volume II of *Queer Cats Journal of LGBTQ Studies* in Fall 2016.



To see pictures and the program of the event, check out the Archives link on

**# 6. Queer Cats Journal of LGBTQ Studies Image by Alma Lopez**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**10/28/2016**

**314 Royce Hall**



## QGrad 2016: (RE) Mapping Queer Mobilities

(Re)mapping Queer Mobilities, explores and examines the old, new and shifting landscapes of LGBTQ space and movement--leaving home/re-making home, transnational migration, locating and dis-locating queer spaces, and seeking sexual encounters in cyberspace. As cities across the U.S. experience demographic and socio-economic shifts many point to gentrification as the principal threat to LGBTQ and other historically marginalized communities.

**website:** <http://qgradconference.com>  
**email:** [QGradconference@gmail.com](mailto:QGradconference@gmail.com)  
**#qgradconference**

Logo by Rommy Torrico

# Queering the Campus: Special Events

## QScholars Undergraduate Research Symposium 2016



**#7. Dafne Luna, founder of the LGBT Studies Undergraduate Symposium, as keynote speaker, with Profe Gaspar de Alba. Photo by Tracy Payne.**

The 3rd Annual LGBTQ Studies Undergraduate Research Symposium was held on Thursday, May 19, 2016 at the Kerckhoff Hall was free and open to the public. The events theme "Alphabet Soup: Spooning Up Identities Amidst Simmering Tensions". The symposium featured 12 undergraduate students who showcased innovative LGBTQ+ research. This year's theme reflects the current controversies surrounding the ever-growing acronym, the confusion over what steps to take and when, the ways that we both help and hurt one another, and the purpose of a community that doesn't always seem to know what it is or for whom it exists . Topics discussed explored the current lived realities of the L, G, B, T, and Q members of the community and the other identities that may or may not want a place beneath the queer umbrella.



**#8. Eli Lawliet (right), coordinator of the undergraduate symposium 2016. Photo by Tracey Payne.**

2016 LAVENDER GRADUATION



The 19th Annual Lavender Graduation was held on Saturday, June 11, 2016 in Korn Convocation Hall. Nine LGBTS Minors graduated and received a certificate of completion of the minor and a rainbow cord in recognition of their achievements.



**# 9. Faculty members Stuart Biegle, Michelle Erai, Profe Gaspar and Anurima Banerji. Photo by Alma Lopez.**

**#10. Above. Tomarion Brown and Profe with 2016 LGBTS graduating minors.**

**#11. Right. LGBT Resource Center Director, Raja Bhattar, with keynote speaker, D'Lo. Photos by Alma Lopez**



**#12. Left. Class of 2016.**

**Photo by Alma Lopez.**



#13. Khushboo Gulati with LGBTQS Chair, Professor Alicia de Gaspar.

## 2016 LGBTQS PRIZE! Best Senior Project on a Queer Theme

World Arts and Cultures/Dance senior, Khushboo Gulati's project "Dreamfruit" won the inaugural \$500 LGBTQ Studies Prize for Best Senior Project on a Queer Theme. The Senior Project was nominated by Professor Anurima Banerji, who is a member of the LGBTQ Studies Faculty Advisory Committee. Faculty Mentors: Anurima Banerji, Polly Roberts, and Cheng-Chieh Yu.

Nominations for the 2017 award accepted in Winter and Spring quarters until May 1, 2017. Email your letter of nomination along with PDF of nominee's project to [tbrown@humnet.ucla.edu](mailto:tbrown@humnet.ucla.edu).



### A Little Thanks to Our Friends

We would like to thank all of our allies, alumni, co-sponsors, staff, students, supporters, and volunteers. Thanks to the faculty who yearly agree to serve as panel moderators at our different events. Thanks to Tomarion Brown for all the behind-the-scenes work that helps everything we do run smoothly. Thanks to my wife, Alma Lopez, for all the pro-bono work she does for LGBTQ Studies, from logos to programs. Thanks to Humanities Dean, David Schaberg, for his commitment to the growth of the program. Finally, thanks to the David Bohnett Foundation for their generous annual contribution to QGrad.



#14. Outfest Class Summer 2015 LGBTQS 183: Coming Out to the Movies: Los Angeles Queer Film Festival. Selfie by Profe Gaspar.

### Giving

Your tax-deductible contribution to LGBTQ Studies at UCLA is greatly appreciated. Please go to our program website at <http://lgbtqstudies.ucla.edu> and click on Giving.

Through your generosity, we can continue to provide critical programmatic, educational and research support to the present and future generations of LGBT Studies students and faculty.

If you would like your gift to support the forthcoming graduate program in LGBTQS, please indicate your wishes in the Comments section.



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#UCLA lgbtq studies program