

CALL FOR PAPERS

QGRAD 2024

NONSENSE

presented by UCLA's LGBTQIA+ STUDIES Dept.

Deadline EXTENDED:

Sunday, February 18, 2024, 11:59 PST

Conference Date:

Friday, May 17, 2024

The theme of UCLA's 27th annual QGrad Conference - NONSENSE - asks us to consider sense and who gets to make it. Queerness, according to Jack Halberstam, stems from "strange temporalities, imaginative life schedules, and eccentric economic practices." In other words, nonsense. We encourage explorations of what it means to make "sense" or rather, to queer sense(s). Since those in power often accuse the marginalized of not making sense, how can nonsense lead to meaning-making and placemaking beyond boundaries, beyond structures, beyond hegemonic binaries and dialectics? How does nonsense make cuts between rational and irrational, between appropriate and inappropriate, between what gets labeled a stable life and what gets dismissed as immature, chaotic, and excessive? How can we bond in nonsensical ways?

This conference aims to think less about the queer as static sexual and gender identities to focus on the disruption caused by queer acts, inappropriate genders, sexual irrationality, and living daily to the tick of a broken clock. In *Methodology of the Oppressed*, Chela Sandoval argues that third world feminism has sparked a reckoning and disavowal of Western rationality. By holding up a funhouse mirror to the normal, nonsense can help us assess communities, corporealities, aesthetics, politics, economies, and ecologies.

APPLY HERE:

<https://forms.gle/4WxDt2PGmyrdfsRuy6>

Keynote Speakers: Chris E. Vargas & Eric A. Stanley

We're pleased to welcome two nationally renowned artists and scholars who champion nonsense: **Chris E. Vargas**, founder of MOTHA (the Museum of Transgender History & Art), a Creative Capital Grantee, and Guggenheim Fellow, as well as **Eric A. Stanley**, whose 2021 book *Atmospheres of Violence* (Duke University Press) won the Sylvia Rivera Award for Transgender Studies. Together, they've co-directed the queer cult films *Criminal Queers* and *Homotopia*, which have screened at Outfest, New Museum, et al., and use nonsensical and amateur methods to question systems of power.

We encourage proposal submissions from current graduate students (MA, MS, MFA, & PhD) whose work addresses, expands upon, and moves fluidly across differing methodologies, such as quantitative, qualitative, humanities, social science, life science, medical humanities. We also welcome proposals that practice anti-disciplinary modes of presentation or performance that move beyond a sensical conference paper, panel, or roundtable. We support in-person and virtual-conferencing modalities. Conference participants could address the following topics and queries:

- Whose bodies and sexualities make (non)sense?
- De/Anti/Post/colonial rationalities
- Nonsensical emotions
- The material conditions of un-making meaning
- Nonsense as glitch
- Nonsensical spaces and places
- Nonsense and mental health
- Senseless acts of violence
- Nonsensical forms of speech
- Narratives that go nowhere
- Irrational fears
- The absurd, the uncanny, the unnecessary
- The refusal to make sense

Potential contributors should submit a CV (2 pages max), an abstract (200-250 words) and a bio (100 words max) to the form above.

QGrad at UCLA acknowledges the Gabrielino/Tongva peoples as the traditional land caretakers of Tovaangar (the Los Angeles basin and So. Channel Islands). As a land grant institution, we pay our respects to the *Honuukvetam* (Ancestors), *Ahihirom* (Elders) and *Eyoohiinkem* (our relatives/relations) past, present and emerging.

APPLY HERE:

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Please direct questions to:

ggradconference@gmail.com

