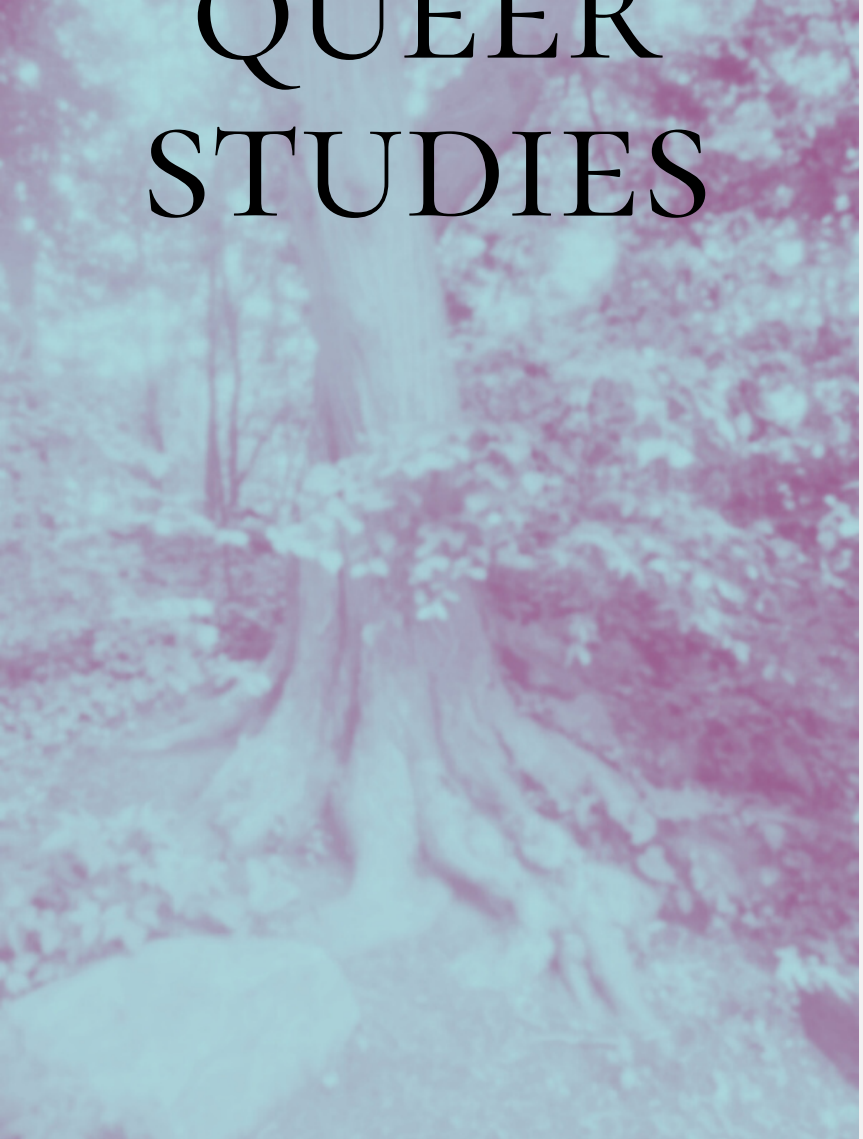


# INTRO TO QUEER STUDIES

---



EDITED BY JADE KAI

---

All Rights Reserved © Jade Kai

Class Zine, Spring 2023

Introduction to Queer Studies

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Stony Brook University

# INTRO TO QUEER STUDIES

EDITED BY JADE KAI

SPRING 2023  
DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S,  
GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES  
STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

"If there is any truly radical potential to be found in the idea of queerness and the practice of queer politics, it would seem to be located in its ability to create a space in opposition to dominant norms, a space where transformational political work can begin."

Cathy Cohen



**05**

"A GUIDE TO STAND UP FOR  
OTHERS AND YOURSELF" BY  
CARLY BORNFRIEND

**10**

"DEATH RATES" BY THOREN  
GIANNUZZI

**06**

"THE WORLD HOLDS US"  
BY SILAS BALUJA

**11**

"PRUDISHNESS VS.  
PERVERSION" BY SOPHIA  
GOODKIN

**07**

"AAPI PRIDE: AN  
EXAMINATION OF LGBTQ+  
ASIAN AMERICAN/PACIFIC  
ISLANDERS' CULTURAL  
IDENTITY CRISIS" BY TOBY  
CEREZO

**12**

"BREAKING BINARY  
BOUNDARIES"  
BY TOM GUO

**08**

"MASS BLINDNESS=QUEER  
DEATH" BY BRIANNA CHAVEZ

**13**

"PERCEPTION ISN'T ALWAYS  
REALITY" BY LIANNA HALLETT

**09**

"THE B WORD"  
BY SABRINA GAMBINO

**14**

"QUEER AROMANTICISM:  
NAVIGATING THE ECONOMIES  
OF CARE" BY MINGI HWANG

**15**

"WE ALL BREATHE THE SAME  
AIR, WE ALL DESERVE  
QUALITY CARE"  
BY LACEY KAUFER

**20**

"LIBERALS"  
BY RYAN NAING

**16**

"DO NOT TELL ME THAT IT'S A  
CHOICE" BY FINLEY LEMMA

**21**

"QUEER HISTORY & PRESENT  
STRUGGLES" BY CHARIS  
POLYCARPOU

**17**

"LGBTQ+ SUICIDES AND HOW  
TO PREVENT IT" BY NAVYA  
MENON

**22**

"LOVE AS AN ESSENTIAL  
PRACTICE" BY ANYA  
REINHART

**18**

"AMERICA: A NATION BUILT  
BY IMMIGRANTS" BY JAYA  
MONDAL

**23**

"THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT US.  
WE CARE ABOUT US." BY LEXI  
REVEAL

**19**

"KHWAJA SIRAS: PAKISTAN'S  
TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY"  
BY UNSA MUNIR

**24**

"HOPE WILL NEVER BE  
SILENT" BY KAIYA RODRIGUEZ

**25**

"TUSKEEGEE EXPERIMENT" BY  
CHRISTELLE ROUSSEAU

**29**

"HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO  
FEEL PRIDE... WHEN  
EVERYONE WANTS US TO  
FEEL SHAME?" BY JACKSON  
TURNER

**26**

"WHAT CONNECTS  
CAPITALISM AND  
QUEERNESS?"  
BY SOFIA SCIASCIA

**30**

"GLOSSARY OF TERM" BY  
JENNIFER WANG

**27**

WORDS I WISH I HEARD" BY  
AYRA SHAFIQUE

**28**

"AMELIO ROBLES ÁVILA: A  
LATIN AMERICAN LEGACY"  
BY G TORRENTO

*a guide to*

STAND <sup>ing</sup>



*for*

OTHERS

*and yourself*

"Nature held me close and  
seemed to find no fault with me."  
- Leslie Feinberg



"How do I live in peace as a trans woman?" "DEAR BABA YAGA"  
"Baba Yaga! The world is vaster than some humans festering in a bog, and the forest looks on you with wonder & love, seeing itself in yr beauty. So follow the love-path to the raspberry brimming with rain, the goose with a fiery eye, the bright hill where snakes dance & good people exalt your brilliance & you are one hundred thousand suns, illuminating all beings... The world will bow down to you & eat yr burden whole." - Taisia Kitaiskaia

"The World Holds Us" by Silas Baluja

This piece is meant to represent that even though queer people are often told they are "unnatural" or "wrong" because they do not fit within the hegemonic standards of normality, the true natural order will always welcome them with open arms. Nature can be a site of communal care through foraging, collective learning, and a reminder that queer joy is as natural and deserved as the beauty of the Earth's beating heart.

Quotes: "Nature held me close and seemed to find no fault with me." - Leslie Feinberg

"How do I live in peace as a trans woman? DEAR BABA YAGA. Baba Yaga: The world is vaster than some humans festering in a bog, and the forest looks on you with wonder & love, seeing itself in yr beauty. So follow the love-path to the raspberry brimming with rain, the goose with a fiery eye, the bright hill where snakes dance & good people exalt your brilliance & you are one hundred thousand suns, illuminating all beings. The world will bow down to you & eat yr burden whole." - Taisia Kitaiskaia



All images sourced from Pexels; please scan QR code above for citations.



# AAPI Pride:

An examination of LGBTQ+ Asian-American/Pacific Islanders' cultural identity crisis

As explored by Toby Cerezo

"Traditional AAPI community and family values can often be at odds with the highly individualistic values of mainstream American culture, and individuals may feel that they face a choice between disappointing their family or remaining an "outsider" to non-AAPI friends, classmates and broader society." - NAMI

"One of the biggest unspoken rules of gay hook-up culture is "No fats, no femmes, no Asians"—meaning plus-sized gay men, feminine gay men, and Asian gay men are considered undesirable. This trope is consistently depicted in gay movies, gay porn, and now a gay dating show." - Bobbie Szabo, odyssey

"41% of AAPI LGBTQ youth were not out to at least one parent about their sexual orientation — compared to 29% of the overall sample of LGBTQ youth" - Trevor News

## WHAT DOES ALL OF THIS MEAN?

I don't see a lot of Asian-Americans or Pacific Islanders who aren't cis het.

I have been out as bisexual since 2020, and for two years since then, I didn't see any LGBTQ AAPI in any form of entertainment, even those that have been written with gay or Asian audiences in mind.

Now, I know of a few K-Pop idols, a singer named dhruv, and Jobu Tupaki, the villain of Everything Everywhere, All at Once (which is at its core an epic tale about intergenerational conflict). Meanwhile, within my circle of friends, I know at least five times as many outwardly LGBTQ AAPI by name. I may know plenty of queer AAPI today, but the fact remains that it's difficult for young people like me to reach that point in the first place.

Gay AAPI are what I consider "triple-queer." In other words, we experience otherness in the wider context of American cultural standards, the more intimate scenes of family drama, and in the annoyingly exclusive world of gay dating in the US, particularly in regards to gay men. As Asians, we're often stereotyped as feminine and nerdy. As queer folks, we're considered undesirable and degenerate by members of our own families.

All this pressure to change and conform to a whirlwind of conflicting normalcies can lead to some drastic repercussions:

"40% of AAPI LGBTQ youth seriously considered suicide in the past year."  
- Trevor News

So, with all of this doomsaying out of the way, I'm going to use this limited space to pass on a message for people like me, who have been faced with racism and homophobia since they could walk on two feet.

You aren't alone.  
We're here, and we're fighting for a better future for us all.

## SOURCES:



"Asian American and Pacific Islander LGBTQ Youth Face Unique Mental Health Challenges, Increased Racial & Ethnic Discrimination" - Trevor News

"Expectations and Family Pressure" - NAMI

"How 'Finding Prince Charming' Perpetuates 'No Fats, No Femmes, No Asians'" - Bobbie Szabo, odyssey

Toby  
Cerezo

7



# Many AIDS Cases Go Unreported

NYT - 11/28/89

CHICAGO, Nov. 27 (AP) — AIDS cases, especially among blacks, have been grossly underreported in South Carolina and could be more numerous nationwide than records indicate, researchers say.

Of 153 AIDS cases that have been reported to the South Carolina health authorities from January through June 1987, only 10 percent, were unreported, according to a study in the current issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

"If underreporting to the degree observed in this study is widespread in the nation, the extent of the epidemic would be viewed with caution," the authors wrote.

"It is unclear how much underreporting seems reasonable, but the similar underreporting may exist elsewhere."

Researchers led by a physician with the state's Bureau of Preventive Health Services discovered the omissions by examining records of nearly 600,000 patients discharged from hos-

## South Carolina fails to list 40% of those with disease.

government hospitals.

They identified matching symptom discharge records and guidelines developed by the Centers for Disease Control.

Cases the researchers found in this study.

Now works for the Centers for Disease Control.

Ninety-one of 100 cases, or 91.1 percent, of AIDS were reported to the state.

with AIDS were likely not to be reported.

Since the AIDS epidemic began in the early 1980's, 112,241 cases have been reported nationwide. "Underreporting minimizes the importance of the epidemic and threatens the public health response," Dr.

## Facing the Emotional Anguish of AIDS

By GLENN COLLINS

The rapid medical advancements of AIDS have been overshadowed by the disease that is ravaging the nation. AIDS has grabbed the attention of the public, but it is only slowly being understood.

"To push change over your head," said Philip

gine Latham, started a therapy group for AIDS victims in December. Latham and several members of the American Psychiatric Association. "In the past, if a doctor seems that no matter how well they have done to serve with their patients, when they learn they have AIDS they experience a feeling of being punished for being gay."

health issues in "Why not?" said Dr. Nichols, president of the Caucus of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Members of the American Psychiatric Association. "In the past, if a doctor seems that no matter how well they have done to serve with their patients, when they learn they have AIDS they experience a feeling of being punished for being gay."

are hardly unusual, and resolving the meaning of mortality. One of the important tasks of therapy with AIDS victims is to help them to understand their families, where possible. For some, however, this may be difficult. "Many are not 'out' to their families, so we are in a difficult spot by choice and that is probably hard to work on," said Dr. Nichols.

# Mass Blindness = Queer Death

"I've seen people die in utter loneliness, abandoned by friends."

psychiatrists have been treating AIDS victims for some time.

"There Were No Guidelines"

Dr. Nichols said he had no guidelines to follow in his work with AIDS victims.

with AIDS were likely not to be reported.

more than 100 AIDS patients in support and therapy groups. "I'm really not just the

"I mean that this was to some way God's punishment," he said. "I remember them

we need to get personal. Personal relationships often really matter, but we live in a society where some people die in isolation. I've seen people die in the hospital, and I've seen people die in their homes. I've seen people die in their homes, and I've seen people die in their homes."

"I've seen people die in utter loneliness, abandoned by friends."

Dr. Nichols said he had no guidelines to follow in his work with AIDS victims.

with AIDS were likely not to be reported.

## Don't allow this to happen again...

Being queer is not a crime. Saying gay is not a crime.

Allowing and supporting the marginalization and death of the queer community is a crime.

**APRIL 1989**

**RECEIVED**

MITSUBISHI • CENSUS APPLE DISPLAY AND IN STOCK Will Ever Need Again! MODEMS • ACCESS ns etc...

10016 (212) 885-6728 9AM to 6 PM

COMMERCIAL LEASING AVAILABLE CARDS • RENTALS ARRANGED (CALL TOLL FREE) 1-800-LAP-TOP

**TEXAS**

**Check it out**

**A-25**

## AIDS fear shuts out health worker

Ex-Parkland employee fights for job

By Lauren Robinson  
The Dallas Morning News

For the first time in a year, a former Parkland Hospital employee, who was fired for being a health worker, is back at work. The former health worker, who was fired for being a health worker, is back at work. The former health worker, who was fired for being a health worker, is back at work.

Ex-Parkland employee fights for job

Ex-Parkland employee fights for job

Ex-Parkland employee fights for job

**News of the World investigates the deadly**

**MY DOOMED GAY PLAGUE**

# THE B WORD

the pervasive absence of positive attitudes toward bisexual men and women may be one of a number of other complex factors that continue to drive higher rates of adverse health outcomes among bisexual men and women.

the term **bisexual** is often entirely absent from historians' writings. By doing so, we are systematically mislabeling people who were attracted to multiple genders, erasing bi history.

<https://time.com/6189773/bisexuality-history-researchers/>

*Bisexual*

If I kiss a woman, I am a lesbian  
If I kiss a man, I am straight  
I have this illogical need to scream at the heavens from atop a cliff  
To scream *I'm here in this world; I exist!*  
To say I am just bisexual is wrong  
To say that certain aspect of me is the most oppressed is wrong  
I am a woman, I am bisexual, I have tourettes, I have depression  
I could go on for hours saying I am  
Saying statements that describe me  
I am oppressed and stereotyped by the society I live in  
So why is being bisexual the one I defend the most?

Rebekah Lamb

Bisexuality is the sexual and/or romantic attraction to multiple genders.

1859, anatomist Robert Bentley Todd first used the term 'bisexuality' to refer to the possession of 'male' and 'female' physical characteristics in the same body – today, we might understand this as being intersex.

1915, Sigmund Freud made his famous claim about 'universal' bisexuality in 1915, but referred to this both as a combination of masculinity and femininity and as a sexual or romantic attraction, writing, "the sexual object is a kind of reflection of the subject's bisexual nature".

1970s, the current understanding of bisexuality, as an orientation or capacity for attraction, became widely accepted in the UK as "the more common usage".

<https://www.stonewall.org.uk/about-us/news/short-history-word-bisexuality>

Chart 3: How much do you feel part of a 'bisexual community'? (N=510)

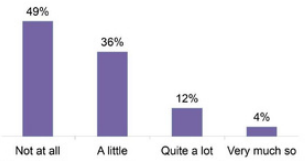
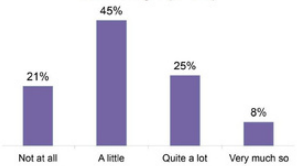


Chart 4: How much do you feel part of an 'LGBT community'? (N=512)



<https://time.com/6189773/bisexuality-history-researchers/>

## MISCONCEPTIONS

- promiscuous and unfaithful
- in a confused state of sexual transition or experimentation
- lying about their attractions for attention or to attract men (particularly bi women)
- adhering to some sort of trend (particularly young people).



# GayLife



SHAME, SHAME  
Discrimination remains legal in Virginia

Number 43

This Issue in Two Sections

Thursday, May 12, 1983

## 'Homosexuality is a death-style,'

that the court's recent decisions made it

THE SEXES

'Enough! Enough! Enough!'

Michael Hardwick, the defendant in that case, was arrested at

Disparities in Suicide

Life Expectancy of Trans Women

"equal justice under the law, that's what it says on the wall," pro-



A14 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1987

THE WASHINGTON POST

## Supreme Court Protest Culminates Week of

GAY RIGHTS, From A1

"Every day we commit an act of civil disobedience by loving each other," she said. They were forced to wear in Nazi Germany.

"Decide sexual positions in the bedroom, not the courtroom," was one message. "Bob and Darrell—outlaws for life." Yet

civil that y and California went to the Supreme Court

rested. "This is my first time, and I am kind of nervous," he said. "I've never even had a parking ticket before, but I'm going to do it because it is important for people to

## Gay Rights Activities

... but I look around and see a these people, and I know I'm not We are everywhere."

The first wave of demonstrators, about two dozen women, carried a large banner decorated with a pair of bright pink lips and the words "Lesbians protesting injustice." The women pushed through the barricade and ran, holding hands, to the middle of the white marble plaza. A

few minutes later

ple With AIDS, marched to the lower court steps and sat down.

Some wore pink headbands, tifying themselves as carry acquired immune deficiency syndrome virus; others wore



Want to Be Treated as Human Beings.

Not Yet Equal Under the Law

THE NEW YORK TIMES Style MONDAY, MAY 30, 1983

## the Emotional Anguish of AIDS





## Breaking Binary Boundaries

### A Journey Beyond the Gender Binary

The gender binary is a socially constructed system that confines people to two rigid categories: male and female. This binary erases the existence and experiences of those who identify outside of these categories. Let's explore the diverse spectrum of gender identities and expressions that break free from this binary!

Non-Binary: An umbrella term for gender identities that don't fit within the traditional categories of male or female. Some non-binary individuals may identify as genderqueer, genderfluid, or agender, among others.

Two-Spirit: A term used by some Indigenous North American communities to describe individuals who hold both masculine and feminine qualities. It's important to remember that this term is culturally specific and should not be appropriated.

Genderfluid: A gender identity that is not fixed and can change over time. Individuals who identify as genderfluid may feel more masculine, feminine, or neutral on different days or in different situations.

Agender: Describes individuals who do not have a gender identity or who identify as gender-neutral. Agender individuals may prefer pronouns such as they/them, but pronoun preferences may vary.

Hijra: A term used in South Asia to describe individuals who don't fit within the traditional male or female categories. The Hijra community has a long history and is recognized in some countries with legal rights and protections.

Be an ally! Educate yourself about diverse gender identities and expressions. Respect people's pronouns, challenge your assumptions and create inclusive spaces. Remember, gender is a spectrum, not a binary.

"Gender is not an either/or scenario; it is a galaxy of possibilities." - Jacob Tobia

Zine Page: Poem Edition

*Perception isn't always reality*

Neither here nor there  
Neither dark nor fair

Curiously disgusted stares from the way I wear my hair

Assuming the worst based on my complexion  
My internal shameful yearn for acceptance

Or the assumptions of my identity  
Due to my complexity

Puerto rican and black  
Not allowing the 1 option checkbox to hold me back

You can be two or multiple  
The world will see it one day Im hopeful

The media tell us whats the accept-ion  
Influencing everyones perception

But there The color of my skin  
Is never shown to win

Im simply a big hearted empathic lover  
Not your assumed angry black women stereotyped cover

I wont allow it to define me  
the way others are blinded

Their ignorance takes a big influence  
On the worlds acceptance of our existance

If only they knew  
what its like to walk in my shoes

# Queer Aromanticism

## Navigating the the Economies of Care



### CAPITALIST CARE

For many aromantics, the colonial capitalist emphasis on monogamously heterosexual romantic love and nuclear families (the "economies of care") can make accessing basic resources, such as healthcare and housing, difficult. It also deems people without romantic partners "incomplete" and "failures" when it comes to fulfilling what supposedly makes us human.

### CHOSEN FAMILY

As queer folks, we know that family isn't just something you're born into. Building a support system of friends, partners, and community is essential for our survival and well-being. However, chosen families can also face unique challenges and require intentional effort to build and maintain. While shared values definitely help in initially forming a chosen family, it is helpful in the long run to seek out people with diverse ideas so that we learn from one another.

### SELF-CARE STRATEGIES

In a world that tells us we're incomplete without romance, it's important to prioritize our own well-being. From journaling to taking long walks, there are many ways to practice self-care. However, self-care is not accessible to everyone, and it is important to acknowledge the systemic barriers that prevent some individuals from accessing resources that promote well-being.

### QUEERPLATONIC RELATIONSHIPS

Queerplatonic relationships (QPRs) are often overlooked in discussions of care and relationships, yet they can be just as important, if not more so, than romantic partnerships. Aromanticism challenges the societal assumption that romantic relationships are the most important relationships. Queer aros often rely on QPRs as a primary form of care and support, highlighting the importance of recognizing and valuing non-romantic relationships. It is important to realize that, much like the foundation of being queer, there is no "correct" or "ideal" QPR. It might resemble a traditional romantic relationship, or it might look more like a friendship. Don't let the relationship define you, make the relationship fit to suit your needs and characteristics.

### FURTHER READING

- *The Care Manifesto* - The Care Collective
- *All About Love* - bell hooks
- *Romantic Love Is Killing Us: Who Takes Care of Us When We're Single?* - Caleb Luna

*we all breathe  
the same air,,  
we all deserve  
quality care.*

The LGBTQ+ community is the subject of many healthcare disparities. The higher risk for specific conditions coupled with the lower access to quality health care is a perfect storm that leads to many issues in the overall health and well-being of the community.

### *Ways to fix these issues*

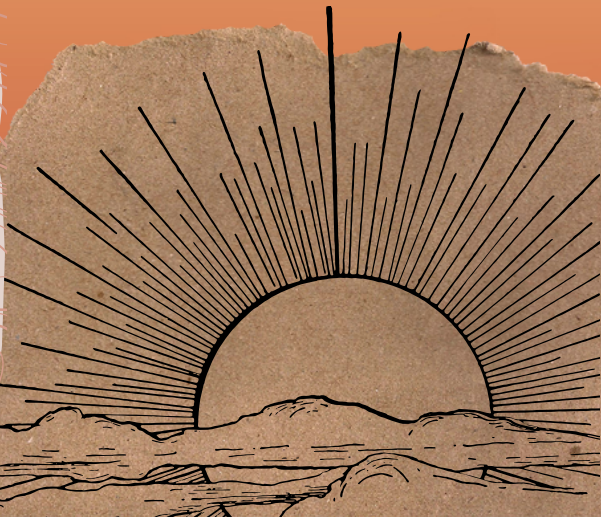
- train medical professionals
- create clinics and other facilities that embrace the community and provide quality care
- work with insurance companies to improve overarching access problems
- share quality resources to the community

### *Resources*

- want to find providers look here: <https://lgbtqhealthcaredirectory.org>
- to learn more about advocacy and education regarding LGBTQ+ inequalities look here: <https://www.glma.org/>

### *References:*

LGBTQ+ Health Disparities. Cigna. (n.d.). Retrieved April 16, 2023, from <https://www.cigna.com/knowledge-center/lgbt-disparities>



DO NOT TELL ME THAT IT'S A CHOICE  
BECAUSE YOU COULD NOT POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND  
THE PAIN:

THE PAIN OF BEING REFERRED TO  
WITH A NAME THAT IS NOT, WAS NEVER YOUR OWN.  
THE PAIN OF WHEN SOMEONE LOOKS AT YOU  
AND IT'S OBVIOUS THAT YOU WILL NEVER BE KNOWN.  
THE PAIN OF BEING FORCED INTO A COSTUMED VIEW,  
PAINTED OVER WHEN ANY PART OF YOU IS SHOWN.

SO YOU RAISE YOUR VOICE--HIGHER, NO LOWER THAN IT SHOULD BE--  
(MY VERY WORDS ARE BEING CATEGORISED AGAINST ME)

THE PAIN WHEN PEOPLE CHOOSE TO LAUGH  
AND CAST YOU ASIDE FOR THE THINGS YOU CAN'T CHANGE.  
THE PAIN WHEN THEY FORCE YOU TO PICK A HALF,  
AS YOU'RE FORCED THROUGH THIS HIDDEN RANGE.  
THE PAIN OF KNOWING THAT YOUR PATH  
IS OBSCURED  
BY PEOPLE LIKE YOU  
BEING MURDERED IN THE STREETS.

SO NOW THERE'S A NEW BINARY  
FOR THE NON-BINARY:  
SILENCE YOURSELF OR BE SILENCED.  
IT'S ONLY A QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT  
THE PAIN FROM THE INSIDE  
OR THE PAIN FROM THE OUTSIDE  
KILLS. YOU. FIRST.

SO DO NOT TELL ME THAT IT'S A CHOICE  
WHEN YOU TRY TO FORCE MY HAND.  
I CANNOT CHOOSE THE PERSON I'LL BE,  
BUT YOU CAN CHOOSE TO UNDERSTAND.



# LGBTQ Suicides and How to Help Prevent it

## Did you know?

Almost half of the LGBTQ youth have contemplated suicide? A study done by the Trevor Project revealed that 45% youth have considered suicide in the past year, 60% were looking for for mental health care but were unable to get it, and 73% of LGBTQ youth have experienced discrimination.

## How can I help?

- Volunteer with the Trevor Project to help at-risk LGBTQ members by answers calls for their hotline
- Familiarize yourself with warning signs and when you recognize these. use the C.A.R.E approach
  - C- Connect
  - A- Accept
  - R- Respond
  - E- Empower
- Be aware of hotlines
  - Trevor Project hotlines
    - text "start" to 678-678
    - call 1-866-488-7386
    - or visit the chat feature on their website
  - Dial 988 for the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline
  - Research local resources as well
- Show and advocate your support and respect for the LGBTQ community and allow the people around you to be heard and seen

## Why does this happen?

LGBTQ youth are more likely commit suicide due to the lack of support they receive. Both in schools and at home, they are not able to feel supported and validated which leads to them feeling like no one accepts them or cares about them leading to depression which can lead to suicide. LGBTQ community is constantly made to feel alone and that something is wrong with them which results in high suicide and depression rates.



Photo from [thetrevorproject.org](https://www.thetrevorproject.org)

## Websites to visit for more info:

[thetrevorproject.org](https://www.thetrevorproject.org)  
<https://www.cdc.gov/suicide/resources/index.html>  
<https://988lifeline.org/>

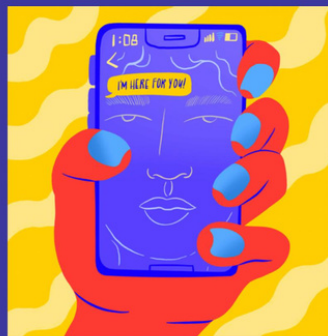


Photo from [thetrevorproject.org](https://www.thetrevorproject.org)



# KHWAJA SIRAS

PAKISTAN'S TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

BY UNSA MUNIR

KHWAJA SIRAS, ALSO KNOWN AS HIJRAS (ALTHOUGH MANY WANT TO ABANDON THIS NAME DUE TO ITS NEGATIVE CONNOTATION), ARE THE TRANSGENDER POPULATION IN PAKISTAN. DESPITE THE PAKISTANI SUPREME COURT LEGALLY RECOGNIZING THEM AS A THIRD GENDER ON NATIONAL IDENTITY CARDS, IT HAS PROVEN DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO BE ISSUED. AS A RESULT THEY CAN'T APPLY TO JOBS AND RESORT TO SEX WORK AND BEGGING.

**"IT'S NOT SLAVERY, IT'S OUR CUSTOM", ONE GURU SAYS.**

IT IS COMMON THAT NEW KHWAJA SIRAS GET INITIATED INTO THE COMMUNITY BY SIGNING WITH A GURU. THEY ARE TOLD THAT THEY NEED TO MAKE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF MONEY (THAT THE GURU WILL TAKE A CUT OF) OR ELSE THEY RISK LOSING THEIR FOOD/WATER AND GETTING SHUNNED. THIS IS WHY THEY SPEND THEIR DAYS AND NIGHTS RISKING THEIR LIVES BY WALKING THROUGH TRAFFIC TO ASK FOR MONEY, OR TO PERFORM SEXUAL ACTS FOR THE EQUIVALENT OF 20 US DOLLARS. MANY OF THESE WOMEN GET SEXUALLY ASSAULTED ON THE JOB, AND SOME EVEN GET SEVERELY INJURED OR KILLED.

**"DREAMS DON'T COME TRUE FOR PEOPLE LIKE US."**

MANY LAYERS OF CULTURE AND RELIGION COME TOGETHER TO GO AGAINST THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY. MARRIAGE IS A VITAL PART OF NUMEROUS PAKISTANIS LIVES BUT IT IS ILLEGAL TO MARRY THE SAME OR THIRD GENDER. THESE WOMEN OFTEN GET BOYFRIENDS UNTIL HE IS MARRIED OFF, LEAVING THEM ALL ALONE. WHILE BEING GAY IS SEEN AS SINFUL, MANY MEN PAY TO HAVE SEX WITH KHWAJA SIRAS THAT THEY CONSIDER "SPECIAL" BUT SOMETHING THEY "CAN'T TALK ABOUT."



**"IF IT WERE IN MY HANDS I'D BE HAPPY TO BE A DOG JUST SO I COULD LIVE WITH MY MOTHER."**

ALL THESE PEOPLE LONG FOR IS A SENSE OF ACCEPTANCE AND COMMUNITY. TO BE ABLE TO LIVE THEIR LIVES LIKE ANYONE ELSE. INSTEAD THEY ARE HARASSED AND HUMILIATED FOR BEING TRUE TO THEMSELVES.

Source: Transgender Pakistanis: The Open Secret | Real Stories

**IMMIGRATION REFORM NOW!**




**Stop deportations. Stop separating families. We are not taking away your jobs. We are good for the economy.**

**AMERICA:  
A NATION BUILT  
BY IMMIGRANTS**



**IMMIGRANTS AT THE STATUE OF LIBERTY, 1917**





“Liberals don't really *have* beliefs. Sometimes they stumble on one, like on a child's toy left on the carpet. The toy must be put away immediately. And the child reprimanded. Liberalism isn't change — not even incremental change. It is *control!*”

The histories of every movement to free a marginalized group of people share many common threads - but one of the most bothersome among these threads is the ball and chain of the liberal movement that came attached to it. Liberals are a group of people who, at least nominally, stand with the oppressed and strive to see the injustices committed against them corrected - but the kinship ends there. Take for example, the legitimately revolutionary currents of the Queer Liberation movement.

Throughout its entire history, the spearhead for queer rights and the movement's most influential personalities carried with them far more than just vague calls for social change. Figures like Leslie Feinberg, Marsha P. Johnson, Harry Hay, Audre Lorde, all strove for something far greater than the idea of 'gay rights.'

They were fighting for queer liberation - a reshaping of the world that would do more than just let gay people get married or criminalize discrimination on the basis of sexuality - a world where instead, queer people of all stripes and colors would be truly free. They fought for a world that threatened capitalism, that threatened all existing hierarchies, and a world that genuinely wanted to tear down the status quo. A more just world threatens the comfortable, unjust system a liberal already benefits from; which so begins their constant effort to moderate an inherently radical movement.

Liberals live in a world fraught with massive injustice and conflict on institutional scales, but they aren't bothered by any of it, except which threatens a basic multicultural pluralism (basic gay rights, marriage, so on and so forth.) The Queer Liberation movement is a movement that pushes forward positive change, and liberals see any change and any driving force behind change as something negative, and to be reined in. They smother figures like Marsha P. Johnson, and replace the riots and bricks thrown at Stonewall with rainbow colored coke cans and cops at pride.

It would do all of us well to remember the roots of the Queer Liberation movement, and toss liberalism to the side. Actual, tangible, true freedom and happiness for queer people cannot come with the status quo's moderation.

# Queer History & Present Struggles

There is often a narrative that the queer movement happened in the past and equal rights were achieved.

This obscures the truth, that oppressive systems control our lives, and the government continues to target and criminalize the queer community.



## Stonewall Riots

The first photo was taken from Stonewall Inn Riots in 1969, the second after the Rainbow Lounge Raid in 2009. In both cases, police raided gay bars, harassing and assaulting patrons. The striking similarities show that the fight is not over and warn against complacency.



## Rainbow Lounge

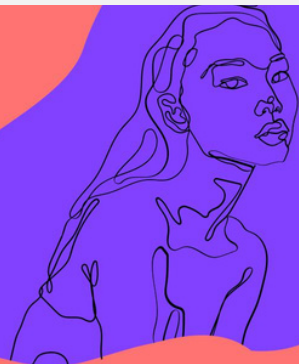
Across America today, anti-trans legislation like anti-drag bills hearken back to a time when anti-cross dressing laws were standard. These laws were used by the police to target trans and other non-conforming members of society.

Today they are being brought back in another form to criminalize being trans and give the police an easy opportunity to abuse their power.

Inspired by: "Fugitive Flesh: gender self-determination, Queer abolition, and trans resistance"  
by Eric A. Stanley



# Love as an Essential Practice



I challenge you to love. Love the communities you're a part of and the future ones you'll form. Love the conversations and connections you make with members of these communities which expand your understanding of the world. Love those around you beyond the confining ideas of romance. Love them because they're here and require support in the face of oppression. Love the deeply erotic parts of yourself that house your desires, spark and drive. And lastly, in the wise words of Alice Walker, Love yourself. Regardless.





# " Hope Will Never Be Silent "



**But will you actually be loud enough  
for everyone to hear ?**







WHAT  
CONNECTS

Capitalism & Queerness?

# OPPRESSION



ANTI-QUEER SENTIMENT = CONTROL

People become submissive/complacent



NO Freedom!

They  
FEAR

NO Individuality

NO Expression

CONFORM!

QUEER  
Rebellion!

OUR TRUE SELVES ARE DANGEROUS

Words I Wish I Heard

Ayra Shafique

Darling, you are a diamond in the rough  
Holding onto what you know as if it's life or death  
You do not realize that if you were to let go  
Blossoming is the path for you

In a fresh field of sunflowers  
Fret not, you need not to compete  
You stand out amongst the rest  
For you are an awestraking, vibrant rose

Mountains crumble  
Rivers flood  
The Earth shakes  
When you utter beautiful words

Present-day Aphrodite  
Your beauty is only seen in the heavens  
Where devils have a conscience and angels fly  
Soar, my love

And when the darkness buries you  
In forests where the most ferocious creature flee  
Remember you harness the strength others could only dream of  
To light up a world gone cold

# AMELIO ROBLES ÁVILA

A LATIN AMERICAN LEGACY

1889-1984



One of the earliest documented transgender figures in Latin American history, Amelio was a colonel who was recognized for the masculine identity he adopted- not only by his community, but the military as well. He was awarded for his accomplishments in the Zapatista movement and received honors.

Amelio made the front page of *El Universal*, Mexico's largest newspaper, after being interviewed and photographed. In the now-famous photograph, Robles proudly poses while holding his personal pistol and a cigarette.





33-6603. SCHOOL RESTROOMS. (1) Every public school restroom or changing facility accessible by multiple persons at the same time must be:

- (a) Designated for use by male persons only or female persons only; and
- (b) Used only by members of that sex.

(2) Unless specifically required pursuant to applicable federal law or regulation, no public entity or political subdivision of the state of Idaho shall require a contractor engaged in public works construction governed by this chapter to provide a multiple-occupancy restroom, shower facility, or changing room that is owned by or under the control of the contractor on any basis other than biological sex. For purposes of this subsection, "biological sex" means the physical condition of being male or female as stated on a person's birth certificate.

The suicide attempt rate among transgender persons ranges from 32% to 50% across the countries. Gender-based victimization, discrimination, bullying, violence, being rejected by the family, friends, and community; harassment by intimate partner, family members, police and public; discrimination and ill treatment at health-care system are the major risk factors that influence the suicidal behavior among transgender persons.

33-6603. SCHOOL RESTROOMS. (1) Every public school restroom or changing facility accessible for use by multiple persons at the same time must be:

- (a) Designated for use by male persons only or female persons only; and
- (b) Used only by members of that sex.

B. 1. Any referral for or provision of gender transition procedures to an individual under twenty-six (26) years of age is unprofessional conduct and shall [...] result in immediate revocation of the license or certificate of the physician or other healthcare professional.

1. A physician or other healthcare professional found to have knowingly referred for or provided gender transition procedures to an individual under twenty-six (26) years of age shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a felony.

A. An employee [...] of a school district or charter school may not knowingly address, identify or refer to a student [...] by a pronoun that differs from the pronoun that aligns with the student's biological sex unless the school district or charter school receives written permission from the student's parent.

B. [Or] if doing so is contrary to the employee's or independent contractor's religious or moral convictions.

### Washington bill to allow medical transgender interventions on minors without parental consent

### Indiana bill banning gender-affirming care for transgender youth sent to governor

Transgender and nonbinary youth face elevated risk for depression, thoughts of suicide, and attempting suicide compared to youth who are cisgender and straight, including cisgender members of the LGBTQ community.

## How are we supposed to feel pride...



2. A parent who objects to a book that is available to students in the school [...] may request that the [...] institution remove the book [...] because the parent [...] the book to be lewd or sexual in nature, to promote gender fluidity or gender pronouns or to groom children into normalizing pedophilia shall submit the book ... to the department of education

ability of child abuse, a felony imprisonment for not more than ten years, if a person intentionally inflicts upon a child under the age of eight years any procedure, drug, or other agent or combination thereof that is administered to intentionally or knowingly change the sex of the child. Consent of the child, the child's parents, guardian or any other person responsible for the child's welfare shall not be a defense to the crime defined by this subsection.

6:33 AM · Apr 14, 2023

Any parent or doctor who sterilizes a child before they are a consenting adult should go to prison for life



(2) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, any medical practitioner who knowingly engages in any of the following practices upon a child for the purpose of attempting to alter the appearance of or affirm the child's perception of the child's sex if that perception is inconsistent with the child's biological sex shall be guilty of a felony:

# Sex



The categorization of an individual using two main categories (male and female) on the basis of biology. Sex is assigned at birth and does not necessarily correlate to one's gender identity.

There are "primary" and "secondary" sexual characteristics, AFAB (Assigned Female at Birth) and AMAB, intersex and so on.



# Glossary of Term

*An expression of identity which can be communicated through a highly fluid and socially informed set of behaviors, attitudes, presentation choices, and other self-expressions.*

## Gender

*People can have their own gender identity and gender expression. There are cisgender and transgender. There are different beliefs like gender binary or gender non-conforming (out of the binary) or two-spirit. Please ask people's gender pronouns that they used to identify themselves.*



## Sexuality

*An expression of identity defined by feelings of sexual attraction, mainly informed by gender identity. Many people experience sexual orientation fluidly, and feel attraction or degrees of attraction to different genders at different points in their lives.*

*You can be heterosexual or homosexual or bisexual or asexual or pansexual or queer...you can be yourself.*



*Out of binary*



