**Psychoanalysis, (Trans)gender, and Sexuality**

**How can psychoanalysis -- as both a theory and clinical practice -- productively engage with contemporary concerns surrounding gender and sexual diversity?**

What is the relationship between forms of clinical psychoanalytic practice that pathologise or stigmatise particular gender/sexual identities and practices, and more progressive approaches to the field? Is psychoanalysis inherently ‘queer’, or do we have do something to it to make it so? How might clinical practitioners work to become more reflective about the ways in which social and cultural discourses of gender and sexuality impact on the analytic relationship?

Over this two-day intensive course, we will immerse ourselves in political, theoretical, and clinical spaces that bring psychoanalytic theory into contact with queer and trans experience. Day one, led primarily by Dr Osserman, will feature lectures and close readings of texts that will lay the groundwork for an informed engagement with the emerging field of transpsychoanalytics. Day two will feature presentations and discussions with a series of invited clinicians and scholars working at the cutting edge of psychoanalysis and queer and trans studies.

Audience participation is encouraged. No prior knowledge will be assumed, however a willingness to engage with difficult ideas, and respect for views that differ from your own are prerequisites for participation. In order to facilitate a constructive learning environment, hateful speech (including the active refusal to address individuals according to their stated gender identity) will not be tolerated.

**Objectives:**

* To develop a basic framework for how psychoanalytic theory speaks to questions of gender and sexuality
* To critically interrogate examples of how psychoanalytic practice contributes to, or challenges, the pathologization and stigmatization of gender and sexual diversity
* To establish some foundational concerns of trans and queer studies, and explore their resonances and tensions with psychoanalysis
* Through a series of talks by invited speakers, to gain an appreciation for the emerging field of ‘transpsychoanalytics’, and explore the work it is currently carrying out

**Assigned Reading:**

It is recommended that participants read the following texts prior to the start of the course. These will be shared with all ticket purchases.

Rose, Jacqueline. ‘Who Do You Think You Are? Trans Narratives’. London Review of Books, 5 May 2016. https://www.lrb.co.uk/the-paper/v38/n09/jacqueline-rose/who-do-you-think-you-are

*Provides a thoughtful overview on how psychoanalysis and trans can be put into productive dialogue.*

Long Chu, Andrea. ‘On Liking Women’. N+1, no. 30 (Winter 2008). https://nplusonemag.com/issue-30/essays/on-liking-women/.

*A provocative autobiographical essay exploring trans desire and contradictions within feminist sexual politics.*

Riviere, Joan. ‘Womanliness as a Masquerade’. International Journal of Psycho-Analysis 10 (1929): 303–13.

*A classic psychoanalytic text that has had a major influence on Lacanian theory and psychoanalytic feminism.*

Hansbury, Griffin. ‘Unthinkable Anxieties: Reading Transphobic Countertransferences in a Century of Psychoanalytic Writing’. TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly 4, no. 3–4 (1 November 2017): 384–404.

*A trans psychoanalyst considers the countertransferences at play in transphobic psychoanalytic literature.*

**Biographies:**

**Jordan Osserman** is a postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Psychosocial Studies at Birkbeck (University of London) and member of Waiting Times, a Wellcome-funded project on the temporalities of healthcare. His research concerns psychoanalytic approaches to time and their relationship to issues of gender identity. Jordan received his PhD in Gender Studies and Psychoanalysis from University College London for his dissertation on male circumcision, and he is a clinical trainee with the Site for Contemporary Psychoanalysis.

**Guest speakers:**

**Sheila L. Cavanagh** is a professor at York University and sociotherapist in Toronto, Canada. Cavanagh edited a special double issue of *Transgender Studies Quarterly* on psychoanalysis (2017), and is completing her third book monograph titled *Transgender and the Other Sexual Difference: Jacques Lacan and Bracha L. Ettinger*. Cavanagh co-edited *Skin, Culture and Psychoanalysis* (2013). Her scholarship on gender, sexuality and psychoanalysis has been published in *The Psychoanalytic Review*, *MAMSIE: Studies in the Maternal*, *European Journal of Psychoanalysis* and *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*.

**Noreen Giffney** BA Hons, PhD, MSc, Clin Dip, MIFPP, MNIIHR, MUKCP, MCPJA, MICP is an accredited Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist and a psychosocial theorist. She is the author of *The Culture-Breast: Cultural Experiences and the Psychoanalytic Clinic*, which is forthcoming with Routledge, and the co-editor of *Clinical Encounters in Sexuality: Psychoanalytic Practice and Queer Theory* (2017), *Theory on the Edge: Irish Studies and the Politics of Sexual Difference* (2013), *The Lesbian Premodern* (2011), *The Ashgate Research Companion to Queer Theory* (2009), *Queering the Non/Human* (2008), and *Twenty-First Century Lesbian Studies* (2007). She is a founding scholar of the British Psychoanalytic Council, a member of the Association for Psychosocial Studies, and a Lecturer in Counselling at Ulster University in Northern Ireland.

**Susan Stryker**

Barbara Lee Distinguished Chair in Women’s Leadership, Mills College, and Professor Emerita of Gender and Women’s Studies at University of Arizona; former distinguished visiting faculty member at Harvard University, Yale University, Johns Hopkins University, Northwestern University, University of California-Santa Cruz, Macquarie University, Simon Fraser University. Author of *Transgender History: The Roots of Today’s Revolution*, co-editor of the two-volume *Transgender Studies Reader*, founding co-editor of *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly*, co-director of the Emmy-winning documentary film *Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton’s Cafeteria.* B.A. in Letters, magna cum laud, University of Oklahoma 1983, Ph.D. in United States History, University of California-Berkeley 1992, post-doctoral fellowship in sexuality studies, Stanford University 1998.

Although I engage with psychoanalytic theory in my transgender studies work, I am not psychoanalytically trained; I am interested primarily in relationships between imaginaries and historical change--particularly with regard to technicity, embodiment, racialization, and sexuation--as well as in Lacanian-revisionist notions of the sinthome, counter-transference, history of psychoanalytic thought, the anti-psychiatry movement, and the work of Felix Guattari.

**Patricia Gherovici, Ph.D.** is a psychoanalyst and analytic supervisor. She is co-founder and director of the [Philadelphia Lacan Group](http://lacangroup.org/) and [Associate Faculty](http://web.sas.upenn.edu/psys/associated-faculty/), [Psychoanalytic Studies Minor, University of Pennsylvania (PSYS)](http://web.sas.upenn.edu/psys/), Honorary Member at [IPTAR](https://iptar.org/) the Institute for Psychoanalytic Training and Research in New York City,  and Founding Member of [Das Unbehagen](http://dasunbehagen.org/). ​Her books include [*The Puerto Rican Syndrome*](http://www.amazon.com/Puerto-Rican-Syndrome-Cultural-Studies/dp/1892746751) (Other Press: 2003) winner of the Gradiva Award and the Boyer Prize,  [*Please Select Your Gender: From the Invention of Hysteria to the Democratizing of Transgenderism*](http://www.amazon.com/Please-Select-Your-Gender-Transgenderism/dp/041580616X/ref%3Dpd_sim_b_3) (Routledge: 2010) and [*Transgender Psychoanalysis: A Lacanian Perspective on Sexual Difference*](http://www.amazon.com/Transgender-Psychoanalysis-Lacanian-Perspective-Difference/dp/1138818682)​(Routledge: 2017

**Dr Tobias Wiggins** is an assistant professor of Women’s and Gender Studies at Athabasca University. His research centers transgender mental health, queer visual culture, clinical transphobia, community-based wellness, and psychoanalysis. Broadly, Wiggins’ work aims to address the continued psychiatric pathologization of gender variance and to support the efficacy of trans-competent medical care. At Athabasca University, he coordinates the Certificate in Counselling Women, an interdisciplinary program which applies feminist theory to the practice of counselling marginalized people. His recent writing on disavowal and transphobic countertransference has been published in the Transgender Studies Quarterly; and a chapter on trans people’s sexuality can be found in the anthology Sex, Sexuality and Trans Identities: Clinical Guidance for Psychotherapists and Counselors.

**Shanna Carlson** is a social worker in practice in Minnesota, USA. She received her MSW from the University of Minnesota and her PhD in Romance Studies from Cornell University, USA. Her writings have appeared in *differences: A Feminist Journal of Cultural Studies*, *International Journal of Psychoanalysis,* *Transgender Studies Reader, Volume 2*, and *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly.*

**Sheldon George** is Professor of English and Chair of the English department at Simmons University in Boston, Massachusetts.  His scholarship centers most directly on Lacanian psychoanalytic theory and applies cultural and literary theory to analyses of American and African-American literature and culture.  He is author of *Trauma and Race:  A Lacanian Study of African American Racial Identity* and coeditor of *Reading Contemporary Black British and African American Women Writers: Race, Ethics, Narrative Form.* His collection *Lacan and Race: Racism, Identity and Psychoanalytic Theory* is forthcoming from Routledge.

**Trish Salah** is Associate Professor of Gender Studies at Queen’s University, Kingston. She is the author of the poetry collections, *Wanting in Arabic* (TSAR 2002, 2013) and *Lyric Sexology, Vol. 1* (Roof 2014, Metonymy 2017); *Wanting in Arabic* was honoured with a Lambda Literary Award in 2014. She has recently become editor of the *Journal of Critical Race Inquiry*, and is co-editor of special issues of the journals, *Canadian Review of American Studies* (2005) and *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly* (2014). Her recent critical writing appears in the collection, *Current Critical Debates in the Field of Transsexual Studies*, and in the journals, *Somatechnics* and *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly*.