

Fifth International Conference Queering Paradigms

“Queering narratives of modernity”

Quito, Ecuador, February 20-21-22, 2014

QP5 Conference theme

This is the Fifth International Conference Queering Paradigms (QP5) and the first time the event comes to the Andes. Bringing QP5 to a region where debates on colonialism remain vigorous and indigenous politics dynamic is the occasion to explore what *queer* approaches can do to imaginaries of modernity. The central theme of this conference explores the intersection of *queer* studies with post and de-colonial studies. It questions how post and de-colonial paradigms can be queered, how the *queer* can be decolonized, and the implications of such conversations on hegemonic and alternative understandings of modernity. In the process, the conference is the occasion to foster conversations among various *Souths* in the global political economy, push the boundaries of what the so-called global south means and how it is conceptualized.

The conference tracks pay particular attention to symbols of the modern and the pre-modern, exploring the religious and the secular, problematizing gay marriage, looking into indigenities, and revisiting race and spirituality from *queer* perspectives. In the effort to understand how *queer* perspectives can propose alternative ways of thinking modernity, QP5 seeks to generate a space to consider the importance of art broadly defined and the possibilities it creates for further dialogue and intersections with *Queer* Studies. The event hopes to foment a horizontal dialogue of mainstream scholarship with and through art. Further, it seeks to discuss, articulate and theorize the impact of art, and to combine activist approaches and academic concerns without antagonizing both.

Five conference threads

The conference umbrella theme is the relation between *queer* and understandings of modernity. Structural violence permeates the legal realm and the family as well as post-colonial negotiations of indigeneity, religion and language. Paper and panel proposals are invited to tackle the following five threads, all connected and inter-related: 1) legalities; 2) families; 3) indigenities; 4) language and representation; 5) post-colonialities.

- 1) Legalities- do modern rights such as gay marriage or sex change affect ideas of progress and development? Rethinking the legality of the family from the state and civil society to religious constituencies, and indigenous perspectives.
- 2) Families- how is the family redefined in the current political climate? How is it (re)framed by “new” immigration journeys? Chains of care, health, homoparentalities, international adoption, and surrogacy.
- 3) Indigenities- queering “the indigenous” and race; *queer* land and spirituality queering the public/private divide, queer/ing authority and kinship. Can sexualities be culturally inauthentic?

- 4) Language and Representation- Do speakers find a relevant queerness in languages where "*queer*" is an alien term (indigenous or Asian for instance)? How does *queer* present itself in languages outside of the North Atlantic metropolis?
- 5) Post-colonialities- How significant are the contributions of bringing *queer* studies into post and de-colonial analyses? Do *queer* perspectives offer a different gaze to understand discourses on modernity? Does the *queer* in *queer* language coincide with the *post* in post-colonial?

QP5 methodology: Art as scholarship

What might be the contribution of bringing *queer* studies into the realm of art? A larger goal of QP5 is to fuse the arts with scholarship. In order to do this, we are collaborating with Arte Actual, a nationally recognized art gallery based at FLACSO. In addition to bringing art into academia, QP5 bridges the gap between activist approaches and academic concerns in an attempt to theorize the impact of the arts.

Participants are invited to re-think art vis-à-vis scholarship as a different type of knowledge, reflection and engagement. It will be the first time that a serious endeavor towards *queer* art and intersecting *diversities* and art takes place in Ecuador. Our call for artistic proposals, which is oriented but not limited to artists, favors:

- a showcase of exemplary interventions at a cultural level that have (or could) influence ideas of diversity,
- art as a mechanism to engage silenced conversations (from indigenous sexualities and *queer* Muslims to homophobia).

Submission guidelines

Format: QP5 seeks to foster more dialogue among experts. We envision a roundtable format for the conference so as to generate spaces that speak to public policy and insert key debates in academic, artistic and activist projects. Panelists are invited to present original work that encourages a multiplicity of conversations, from dialogue to workshop to Q&A.

Paper abstracts should be no longer than 250 words. We encourage panel proposals. Submit abstracts and/or panel proposals **by August 12, 2013** to:
queeringparadigmsec@flacso.edu.ec

Preliminary agenda

Wednesday 02/20 –Registration; Keynote address; opening reception at Arte Actual

Thursday and Friday 02/21, 22- panels & workshops

The conference will be held in Quito, Ecuador, at the Latin American School for Social Sciences (FLACSO).

Congress Coordinators

María Amelia Viteri, Professor/Researcher, FLACSO/Ecuador

Manuela Lavinás Picq, Universidad San Francisco de Quito/ Al Jazeera Contributor,
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Josephine Ho, Chair Professor, Center for the Study of Sexualities, National Central University, Taiwan

Liesl Theron, Director at Gender Dynamix, Cape Town, South Africa

Liz Morrish, Lecturer, School of Arts & Humanities, Nottingham Trent University, UK

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Matthew Ball, Senior Lecturer, School of Justice, Queensland University of Technology, Australia and Visiting Fellow, Centre for Sex, Gender, and Sexualities, Durham University, United Kingdom

Momin Rahman, Associate Professor in Sociology, Trent University, Canada; Fellow of the Mark S. Bonham Center for Sexual Diversity Studies, University of Toronto

Nikita Dhawan, Professor of Political Science (Gender/Postcolonial Studies), Frankfurt Research Center for Postcolonial Studies (FRCPS), Cluster of Excellence “The Formation of Normative Orders”, Goethe-University Frankfurt, Germany

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