

Abstracts

of the Tennovation Research Symposium at the 2019 LGBT+ College Conference Research and Partnership Presentations

Volume 5 • April 2019

2019 TENNOVATION RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

James Union Building
Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, Tennessee
Thursday, April 4, 2019

REGISTRATION

*James Union Building Lobby, Middle Tennessee
State University*
Thursday, April 4—8:30 am-11:00 am

WELCOME

The Tennovation Research symposium highlights the value of research and collaboration consistent with the Tennovation mission statement—*Cooperation, Collaboration, Success!*

SESSIONS

Tennessee Room
*James Union Building, Middle Tennessee State
University*

Research presentations

9:20 am-10:45 am

Tennovation Keynote

11:00 am-12:00 pm

Concurrent:

Lunch/Nissan Tour

12:15 pm-4:00 pm

Safe Zone (*Hazelwood Dining Room*)

12:15 pm-4:00 pm

THANKS

Thank-you to all of the presenters who have generously offered their time and expertise to share their projects with us today.

2019 LGBT+ COLLEGE CONFERENCE

All Identities—Building Support

mtsu.edu/LGBTplusCC



RESEARCH SESSION
Thursday, April 4, 2019, 9:20 am
James Union Building Tennessee Room

• PRESENTATIONS •

*Sponsored by the Middle Tennessee State University
Department of Social Work*

(1001)

Online Fiction, Fanfiction, and Fanworks as Tools for Solidarity and Identity Expression for LGBT+ People. Bekah Dawson (they/them/theirs), *Middle Tennessee State University*

Lack of media representation of LGBT+ people is an issue that has been identified by many. Some people have taken this lack of representation into their own hands. With the new accessibility of publication, the internet has brought, many have begun creating their own original stories, fanfiction, or other fanworks (such as fanart and cosplay) which question the cisheteronormativity of popular media. In this presentation, I will discuss how engaging in these communities is integral to the experience of some LGBT+ people through findings from my research on the transgender and gender-nonconforming experience. I will then explore how we can use these activities to create tools to help give LGBT+ people access to community and expression.

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(1002)

Documenting All Identities and Building Inclusive Collections. Sarah Calise (she/her/hers), *Albert Gore Research Center*; Donna Baker (she/her/hers), *Albert Gore Research Center*

In honoring the past 50 years of Black student activism at the Movement 68 Symposium held in October 2018, MTSU's archivists recognize the need to document all identities and build inclusive archival collections in support of campus and local communities.

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(1003)

Snapshots from Capri. Kyle Stoneman (he/him/his), *Middle Tennessee State University*

I will present a selection of works by the Welsh photographer Islay Lyons. Lyons is perhaps better known as the partner of Kenneth Macpherson and as one of the final caretakers of notorious author Norman Douglas. My talk will reassess his legacy. It will allow students and professors to observe works firsthand, while granting insight into the lives of several leading British artists. Above all, my talk will emphasize the fragility of queer archives.

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(1004)

The Fight for Visibility: Preserving MTSU's LGBT+ History. Quinlan Odom (she/her/hers), *Middle Tennessee State University*; Alissa Kane (she/her/hers), *Middle Tennessee State University*

The Albert Gore Research Center (AGRC), at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), houses the papers of MT Lambda. This organization was formed in 1988 by MTSU students sought to combat the negative stereotype of LGBT+ people that was growing on campus. These papers include items, publications, and correspondence that can inform our understanding of the LGBT+ experience at a Southern university. Using these resources, we are creating an online exhibit that will further explore this history on a widely accessible platform. The first phase of this exhibit focuses on the policy changes MT Lambda pursued; our presentation will provide an overview of these campaigns. Specifically, we will discuss MT Lambda's work to incorporate sexual orientation, and later gender identity, into MTSU's non-discrimination policy.

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(1005)

Practicing Culturally Responsive Advising: The Intersectionality of Sexual Orientation, Gender, Race, and Student-Athletes. Dr. Mitsunori Misawa (he/him/his), *The University of Tennessee, Knoxville*; Dr. Meghan Pfeiffer (she/her/hers), *The University of Memphis*

The purpose of this presentation is to provide a

better understanding of how professional and faculty advisors in higher education can be more inclusive by implementing culturally responsive advising methods and strategies. Support staff members such as advisors have an influential role in creating safe spaces for students and directly impact how students experience the higher education environment. Thus, it is crucial they exercise inclusive practices when working with students. Through education, acts to deinstitutionalize norms of exclusivity and heterosexism can work to create new, inclusive norms. Therefore, innovatively, this presentation is going to address research from two sub-populations within the LGBTQA higher education community: lesbian student-athletes and gay male students of color, and conceptualize best advising practices when working with students from diverse backgrounds.

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(1006)

Fostering Discourse and Dialogue: Mitigating Anti-LGBTQ+ Religious Violence on College Campuses. Tyler Kibbey (he/him/his), *University of Kentucky*

In this historical moment, anti-LGBTQ+ religious ideologies have assumed a more overt role in public discourse, and the forum for this line of debate has often centered around the college campus. As an example, in 2016, the Tennessee State Legislature de-funded the University of Tennessee's Pride Center as a response to a guideline for gender-neutral pronoun usage published on the university's website (Darr & Kibbey 2016), and in recent years the continued effects of this language-focused anti-LGBTQ+ religious ideology has been developed into various forms of legislation, such as the "Natural and Ordinary Meaning" Amendment (2018), and in localized religious documents, such as the Nashville Statement (2017). However, the University of Tennessee and institutions of higher education in neighboring states have utilized the platform of linguistic science to deconstruct these ideologies, as both prescriptive and religious conceptual systems, for the benefit of LGBTQ+ communities on college campuses. Therefore, in this paper, I outline the efficacy of pro-LGBTQ+ linguistics events as a means of combating anti-LGBTQ+ religious ideologies, specifically in the

State of Tennessee, and offer an organizational framework for the continued deconstruction of these harmful ideologies (Kibbey 2019).

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(1007)

The Inkblot Project. Ray A. White (he/him/his), *Whitewood Counseling & Consultation*

The Inkblot Project is a work in progress which involves collecting stories and tattoo images from individuals who identify as having been a victim of bullying, and subsequently acquired a tattoo that speaks to this experience.

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(Be sure to visit this project's display table located in the Tennessee Room)

(1008)

Transgender Healthcare and Hormone Therapy. Christina New (she/her/hers), *University of Memphis*

I am seeking participants to complete an online anonymous survey as part of my dissertation research. The study is available at <http://tinyurl.com/hormonetherapy2019>. The overarching goal of this study is to support the improvement of healthcare experiences of transgender individuals who are seeking or are engaged in hormone therapy. This study focuses on experiences with hormone therapy providers, as well as gender minority experiences and health status. This study is IRB-approved and is being conducted by Christina New, a doctoral student in the counseling psychology program at the University of Memphis. In addition to being a full-time student, I am also the graduate assistant for inclusion and sexual diversity and an advisor for the Stonewall Tigers Gender and Sexuality Alliance. More information is available on the first page of the survey or by emailing me at the address below.

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(Be sure to visit this project's display table located in the Tennessee Room)

TENNOVATION KEYNOTE
Thursday, April 4, 2019, 11:00 am
James Union Building Tennessee Room

Europe's Long-Lasting Fight towards LGBTI-Equality.

Rémy Bonny (he/him/his), *European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation.*

Fifty years after the Stonewall Riots, the LGBTI movement all around the world became much more visible. The 2005 Cultural Festival of Equality in Poland is seen as Central & Eastern Europe's Stonewall. In general, within the European Union the LGBTI community made a lot of progress in the last two decades. But what if we cross the border of the EU? Russia uses its soft power not only to fight its domestic LGBTI community, but also to spread institutionalised homophobia in 'Gayropa' - and indirectly also in the USA. Is it really getting better? Political scientist Rémy Bonny will initiate the participants of this keynote in the world of LGBTI Politics in Eastern Europe through personal research experiences. He will not only talk about the current situation in the region, but also explain the impact of backlashes concerning LGBTI rights in Central and Eastern Europe on the West.

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Thanks to our presenting sponsor

NISSAN