Queering the Spirit: Religion, Race, and Sexualities

Kelly Brown Douglas
Testifying to the Blues: Sexuality and the Black Church
4 P.M., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5
TAWES 2102

Ruth Vanita
 чувство in India: Readings from Hindi to English. Her publications include Love’s Rite: Same-Sex Marriage in India and the West; Same-Sex Love in India: Readings from Literature and History (co-edited with Sailam Kedaars), and Queering Sexuality: Same-Sex Love and Eroticism in Indian Culture and Society.

Ruth Vanita
Together in Life after Life: Ideas of Same-Sex Union in Hindu and Christian Traditions
4 P.M., MONDAY, MARCH 6
TAWES 2134

Salvador Vidal-Ortiz
Radical Worshipping the Orishas: Sexual Minorities in Santería
4 P.M., THURSDAY, APRIL 13
TAWES 2154

Faisal Alam
Hidden Voices: The Lives of Queer Muslims
MULTIPURPOSE ROOM, NYUMBURU CULTURAL CENTER

Each talk will be followed by Q&A and a reception. All are welcome to informal colloquia with the speakers. Contact the LGBT Studies office or check www.lgbts.umd.edu for readings.

Co-sponsors include the Curriculum Transformation Project, the First Year Book Program, the Office of International Programs, and the Office of Undergraduate Studies.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Studies is a unit in the Office of Undergraduate Studies.

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ART-SOCIOLOGY 2203

ART SOCIOLOGY 2203
John D’Emilio
Bayard Rustin: Radical Agitator for Justice
4 P.M., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16
TAWES 2154

Political Perspectives on Religion, Race, and (Homo)Sexualities: A Roundtable
DAVID C. DRISKELL CENTER MULTIPURPOSE ROOM, TAWES 2102

In the U.S. today, many questions of religion, race, and sexual variation are being worked out in the political arena. How can advocates for LGBT civil rights appeal more effectively to “values voters?” What kind of organizing strategies work best in minority communities of faith? Our panel will feature Shawn Grimes, manager of the Human Rights Campaign’s religion and faith program; Ruti Kadish, Ph.D., consultant on family equality and organizing strategies; John D’Emilio, professor of history and of gender and women’s studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago. His publications include Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities, Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America, co-written with Estelle Freedman; and Making Trouble: Essays on Gay History, Politics, and the University. His latest book, Lost Prophet: The Life and Times of Bayard Rustin, a biography of the American civil rights leader and Gandhian activist, has been widely honored. It was a nonfiction finalist for the National Book Award and a New York Times “Notable Book” of 2003.

COLLOQUIUM: NOON, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, TAWES 2102

Ruth Vanita
Together in Life after Life: Ideas of Same-Sex Union in Hindu and Christian Traditions
4 P.M., MONDAY, MARCH 6
TAWES 2134

Ruth Vanita is a poet, writer, editor, translator, and professor of liberal arts studies at the University of Montana. She has written widely on issues of gender and sexuality in India, and has translated many works of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry by and about women, from Hindi to English. Her publications include Love’s Rite: Same-Sex Marriage in India and the West; Same-Sex Love in India: Readings from Literature and History (co-edited with Sailam Kedaars), and Queering Sexuality: Same-Sex Love and Eroticism in Indian Culture and Society.

COLLOQUIUM: NOON, TUESDAY, MARCH 7, TAWES 2102

Kelly Brown Douglas
Testifying to the Blues: Sexuality and the Black Church
4 P.M., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5
TAWES 2102

Kelly Brown Douglas is professor of religion at Goucher College. She recently published her third book, What’s Faith Got to Do With It? Black Feminist Christian Sojourn. Her other books are The Black Christ and Sexuality and the Black Church: A Womanist Perspective. Douglas holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Denison University; and master’s and doctoral degrees in divinity and systematic theology, respectively, from Union Theological Seminary. In 1985, Douglas became the first black woman to be ordained as an Episcopal priest in the Southern Ohio diocese. Essence magazine counts Douglas among the country’s most distinguished religious thinkers, teachers, ministers, and commentators.

COLLOQUIUM: NOON, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, TAWES 1208

Salvador Vidal-Ortiz
Radical Worshipping the Orishas: Sexual Minorities in Santería
4 P.M., THURSDAY, APRIL 13
TAWES 2154

Salvador Vidal-Ortiz is an assistant professor of sociology at American University. He earned his Ph.D. from the Graduate Center, City University of New York. His recent journal publications include “On Being a White Person of Color: Using Auto/biography to Understand Puerto Ricans’ ‘Racialization’ in Qualitative Sociology” and “Puerto Ricans and the Politics of Speaking Spanish” in Latin Studies. He has an essay titled “Queering Sexuality and Doing Gender: Transgender Men’s Identification with Gender and Sexuality” in Gendered Sexualities and another called “Sexuality and Gender in Santería: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Identities at the Crossroads of Santería’s Religious Practices and Beliefs” in Gay Religion.

COLLOQUIUM: NOON, THURSDAY, APRIL 13, TAWES 1208

Faisal Alam
Hidden Voices: The Lives of Queer Muslims
MULTIPURPOSE ROOM, NYUMBURU CULTURAL CENTER

Faisal Alam is a 28-year-old queer Muslim activist of Pakistani descent. He is the founder and former volunteer director of Al-Fatihah, a U.S.-based organization dedicated to Muslims who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and questioning (LGBTIQ). Al-Fatihah’s mission is to support, empower, and advocate on behalf of LGBTIQ Muslims and to promote progressive Islamic notions of peace and social justice. “HIDDEN VOICES” IS PART OF THE PROVOST’S CONVERSATIONS ON DIVERSITY, DEMOCRACY, AND HIGHER EDUCATION