Decolonizing Queerness
Overview

• Defining concepts
• Historical Background
• Global Effects and Applications
• Solutions
Defining Concepts
The Gender Unicorn

Gender Identity
- Female/Woman/Girl
- Male/Man/Boy
- Other Gender(s)

Gender Expression
- Feminine
- Masculine
- Other

Sex Assigned at Birth
- Female
- Male
- Other/Intersex

Physically Attracted to
- Women
- Men
- Other Gender(s)

Emotionally Attracted to
- Women
- Men
- Other Gender(s)

Queerness

To learn more, go to: www.transstudent.org/gender

Design by Landyn Pan and Anna Moore
Foundational Colonial Ideologies

• Patriarchy
• Christianity
• Heteronormative
• Cisnormative
• Savior Complex—Resource vs. Community
• Capitalism
• Social Darwinism
Historical Background
Other Identities and Religions

• European values are not universal—other cultures and nations have their own understanding and needs for their community.

• India, China, Pacific Islands, Native America, Africa... various non-European (and even some European) cultures centered on 3 or more genders, sexualities, and identities embraced and required for their community’s growth.
Before Here was Queer: Settler colonialism & Native Nations

Nádleehí (Navajo)

Badé (Apsáalooke or Crow)

wíŋtke (Lakota)

Lhamana (Zuni)

tayagigux’ (Aleut)

hetaneman (Cheyenne)

Tangowaip (western Shoshone)

T‘ūbás (Northern Paiute)

Niizh manidoowag (Ojibwe)
Maori: Takatapui

Tahiti: Mahu

Samoan: Fa’afafine
India: Hijra

Oaxaca: Muxe
India: Hijra

Oaxaca: Muxe
Social Darwinism

- Social Darwinism is the belief that the theory of evolution also applies to the differences in humans separating them into categorical “races”
- Before this, “race” and its concept did not exist. Race comes the social structure to uphold whiteness over all as superior and every race underneath as inferior/unevolved/non-modern

Colonization

• A vehicle for capitalism
• Colonization—conservative Christians and purification of the “savages”
• White Man’s burden
• Traditions and cultures that expressed queerness freely were destroyed, hidden, and forgotten as Europeans colonized the globe
Historical White Supremacy through sexual power

“You will recollect the cruelties which you described to me once in confidence that had been perpetrated, by a certain person in whose power Maria is [Judge Boyd], and I recollect the horror you expressed of it. All these cruelties have been inflicted upon the feeble frame of that girl -- and are frequently inflicted -- she must die under them.”

J.M. Duffield to Col. R.C. Ballard, May 29, 1848
From Jackson ("Private and in Confidence")
“The historical sexual assault of men and boys is well known, if mostly unarticulated. The scholarship on early America shows us numerous instances of rape and sexual assault of men and boys. Ramon Gutierrez has argued that individuals of the Native American third sex, or berdaches, were frequent sex and emasculated. We also know through the handful of extant sodomy cases that males have been so abused. The seventeenth-century Connecticut gentleman Nicholas Sension, for example, sexually preyed on his male servants. Virtually all of the cases of sodomy that came to the courts in early America involved individuals violating status boundaries - instructors on students, masters on servants. None involved peers.”

FOSTER, THOMAS A. "The Sexual Abuse of Black Men under American Slavery."
Eugenics and Ethnic Cleansing

- Eugenics is pseudo-science to define the ideal of human evolution
- led to the erasure of European research, documentation, and history of queer folks via WWII Book Burning
LGBTQ+ as a Eurocentric Concept

• If society is based on the values of the community—when Europe colonized the rest of the world and established its patriarchy and capitalism— and Europeans stripped civilization to meet the requirements of Judeo-Christianity, then Colonization is the vehicle upon which we define the world around us

• Queerness+ is therefore the exception to everything Judeo-Christianity upholds. Their view, centering on the needs to proliferate European Culture as Modernity.
Global Effects and Applications
Modern Fetishization

“Weiss (2012) also argues that all sexual play is race play, including that which reinforces the White standard through colour blind language and White racial logic. Racism is so normalized in our society that it often goes unrecognized; Whiteness is the de facto norm and only sex with racial minorities is considered ‘raced’ sex. This assumption, argues Weiss (2012), marginalizes minority actors and reinforces White supremacy.”

Gay Colonization

The “ultimate goal is to prevent gay rights from becoming another neocolonial enterprise that imposes yet another form of subordination on non-Western foreign governments and populations, and to investigate ways in which gay rights can instead create bridges of mutual empowerment that address, accommodate, and alleviate residual layers of subordination left in the wake of Western imperialism.”

– Postcolonial Problem for Global Gay Rights by Stewart Chang 2014
Racism

Brandon Straka  @BrandonStraka  ·  Jun 27
Idea! Since #BLM hijacked Pride month from the LGBT community perhaps LGBT can take over February for Pride?? Surely our intersectional allies will support LGBT lives JUST as much as LGBT have supported BLM & graciously reciprocate!? Just teasin. They only care about themselves.

107  283  1K
Microaggressions

My spirit animal

Assuming BIPOC are queerphobic

“You speak so articulately!”

“You’re Pretty... For a Dark-Skinned Girl”

We Don’t Need a New Pride Flag

Thinking critically about novel Pride flags
Appropriation within the community
Erasure
“We are a culture that you [steal] from and get rich from but literally close the door to. Without us Madonna would be nothing, Beyoncé would be nothing, Lady Gaga would be nothing. The culture has been influenced by us since the beginning of time and now we get to reclaim that space.”

-Billy Porter
Solutions and Practices
“I’m so grateful that I lived long enough to see this. Visibility is essential for growth and understanding and love because you can’t love something you don’t understand. And the only way this world is going to get fixed is if we figure out how to love each other through our differences.”

- Billy Porter, who came out in 1985
Create unconditional relationships

No pride for some of us without liberation for all of us.

MARSHA P. JOHNSON
Breakaway from identity policing and gatekeeping

“At the end of the day, I’d rather be excluded for who I include than included for who I exclude.”

- Rev. Eston Williams
‘Schitt’s Creek’ Star, and His Fans, Are Taking Indigenous Studies

Dan Levy suggested in an Instagram post that his fans study Canadian Indigenous history along with him. About 64,000 people signed up.

Create intentional spaces for QTBIIPoC

Decentralizing Eurocentricity
What can you do to help yourself?