

Decolonizing Queerness

Overview

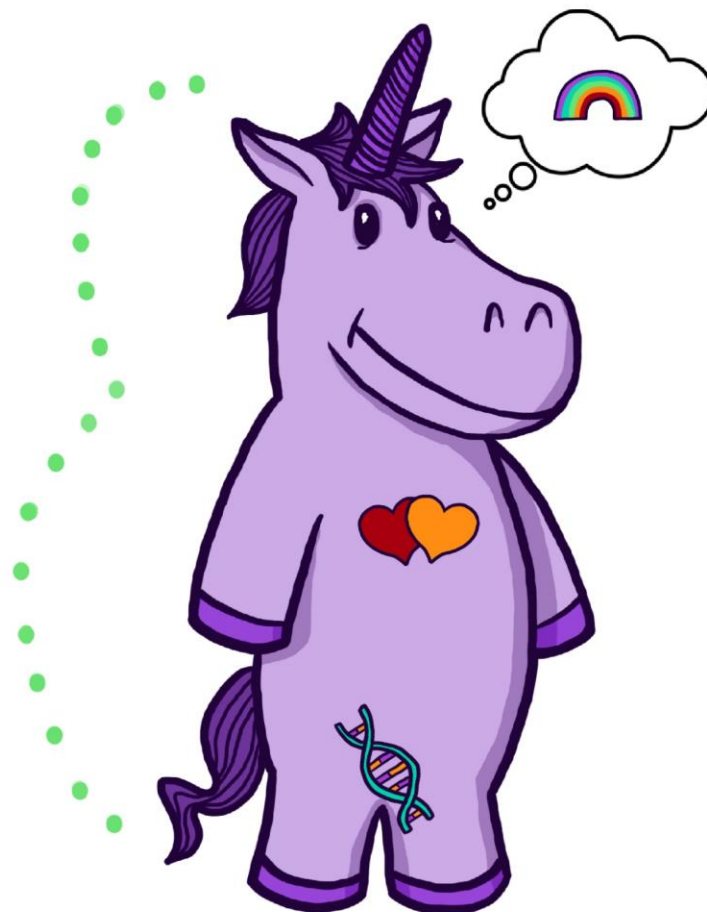
- Defining concepts
- Historical Background
- Global Effects and Applications
- Solutions

Defining Concepts

Queerness

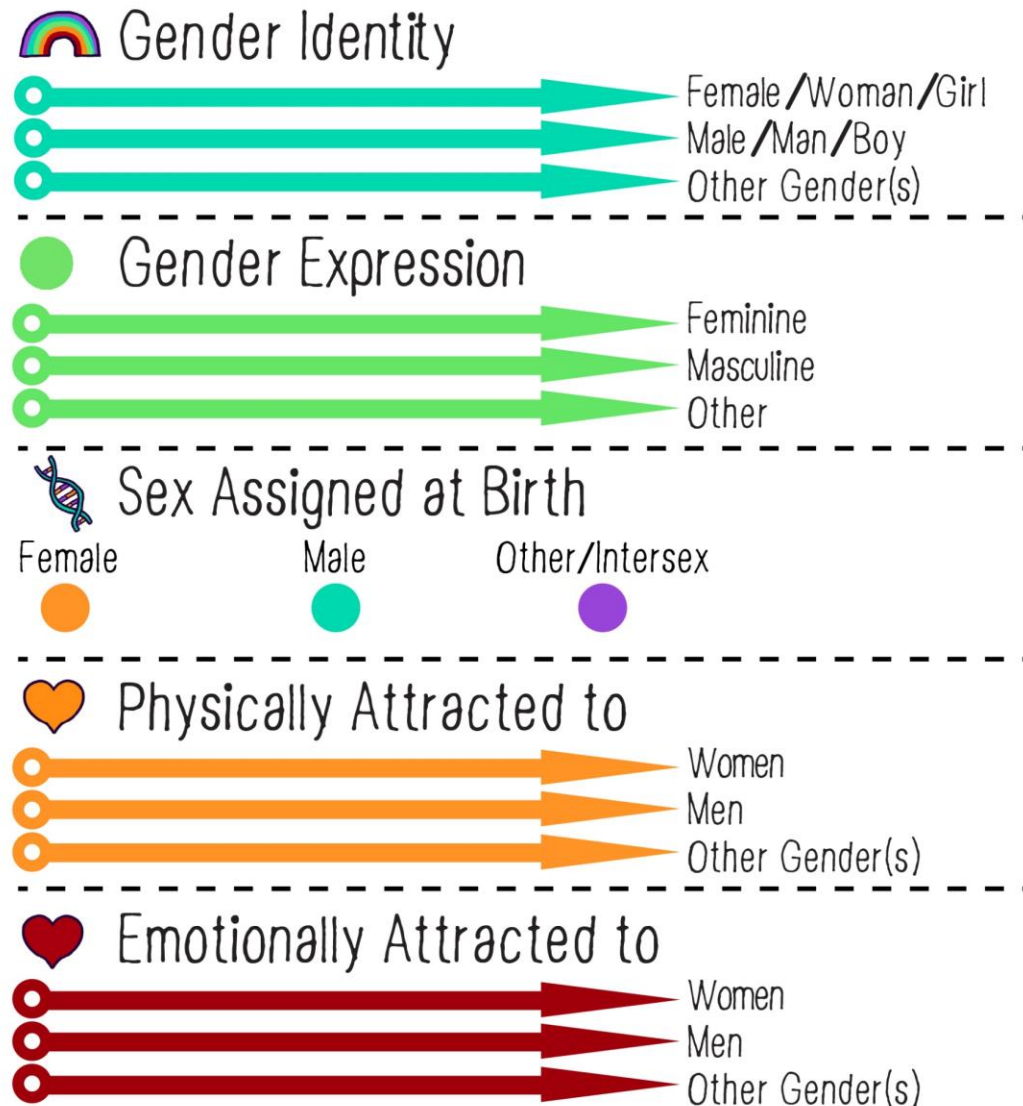
The Gender Unicorn

Graphic by:
TSER
Trans Student Educational Resources



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

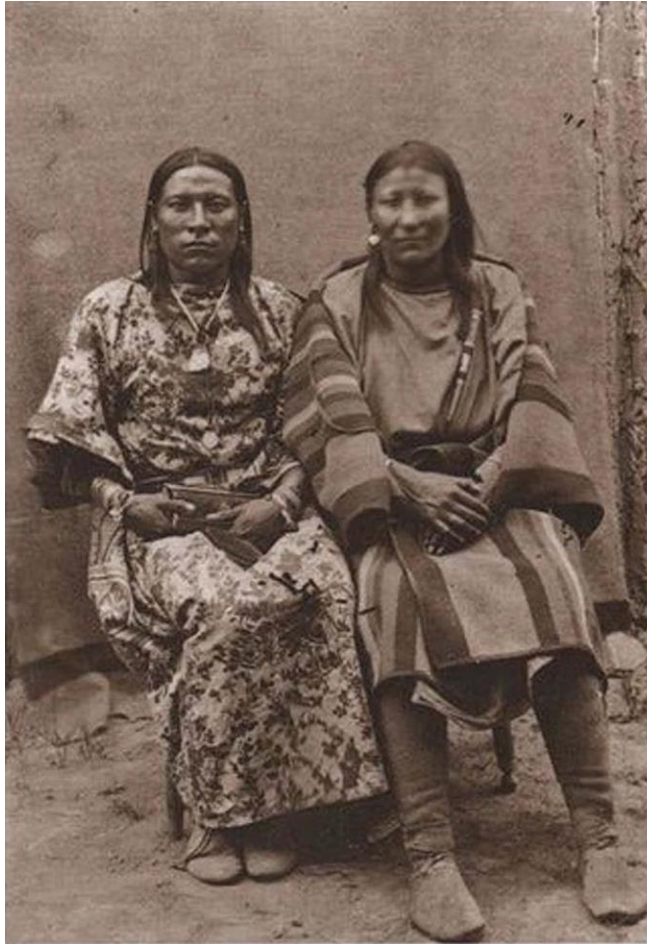
Before Here was Queer: Settler colonialism & Native Nations

Nádleehí (Navajo)

Badé (Apsáalooke or Crow)

wíntke (Lakota)

Lhamana (Zuni)



tayagigux' (Aleut)

hetaneman (Cheyenne)

Tangowaip (western Shoshone)

T'übás (Northern Paiute)

Niizh manidoowag (Ojibwe)



Tahiti: Mahu



Maori: Takatapui



Samoan: Fa'afafine



India: Hijra



Oaxaca: Muxe



Tahiti: Mahu



Maori: Takatapui



Samoan: Fa'afafine



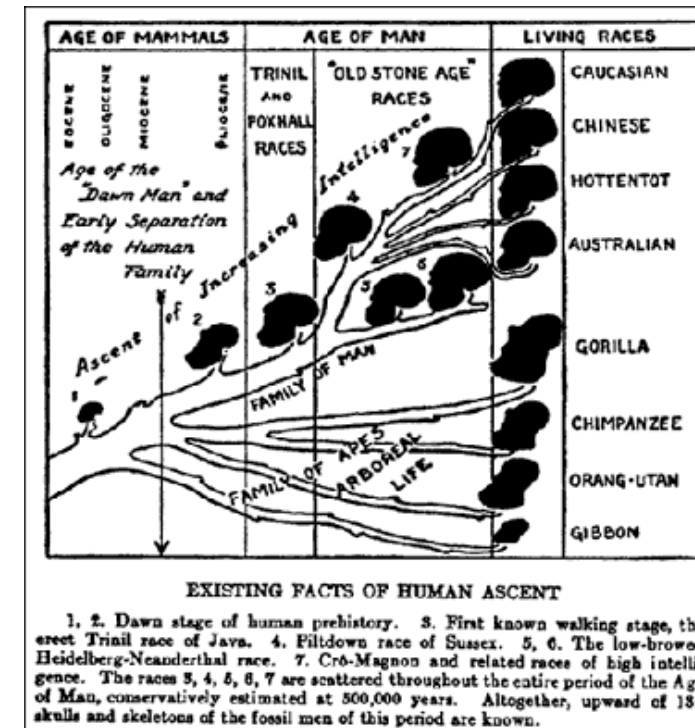
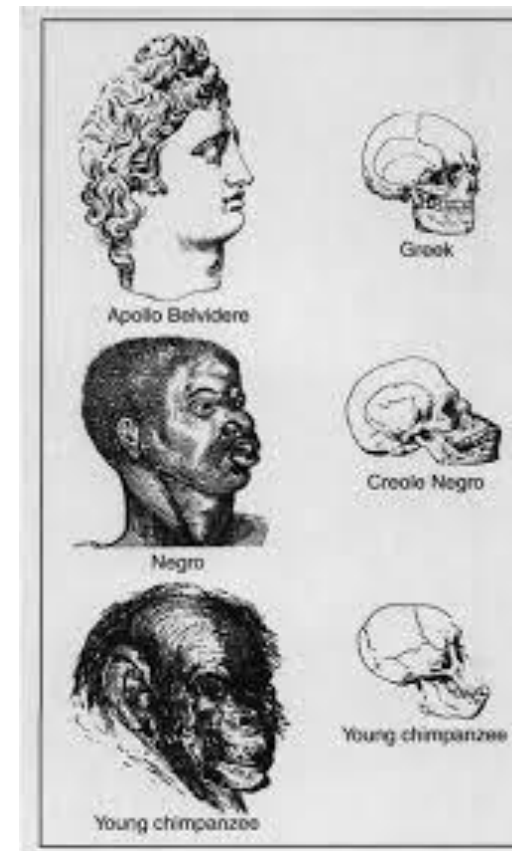
India: Hijra



Oaxaca: Muxe

Social Darwinism

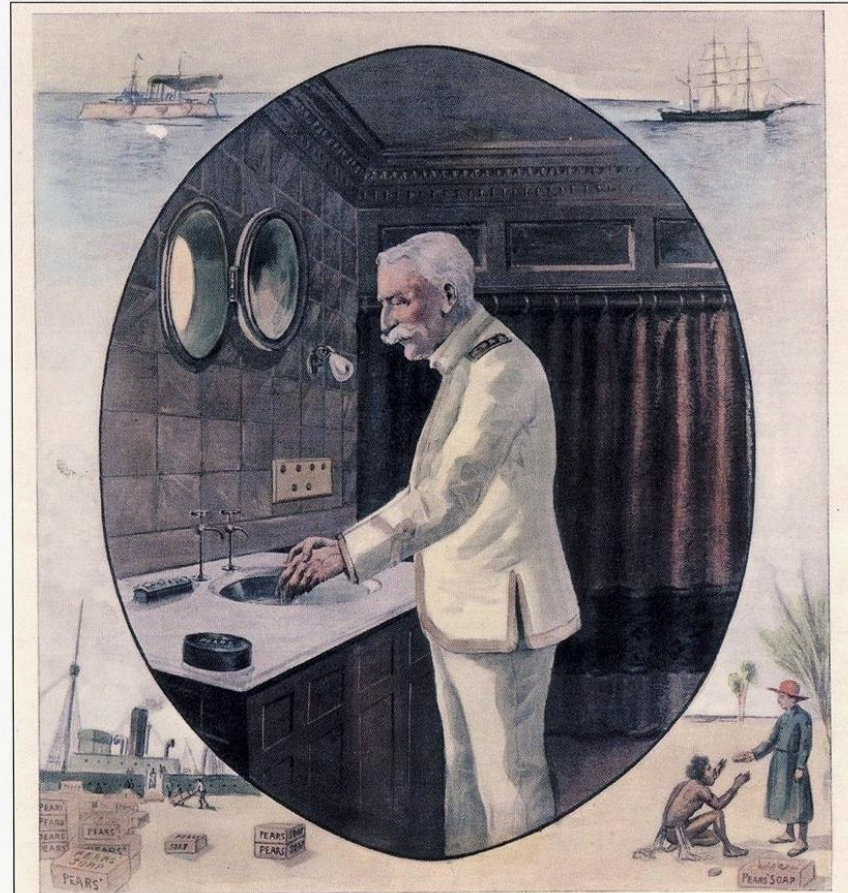
- Social Darwinism is the belief that the theory of evolution also applies to the differences in humans separating them into categorical “races”
- Before this, “race” and its concept did not exist. Race comes the social structure to uphold whiteness over all as superior and every race underneath as inferior/unevolved/non-modern



From Henry Fairfield Osborn, *Evolution and Religion in Education: Polemics of the Fundamentalist Controversy of 1922 to 1926* (New York, 1926.) Notice the diagram's implications for Social Darwinist theory.

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



The first step towards lightening

The White Man's Burden

is through teaching the virtues of cleanliness.

Pears' Soap

is a potent factor in brightening the dark corners of the earth as civilization advances, while amongst the cultured of all nations it holds the highest place—it is the ideal toilet soap.

Historical White Supremacy through sexual power



2 "Three Fetish girls in group with gold ornaments, Gold Coast 1884."
Grant 1884, no. 307.

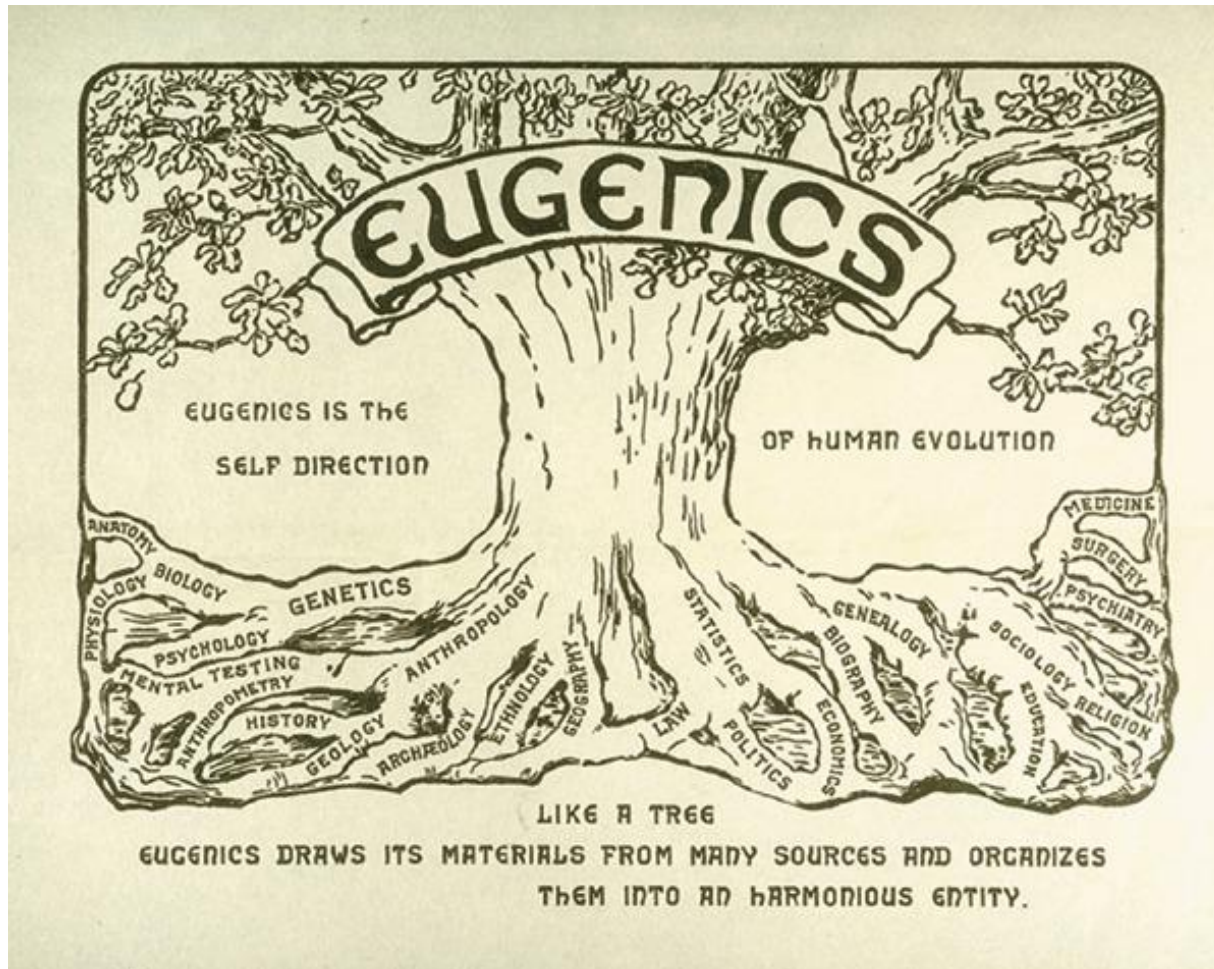
"You will recollect the cruelties which you described to me once in confidence that had been perpetrated, by a certain person in whose power Maria is [Judge Boyd], and I recollect the horror you expressed of it. All these cruelties have been inflicted upon the feeble frame of that girl -- and are frequently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

Smith, Jesus G., and Aurolyn Luykx. “Race Play in BDSM Porn: the Eroticization of Oppression.”



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

Posted by u/1AussieNerd1 3 years ago

681 My spirit animal



94% Upvoted

14 Comments Share Save Hide Report

Assuming BIPOC are queerphobic



"You speak so articulately!"

"You're Pretty... For a Dark-Skinned Girl"



James Charles
@jamescharles

"I can't believe we're going to Africa today omg what if we get Ebola?" "James we're fine we could've gotten it at chipotle last year"🤔

16/02/2017, 15:37

59 RETWEETS 517 LIKES



We Don't Need a New Pride Flag

Thinking critically about novel Pride flags



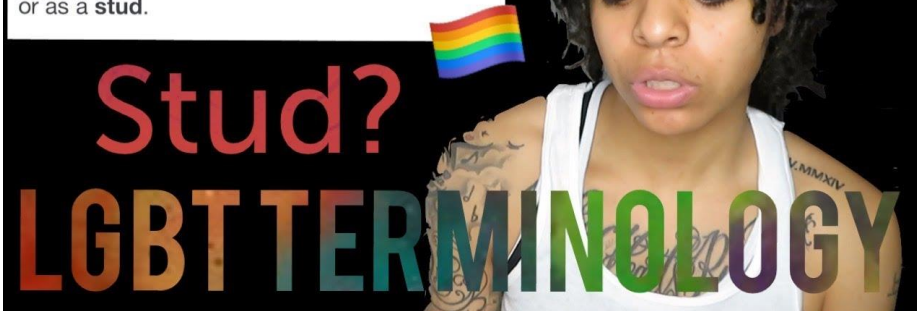
M. J. Murphy Jun 27, 2018 · 11 min read ★



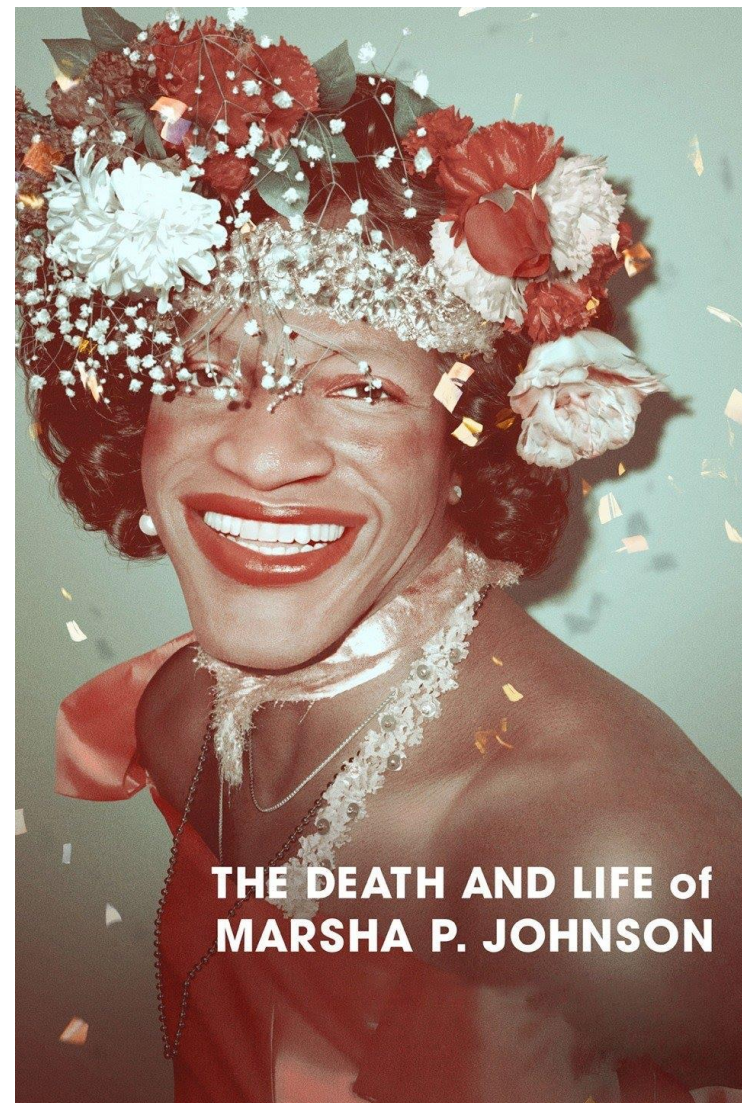
Appropriation within the community



A "**stud**" is a dominant **lesbian**, usually butch. The term originated with the African-American **lesbian** community. They tend to be influenced by urban and hip-hop cultures. In the New York City **lesbian** community, a butch may identify herself as AG (aggressive) or as a **stud**.



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

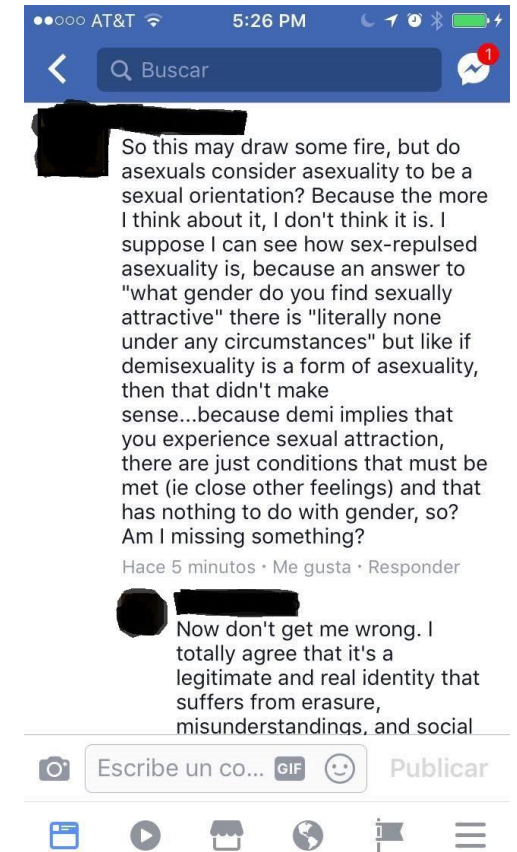


Breakaway from identity policing and gatekeeping



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

-Rev. Eston Williams



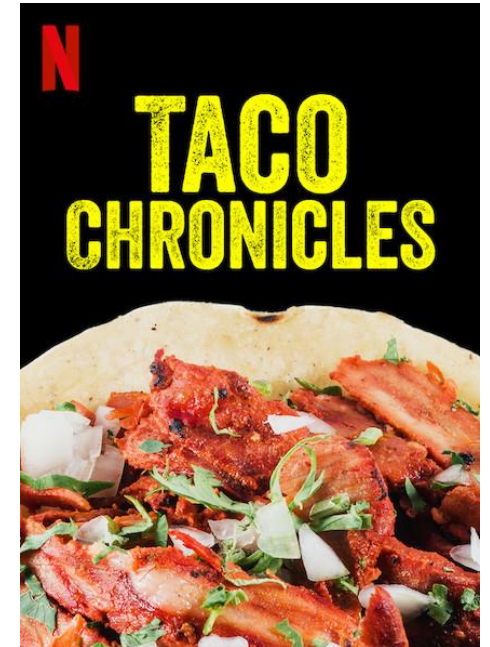
'Schitt's Creek' Star, and His Fans, Are Taking Indigenous Studies

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



Decentralizing Eurocentricity

Create intentional spaces for QTBIPOC



What can you do to help yourself?

