

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO QUEER STUDIES

This *Companion* provides a guide to queer inquiry in literary and cultural studies. The essays represent new and emerging areas, including transgender studies, indigenous studies, disability studies, queer of color critique, performance studies, and studies of digital culture. Rather than being organized around a set of literary texts defined by a particular theme, literary movement, or demographic, this volume foregrounds a queer critical approach that moves across a wide array of literary traditions, genres, historical periods, national contexts, and media. This *Companion* traces the intellectual and political emergence of queer studies, addresses relevant critical debates in the field, provides an overview of queer approaches to genres, and explains how queer approaches have transformed understandings of key concepts in multiple fields.

SIOBHAN B. SOMERVILLE is Associate Professor of English and Gender and Women's Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she chairs the Department of Gender and Women's Studies. She is author of *Queering the Color Line: Race and the Invention of Homosexuality in American Culture* and co-editor of several special issues, including "Queering the Middle: Race, Region, and Sexual Diasporas," co-edited with Martin Manalansan, Chantal Nadeau, and Richard T. Rodríguez, for *GLQ*. Her research has also appeared in journals such as *American Literature*, *American Quarterly*, *Criticism*, and the *Journal of the History of Sexuality*. She is a past recipient of the Passing the Torch Award from the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies, City University of New York, and the Wise-Susman Prize from the American Studies Association.

A complete list of books in the series is at the back of this book.

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SIOBHAN B. SOMERVILLE
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



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In memory of
Charles Edward Clifton (1959–2004)
and
José Esteban Muñoz (1967–2013)

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MARTIN JOSEPH PONCE is Associate Professor of English at The Ohio State University. He is the author of *Beyond the Nation: Diasporic Filipino Literature and Queer Reading* (New York University Press, 2012) and the co-editor of *Samuel Steward and the Pursuit of the Erotic: Sexuality, Literature, Archives* (Ohio State University Press, 2017).

ERICA RAND is Professor of Art and Visual Culture and of Gender and Sexuality Studies at Bates College. Her writing includes *Barbie's Queer Accessories* (Duke University Press, 1995); *The Ellis Island Snow Globe* (Duke University Press, 2005); and *Red Nails, Black Skates: Gender, Cash, and Pleasure On and Off the Ice* (Duke University Press, 2012). She has watched *The Bold and the Beautiful* since basically day one.

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NICOLE SEYMOUR is Associate Professor of English at California State University, Fullerton. Her first book, *Strange Natures: Futurity, Empathy, and the Queer Ecological Imagination* (University of Illinois Press, 2013), won the ASLE Book Award for Ecocriticism in 2015. Her second book, *Bad Environmentalism: Irony and Irreverence in the Ecological Age* (University of Minnesota Press), was released in 2018.

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Chronology

COMPILED BY ERIN GROGAN

Constructing a chronology is in many ways a normalizing practice. Chronologies imply a linear notion of time where the past leads into the present and sets the conditions for the future. Yet, as the Introduction to this volume discusses, the “queer” of queer studies often means thinking and acting in ways that are positioned as nonnormative. Thus, a queer critique might understand time as looping and folding, zigging and zagging, circling back, and moving sideways. In opposition to linear conceptions of time, such a queer temporality recognizes how the violence of the past continues to reverberate in the present – for instance, through the ongoing legacy of slavery and the enduring structures of settler colonialism. Although linear notions of time imply a narrative of progress (*that* is where we used to be, but *this* is where we are now), a nonnormative notion of queer temporality acknowledges the curves between the past and the present. Though the chronology presented here is printed on the two-dimensional page, the events it depicts exist in four dimensions, moving forward and backward, up and down, through time and space. Envisioning these events in four dimensions is a critical practice of hope for queer futures, where this chronology offers a “backward glance” that for readers may become a “future vision.”¹

The works selected for this “backward glance” are theoretical, literary, and cultural works in queer studies, as well as political events that informed their creation. Canonical and avant-garde works are interlayered; fiction is interspersed with theory. Because of the limited scope of this timeline, many of the political events selected occurred in the United States, though these events reverberated globally and were shaped by international political conditions. Beginning at the turn of the twentieth century, many of the events in the first half of the chronology outline the political conditions and activist movements that created the conditions of possibility for the theoretical, literary, and cultural works in the second half of the timeline. Thinking queerly, these historical events, activist

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movements, and theoretical, literary, and cultural productions are intertwined and cannot be neatly separated from each other. Together, these juxtapositions construct a chronological collage of contemporary queer literary and cultural studies.

- 1897 Havelock Ellis and John Addington Symonds, *Sexual Inversion*
- 1897 The Scientific-Humanitarian Committee is founded by Magnus Hirschfeld in Berlin to advocate for same-sex legal rights.
- 1905 Sigmund Freud, *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality* (published in German; followed by revised editions)
- 1914 Gertrude Stein, *Tender Buttons*
- 1918 Willa Cather, *My Antonia*
- 1919 Magnus Hirschfeld founds the *Institut für Sexualwissenschaft* (Institute for Sexual Science) in Berlin.
- 1926 Wallace Thurman, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Gwendolyn Bennett, Aaron Douglas, Richard Bruce, and John Davis, eds., *Fire!! A Quarterly Devoted to the Younger Negro Artists*
- 1928 Radclyffe Hall, *The Well of Loneliness*
Virginia Woolf, *Orlando*
- 1929 Nella Larsen, *Passing*
- 1936 Djuna Barnes, *Nightwood*
- 1946 Carson McCullers, *The Member of the Wedding*
- 1947 *Fireworks*, dir. Kenneth Anger
- 1948 Alfred C. Kinsey, Wardell B. Pomeroy, and Clyde E. Martin, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*
Truman Capote, *Other Voices, Other Rooms*
- 1950 The Mattachine Society, a gay rights or “homophile” organization, is founded in Los Angeles.
- 1952 Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks*
- 1953 Alfred C. Kinsey, Wardell B. Pomeroy, Clyde E. Martin, and Paul H. Gebhard, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female*

- 1955 Herbert Marcuse, *Eros and Civilization*
 The Daughters of Bilitis, one of the first lesbian rights organizations in the United States, is founded in San Francisco.
- 1956 James Baldwin, *Giovanni's Room*
 Allen Ginsberg, *Howl and Other Poems*
- 1957 Allen Ginsberg's *Howl* obscenity trial and court decision *People of the State of California v. Lawrence Ferlinghetti*
- 1963 John Rechy, *City of Night*
Flaming Creatures, dir. Jack Smith
- 1965 *My Hustler*, dir. Andy Warhol
- 1966 Stokely Carmichael uses the term "Black Power" to describe the political and social movement for black racial pride.
 The Compton's Cafeteria Riots in San Francisco, led by transgender women, drag queens, and gay sex workers, protest police raids and arrests.
 Georges Canguilhem, *The Normal and the Pathological* (published in French)
- 1967 *Portrait of Jason*, dir. Shirley Clarke
 Charles Ludlam founds the Ridiculous Theatrical Company in New York.
- 1969 The Stonewall Riots in New York, led by queer people of color and drag queens, bring national visibility to LGBT political defiance of police harassment and arrests.
Midnight Cowboy, dir. John Schlesinger
- 1970 First Women's Studies program in the United States founded at San Diego State University.
 The Lavender Menace protests the lesbian-exclusionary stance of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and publishes the manifesto the "Woman-Identified Woman" under the name Radicalesbians.
 Marsha P. Johnson and Silvia Rivera co-found Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR), an activist organization that provided housing and support to homeless queer youth and sex workers in Lower Manhattan.
- 1972 Guy Hocquenghem, *Homosexual Desire* (published in French)

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- 1973 The American Psychological Association (APA) votes to remove homosexuality from the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM).
- 1974 *Dyketactics*, dir. Barbara Hammer
Female Trouble, dir. John Waters
- 1975 Gayle Rubin, “The Traffic in Women: Notes on the ‘Political Economy’ of Sex”
- 1976 Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Volume 1: An Introduction* (published in French)
- 1977 Jeffrey Weeks, *Coming Out: Homosexual Politics in Britain from the Nineteenth Century to the Present*
 Combahee River Collective, *The Combahee River Collective Statement*
 Maria Irene Fornes, *Fefu and Her Friends*
 Mario Mieli, *Homosexuality and Liberation: Elements of a Gay Critique* (published in Italian)
- 1979 An estimated 200,000 people demonstrate at the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights to end discrimination based on sexual orientation.
- 1980 Adrienne Rich, “Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence,” *Signs*
 WOW Café, a feminist performance space featuring avant-garde work, is founded in New York by Peggy Shaw and Lois Weaver.
 Gay Left Collective, ed., *Homosexuality: Power and Politics*
- 1981 Cherríe Moraga and Gloria Anzaldúa, eds., *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*
 First medical publications recognize the cluster of immunodeficiency symptoms that come to be recognized as HIV/AIDS.
 Jeffrey Weeks, *Sex, Politics and Society: The Regulation of Sexuality Since 1800*
- 1982 Gloria T. Hull and Barbara Smith, *All the Women Are White, All the Blacks Are Men, But Some of Us Are Brave: Black Women’s Studies*
 Audre Lorde, *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name*
 Alice Walker, *The Color Purple*
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the United States uses the term “AIDS” for the first time.

- 1983 John D’Emilio, “Capitalism and Gay Identity”
- 1984 Gayle Rubin, “Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality”
 Audre Lorde, *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches*
 Samuel R. Delany, *Stars in My Pocket Like Grains of Sand*
- 1985 Ronald Reagan uses the word “AIDS” for the first time after thousands of deaths from AIDS in the United States alone.
- 1986 Joseph Beam, ed., *In the Life: A Black Gay Anthology*
- 1987 ACT UP, the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, is founded in New York to demand a response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
 Hortense J. Spillers, “Mama’s Baby, Papa’s Maybe: An American Grammar Book,” *Diacritics*
 Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*
 First national conference in the United States on queer studies hosted at the Lesbian and Gay Studies Center at Yale University.
 Leo Bersani, “Is the Rectum a Grave?,” *October*
- 1988 Samuel R. Delany, *The Motion of Light in Water: Sex and Science Fiction Writing in the East Village*
 Pat[rick] Califia, *Macho Sluts*
 Douglas Crimp, ed., *AIDS: Cultural Analysis/Cultural Activism*
 The World Health Organization (WHO) observes the inaugural World AIDS Day on December 1.
- 1989 *Tongues Untied*, dir. Marlon Riggs
 First Gay and Lesbian Studies Department in the United States founded at the City College of San Francisco.
 Jennifer Miller founds *Circus Amok*, a queer circus-theater company providing free public art.
Looking for Langston, dir. Isaac Julien
- 1990 A conference at the University of California–Santa Cruz, organized by Teresa de Lauretis, is titled “Queer Theory.”
 Queer Nation founded by AIDS activists in New York.
 Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*
 Robert Mapplethorpe obscenity trial and court decision
Cincinnati v. Contemporary Art Center
Paris Is Burning, dir. Jennie Livingston
 Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, *Epistemology of the Closet*

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- 1991 Essex Hemphill and Joseph Beam, eds., *Brother to Brother: New Writings by Black Gay Men*
Poison, dir. Todd Haynes
 David Wojnarowicz, *Close to the Knives: A Memoir of Disintegration*
 Kimberlé Crenshaw, "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color," *Stanford Law Review*
 A special issue on "Queer Theory: Lesbian and Gay Sexualities," edited by Teresa de Lauretis, is published by *differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies*
 The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies is founded at the City University of New York and is the first university-based LGBTQ scholarly research center in the United States.
- 1992 Monique Wittig, *The Straight Mind and Other Essays* (individual essays published previously)
The Living End, dir. Gregg Araki
 Sandy Stone, "The *Empire* Strikes Back: A Posttranssexual Manifesto," *Camera Obscura*
 Essex Hemphill, *Ceremonies: Prose and Poetry*
 Lesbian Avengers founded in New York.
 Ruby Rich coins the term "New Queer Cinema."
- 1993 Leslie Feinberg, *Stone Butch Blues*
 Henry Abelove, Michèle Aina Barale, and David M. Halperin, eds., *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader*
 Judith Butler, *Bodies That Matter: On the Discursive Limits of "Sex"*
 Duke University Press launches Series Q, edited by Michèle Aina Barale, Jonathan Goldberg, Michael Moon, and Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick.
 First issue of *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* published.
 Michael Warner, ed., *Fear of a Queer Planet: Queer Politics and Social Theory*
 Jonathan Goldberg, ed., *Queering the Renaissance*
- 1994 *Go Fish*, dir. Rose Troche
 Susan Stryker, "My Words to Victor Frankenstein Above the Village of Chamounix: Performing Transgender Rage," *GLQ*
 Eileen Myles, *Chelsea Girls*
 Pedro Zamora, a Cuban-American, becomes one of the first gay men living with AIDS to appear in mainstream media through MTV's *The Real World*.

- InQueery, InTheory, InDeed: The Sixth North American Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Studies Conference is hosted by the University of Iowa and is the final national queer studies conference in the series begun at Yale in 1987.
Milk of Amnesia, written and performed by Carmelita Tropicana, directed by Ela Troyano
- 1995 Gayatri Gopinath, *Impossible Desires: Queer Diasporas and South Asian Public Cultures*
 R. Zamora Linmark, *Rolling the R's*
- 1996 *The Watermelon Woman*, dir. Cheryl Dunye
 Judith Roof, *Come as You Are: Sexuality and Narrative*
 Leo Bersani, *Homos*
- 1997 Cathy Cohen, "Punks, Bulldaggers, and Welfare Queens: The Radical Potential of Queer Politics?," *GLQ*
 Saidiya V. Hartman, *Scenes of Subjection: Terror, Slavery, and Self-Making in Nineteenth-Century America*
- 1998 David L. Eng and Alice Y. Hom, eds., *Q&A: Queer in Asian America*
 J. [Jack] Halberstam, *Female Masculinity*
- 1999 José Esteban Muñoz, *Disidentifications: Queers of Color and the Performance of Politics*
 Paula A. Treichler, *How to Have Theory in an Epidemic: Cultural Chronicles of AIDS*
 Eli Clare, *Exile and Pride: Disability, Queerness, and Liberation*
 Michael Warner, *The Trouble with Normal: Sex, Politics, and the Ethics of Queer Life*
- 2000 Siobhan B. Somerville, *Queering the Color Line: Race and the Invention of Homosexuality in American Culture*
 Black Queer Studies in the Millennium Conference held at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
 Cindy Patton and Benigno Sánchez-Eppler, eds., *Queer Diasporas*
 José Quiroga, *Tropics of Desire: Interventions from Queer Latino America*
- 2001 Licia Fiol-Matta, *A Queer Mother for the Nation: The State and Gabriela Mistral*
 David L. Eng, *Racial Castration: Managing Masculinity in Asian America*

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- Inderpal Grewal and Caren Kaplan, “Global Identities: Theorizing Transnational Studies of Sexuality,” *GLQ*
- 2002 ACT UP Oral History Project begins documenting interviews with members of ACT UP.
- 2003 Kandice Chuh, *Imagine Otherwise: On Asian Americanist Critique*
 Sylvia Wynter, “Unsettling the Coloniality of Being/Power/Truth/Freedom: Towards the Human, After Man, Its Overrepresentation – An Argument,” *CR: The New Centennial Review*
 Roderick A. Ferguson, *Aberrations in Black: Towards a Queer of Color Critique*
- 2004 Lee Edelman, *No Future: Queer Theory and the Death Drive*
- 2005 Eithne Luibhéid and Lionel Cantú Jr., eds., *Queer Migrations: Sexuality, U.S. Citizenship, and Border Crossings*
Brokeback Mountain, dir. Ang Lee
 E. Patrick Johnson and Mae G. Henderson, eds., *Black Queer Studies: A Critical Anthology*
- 2006 Susan Stryker and Stephen Whittle, eds., *The Transgender Studies Reader*
 Sara Ahmed, *Queer Phenomenology: Orientations, Objects, Others*
- 2007 David Valentine, *Imagining Transgender: An Ethnography of a Category*
 Heather Love, *Feeling Backward: Loss and the Politics of Queer History*
 Jasbir Puar, *Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times*
- 2008 [Paul] B. Preciado, *Testo Junkie: Sex, Drugs, and Biopolitics in the Pharmacopornographic Era* (published in Spanish)
 Transsomatechnics: Theories and Practices of Transgender Embodiment, an international transgender studies conference, is hosted by Simon Fraser University in Vancouver.
 Omise’ke Natasha Tinsley, “Black Atlantic, Queer Atlantic: Queer Imaginings of the Middle Passage,” *GLQ*
 E. Patrick Johnson, *Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men in the South, An Oral History*
- 2009 Season One of *RuPaul’s Drag Race* airs on LOGO TV
 Tim Dean, *Unlimited Intimacy: Reflections on the Subculture of Barebacking*
 José Esteban Muñoz, *Cruising Utopia: The Then and There of Queer Futurity*

- 2010 David L. Eng, *The Feeling of Kinship: Queer Liberalism and the Racialization of Intimacy*
 Darieck Scott, *Extravagant Abjection: Blackness, Power, and Sexuality in the African American Literary Imagination*
 Catriona Mortimer-Sandilands and Bruce Erickson, eds., *Queer Ecologies: Sex, Nature, Politics, Desire*
- 2011 Nicole R. Fleetwood, *Troubling Vision: Performance, Visuality, and Blackness*
 Mark Rifkin, *When Did Indians Become Straight? Kinship, the History of Sexuality, and Native Sovereignty*
 Qwo-Li Driskill, Chris Finley, Brian Joseph Gilley, and Scott Lauria Morgensen, eds., *Queer Indigenous Studies: Critical Interventions in Theory, Politics, and Literature*
- 2012 Robert McRuer and Anna Mollow, eds., *Sex and Disability*
 Sharon Patricia Holland, *The Erotic Life of Racism*
 Mel Y. Chen, *Animacies: Biopolitics, Racial Mattering, and Queer Affect*
 US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves use of Truvada for preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in adults who are HIV negative.
- 2013 TC Tolbert and Trace Peterson, eds., *Troubling the Line: Trans and Genderqueer Poetry and Poetics*
 Alison Kafer, *Feminist, Queer, Crip*
 Marlon M. Bailey, *Butch Queens Up in Pumps: Gender, Performance, and Ballroom Culture in Detroit*
- 2014 Amy Villarejo, *Ethereal Queer: Television, Historicity, Desire*
 Janet Mock, *Redefining Realness: My Path to Womanhood, Identity, Love & So Much More*
 Kai Ashante Wilson, *The Devil in America*
 First issue of *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly* published.
 Audra Simpson, *Mohawk Interruptus: Political Life Across the Borders of Settler States*
 Juana María Rodríguez, *Sexual Futures, Queer Gestures, and Other Latina Longings*
 Saylesh Wesley, "Twin-Spirited Woman: *Sts'iyóye smestiyexw shá:li*," *TSQ*

Chronology

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- 2016 North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory signs House Bill 2 (HB2), restricting transgender people from accessing restrooms in the state.
 Sara Ahmed, “An Affinity of Hammers,” *TSQ*
Moonlight, dir. Barry Jenkins
 Trans* Studies: An International Transdisciplinary Conference on Gender, Embodiment, and Sexuality at the University of Arizona is one of the first international conferences focused on trans* studies.
 Alexis Pauline Gumbs, *Spill: Scenes of Black Feminist Fugitivity*
 E. Patrick Johnson, *No Tea, No Shade: New Writings in Black Queer Studies*
- 2017 Eli Clare, *Brilliant Imperfection: Grappling with Cure*
 North Carolina repeals portions of HB2, one of the most restrictive bathroom bills in the United States.
 Eric Plemons, *The Look of a Woman: Facial Feminization Surgery and the Aims of Trans Medicine*
 C. Riley Snorton, *Black on Both Sides: A Racial History of Trans Identity*
- 2018 Omise’eke Natasha Tinsley, *Ezili’s Mirrors: Imagining Queer Black Genders*
- 2019 Toby Beauchamp, *Going Stealth: Transgender Politics and U.S. Surveillance Practices*

Note

¹ José Esteban Muñoz, *Cruising Utopia: The Then and There of Queer Futurity* (New York: New York University Press, 2009), 4.

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