

Dialogues in Sexuality Studies

presents

"The New Politics of Gay Conversion Therapy"

Featuring: Eileen Myles

Professor of Literature, UC San Diego

and Tom Waidunas

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Sociology and Science Studies Program, UC San Diego

Tuesday, October 30, 6:30-8:30 pm
LGBT Resource Center

Dinner Provided

Dialogues in Sexuality Studies opens the 2007-2008 year by examining the experiences and politics of queer therapy, especially therapy designed to "cure" queer patients. A collaborative, friendly, and interdisciplinary series that began in 2006, the event brings together UCSD faculty members and graduate students from across campus interested in the growing interdisciplinary field of Sexuality Studies. The two presentations will be followed by open discussion over an informal buffet dinner.

Eileen Myles is a Professor of Literature at UC San Diego. She has written thousands of poems since she gave her first reading at CBGB's in 1974. She recently collaborated with LA composer Michael Webster on an opera called *Hell*. In a recent profile the *New York Times* described Myles as "a cult figure to a generation of post-punk females forming their own literary avant garde."

She was the artistic director of St. Mark's Poetry Project in the 80s, conducted an openly female write-in campaign for President of the United States in 1992, and has read and performed her work all over the US and in Russia , Iceland , Ireland and Germany . In 1997, '98 and '07 Eileen Myles toured with Sister Spits' Rambling Road Show. She curates Scout, a series of readings and performances at Participant Inc. in New York . Her articles and reviews appear regularly in *The Nation*, *Book Forum*, *Index*, *Art in America* , *The Village Voice*, *Nest*, and *The Stranger*.

Tom Waidzunas is a graduate student in Sociology and Science Studies at UC San Diego. His interests include topics at the intersection of inequality, science, and technology, with an emphasis on sexuality.

His dissertation, "Taking Measure of Sexual Reorientation: Shifting Hierarchies of Evidence in Controversies Over Corrective Treatment of Homosexuality," examines ways in which technologies and sexual subjectivities have been co-constituted through scientific rhetoric within and around the controversial domain of reparative therapy. Looking at the history of conversion therapy practices and their opposition from 1950s to the present, Waidzunas examines the shifts in how sexuality has come to be known in relation to the body, the self, and the human will. The dissertation will examine how social movements, therapy subjects, and actors within and on the fringes of science have shaped hierarchies of evidence for the identification of sexual orientation.

Free and open to UCSD faculty and graduate students.

Dinner to follow the presentations.

Sponsored by the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Resource Center with funding from the Office of Graduate Studies Pilot Programs.

For more information, please contact Kyla Schuller in Literature (kschulle@ucsd.edu), Prof. Steven Epstein in Sociology (sepstein@ucsd.edu), or Jan Estrellado at the LGBT Resource Center (jeestrellado@ucsd.edu).