

THE QUEENS COLLEGE WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES PROGRAM

PRESENTS

Trans and Black Love and Rage as Revolutionary Struggle

Valerie Fryer-Davis

Monday, March 25, 2024 • 3–4:30 pm
Rosenthal Library, Room 525

Free and open to the public

The trans-lived experience can revolutionize the struggle for freedom from oppressive power systems. In this talk, Valerie Fryer-Davis examines different forms of love and asks how each of them manifest for trans people. She suggests that each reveals new ways of building community in the face of transphobia, and discusses how this community sustains revolutionary struggles.

But love is not enough to inspire revolutionary action. What does trans rage look like and how does the expression and act of trans rage fuel justice movements? Theorizing these paired emotions as a method of revolutionary struggle is indebted to Black feminists who have long realized the value of love and rage for Black communities in their fight for freedom. Trans love and rage is only useful for revolutionary struggle because of the history of Black love and rage. We must examine the tensions and overlaps between Black and trans struggles, revealing the interconnected history of transness and Blackness under colonialism, as well as elaborating on racism in trans spaces and transphobia in Black spaces. How do we build community amidst these tensions, and how might rage and love be central to us all working towards our right to exist?

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



VALERIE FRYER-DAVIS

is a PhD candidate in English at The Graduate Center, CUNY. Her specialty is in decolonial, trans, and Black literature and theory, with an emphasis on Sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean. She has published in *Memory Studies* on the renegotiation of memorialization after the Rwandan Genocide and has recently published a digest on queer pedagogy for the *Hostos WAC Reader*. Her current research for her dissertation focuses on how trans and Black love and rage can redress queer and racial violence since the 1960s, with a specific focus on Africana literature.