

Call For Participants

How Do You Know?: Self-Interrogation & the Root(s) of Queerness

Abstract

Through image-driven, first person narratives, this session asks participants to question their ways of knowing. Specifically looking at queer marginalities, we ask: how do queer people first locate their otherness? Is there such a thing as a “gay root”? Without seeing that part of ourselves in our immediate surroundings, where do we learn that information as adolescents? And, beyond those early moments of knowing, how do we see queerness as adults? What are some of the ways that we police, protect, or validate our “communities” based on optics alone – are there queer experiences that appear more authentic than others? Further, how do these embodied languages impact how we trust or with whom we choose to disclose?

Pulling from popular culture, academic thought, and personal archives, this pecha kucha will question deep assumptions about queerness – as we attempt to define it in ourselves and in others. In alignment with the conference’s mission, *How Do You Know?* will directly question authenticity, knowledge, and trust as it pertains to queerness in how we practice it interpersonally, talk about it colloquially, “recognize” it with machines, and examine it academically.

Session Description

This session will be a pecha kucha wherein participants utilize 20 images for a maximum of 20 seconds each to tell a story about the topic. It can be fragmented, linear, personal, impersonal, feature brief audio or video (no more than 20 second clips), etc. Beyond the actual presentations, we hope to have brief introductions for each presenter as well as room for a short Q&A afterwards.

Submission Instructions

We ask that interested participants **contact us via email by Friday, April 27th** with a concrete question or idea relevant to the topic that they’d like to explore in the session, as well as your name, preferred pronouns, and a very brief bio. If you have images, a narrative outline, or additional materials that you already know you’d like to use, please share those in your response as well!

We plan to work with participants in the weekend prior to the conference to support individual presentations and intend to host a relaxed check-in a day or so prior to the conference to concretize our line-up and address any last-minute questions!

Session Organizers

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