



The Lunar Effect: Self-Loss and Cosmic Consciousness in the Mad-Queer 1970s

For historians of sexuality, the post-Stonewall period has long been regarded as a time when gay identity was in formation. In particular, the 1973 campaign to reform the DSM has been hailed as a watershed political victory, wherein activists cast off their pathologization as “disordered,” and affirmed homosexuality a social minority subject position. But although reformers sought to legitimize homosexuality by disaggregating it from madness, many 1970s radicals emphasized the *affinities* of madness and deviant sexuality—as forces that could usefully erode normative social and psychic organization. In this talk, I look to the cross-pollinations of movements for gay and insane liberation. For queer and mad radicals alike, what made psychosis and deviant sexuality valuable were their deterritorializing properties – their ability to dissolve the integrity of the self, and to make the subject vulnerable to the transformative forces of the objective world. Beyond illuminating new genealogies of queer and disability coalition, I argue that the 1970s mad-queer milieu pressures scholars to reconsider the primacy of subject-based frames for engaging postwar radicalism.

Tuesday, March 6 @ 5:00pm

Crowe 1-132
1860 Campus Dr



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