



Center for  
LGBTQ & GENDER STUDIES  
in Religion **EST. 2000**

## News & Updates | August 2022

**Professor Julia Watts Belser is our 13th Annual CLGS Georgia Harkness Lecturer!**

### CLGS Announces Our Fall 2022 Online Lavender Lunch Series



We are proud to announce the line-up for our **Fall 2022 Online Lavender Lunches!** Join us for one – or more! – of these online Tuesday events (from **12:15pm to 1:15pm** Pacific Time) which feature religious leaders, activists, scholars, artists, and educators:

- 13 September: ***Decolonizing Spiritual/Faith-Based Exploration and Formation*** with Majj Mai
- 11 October: ***Reproductive Justice and Black Queer Bodies*** with Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow
- 8 November: ***Queer Autobiography: We Were Gender Fluid Before We Even Knew What It Was*** with Dwayne Ratleff and William Martin
- 13 December: ***In the Margins: A Transgender Man's Journey with Scripture*** with Shannon TL Kearns

**Click [HERE](#) for more information on our Fall 2022 Lavender Lunches**

### The CLGS Asian/Pacific Islander Roundtable Zine **The Orange Left on the Altar**

#### ***The Orange Left On The Altar***

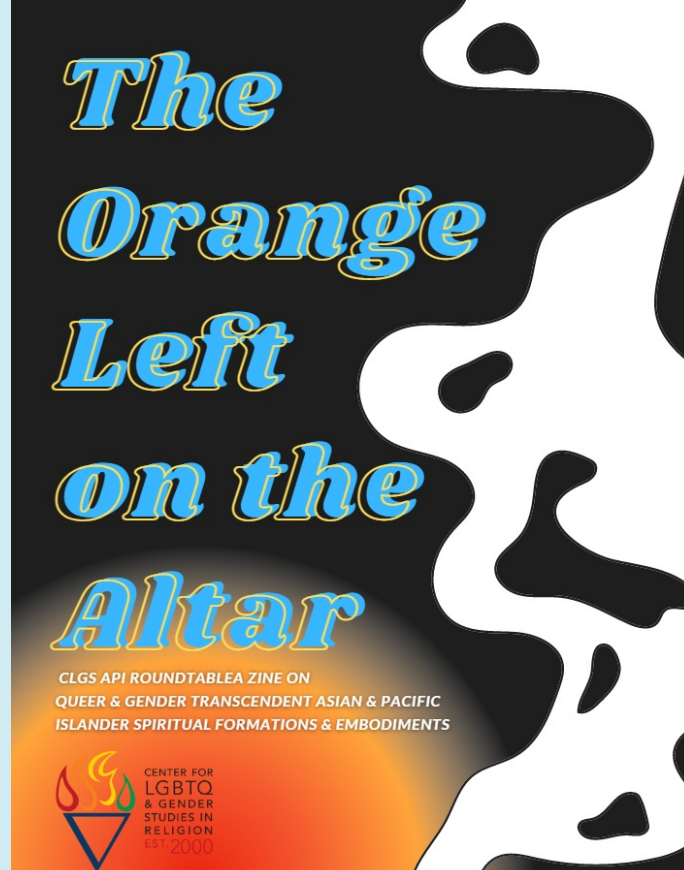
is a zine, a message,  
a spell, an incantation,  
a memory

where Queer and Gender Transcendent  
Asian/American & Pacific Islander folks  
(and probably many others)

can explore, ruminate on, &  
tangibly & intangibly  
experiment with what  
spiritual formation &  
embodiment can & may  
look like for them.

We step into this space

not knowing what we  
will find here.



[Click Here to Access CLGS' new API Zine!](#)

## Queer Crip Revelation: Disability Dance, Jewish Text, and the Sacred Potency of Difference

**Professor Julia Watts Belser**

The 13th Annual CLGS Georgia Harkness Lecture

**ONLINE: Thursday, 20 October 2022, at 2:30pm | Pacific Time**



In this online lecture, Professor **Julia Watts Belser** of Georgetown University probes the embodied ethics and spiritual insights of Claire Cunningham's *Thank You Very Much*, a contemporary dance performance that brings queer disability culture into provocative conversation with the glittering world of Elvis tribute artists.

Using disability dance to surface unexpected liberatory possibility within biblical and rabbinic Jewish texts, this lecture will bear witness to the violence arrayed against queer and disabled lives and also claim the sacred potency of queer disability joy—illuminating the revelatory power of the choice to unfurl the brilliance of our embodied difference.

[Click here to register for this online CLGS Lecture!](#)

## Decolonizing Spiritual/Faith-Based Exploration and Formation

*A CLGS Lavender Lunch*

**With Maij Mai**

**ONLINE Tuesday, 13 September 2022, at 12:15pm | Pacific Time**

In this online CLGS Lavender Lunch **Maij Mai** explores



what possibilities can exist when cultivating spiritual/faith-based exploration and formation spaces, particularly for marginalized communities whose experiences do not align with institutionalized faith-based spaces, communities, and traditions.

**Maij Mai** (they/he/sib/homie/fam), Coordinator of the **CLGS Asian American/Pacific Islander Roundtable**, is a BlackVietnameseBipolar TransNonbinaryQueer currently existing in – and with – beloved community in Durham, North Carolina.



[Click Here to join this ONLINE CLGS Event via Zoom](#)

## Queering Pre-Marital Counseling

*An Online CLGS Queer & Latinx Faith Conversation*

with **Manuel Frank-Lampon** and **Carla Roland**

ONLINE Thursday, 22 September 2022, at 1pm | Pacific Time

**Faith Family Equality**

### The Latinx Roundtable

Sixteen months after his marriage to his partner Rich, **Manuel Frank-Lampon** reflects with Rev. Dr. **Carla Roland Guzmán**, Coordinator of the CLGS Latinx Roundtable, on his participation in – and experience of – pre-marital counseling.

Join us online for this initial conversation (in a series of upcoming conversations) on the place of pre-marital counseling for people in queer relationships. Some questions we will explore include the following:

- What materials are available?
- What is needed?
- How can this process be made more expansive and more inclusive?

[Click Here to join this ONLINE CLGS Event via Zoom](#)

## Trans Seminarian Leadership Cohort 2021-2022 Cohort Spotlight



CLGS is a proud co-sponsor of the **Trans Seminarian Leadership Cohort**, which is a collaborative partnership between CLGS, the **Freedom Center for Social Justice**, and the **National LGBTQ Task Force**. The Cohort,

launched in 2012, is a year-long learning experience for transgender, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming students and is open to students of all faith traditions who are studying in a seminary setting, CPE residency, or similar training for religious leadership. Throughout 2022 we have highlighted a different Cohort member in this, our monthly e-newsletter.

# Trans Seminarian Leadership Cohort Spotlight

## Meg Mercury

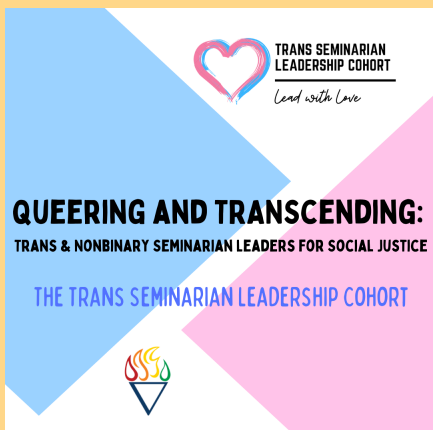
**Meg Mercury** (they/them/theirs) is a student at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in Saint Paul, Minnesota, where they are studying in the Master of Arts in Religion and Theology program. They hope to pursue PhD studies in the future.



Meg was raised in Evangelical Christianity by ordained minister parents, and they attended an Evangelical undergraduate college, where they earned a BA degree in English. They left the church and worked for many years in marketing but ultimately followed a call to theological education in a seminary environment.

They hope to teach theology in the future and prepare religious leaders for radical ministry. Their theological interests include queer iconoclastic spiritualities, religious naturalisms, pantheism, theologies of religious diversity, and liberation theologies of mental illness. At their seminary, Meg serves on the Student Leadership Collective, founded and co-facilitates the Queer United Affinity Community, works as the seminary writing tutor, is a Dayton Merit Scholar and a PFund Scholar.

## Check out these CLGS Resources!



### Queering and TRANScending: Trans and Nonbinary Seminarian Leaders for Social Justice

In this CLGS *Lavender Lunch* members of our **Trans Seminarian Leadership Cohort** explore the complicated dynamics of ministry and religious leadership in extraordinary times. Presenters invite attendees to explore their own leadership experiences (both religious and secular) to help “queer” the concept of theological education and activism.

[Click here to view the video recording!](#)



### The **3rd edition** of our popular weekly blog **52 Ways to Expand Your Welcome to LGBTQ+ People and Our Families**

Every week in 2022 we post suggestions on how your faith community can become **more welcoming to – and inclusive of – LGBTQ+ People and Our Families!**

[Click here to view our 52 Ways blog!](#)







Email Us: [clgs@clgs.org](mailto:clgs@clgs.org)

**CLGS at Pacific School Of Religion**

1798 Scenic Avenue Berkeley, CA 94709

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## **CLGS: Shaping A New Public Discourse On Religion, Gender, and Sexuality**

Your financial support makes it possible for us to offer innovative programming that explores and supports LGBTQ people of faith, our families, and our spiritual communities. Together, we are shaping a new and progressive public discourse on religion, gender, and sexuality.

# **Thank you for your support!**

**Donate Today!**

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