



LGBTQ+ & Disability History

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Pronouns: they/them/she

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Introduction

Comparative History between LGBTQ+ and the Disability Community

- Criminalization
- Medical
- Marriage & Property Rights
- Employment
- Education

Future Actions Needed

- Intersectional Activism



WARNING

This seminar will cover the comparative history of the LGBTQ+ and the Disability Community in the United State and other Western Countries that influenced or was influenced by the Unites States.

TRIGGERS: Forced sterilization, mass murder, and many other historical and even current actions may trigger feelings of anger and despair plus reopen past trauma. Please understand you can get up anytime for your health.



Police Actions

Queer

6 Times more likely to be stopped by Police

Williams Institute
Generations Study and the
Police-Public Contact Survey

Disability

50% of people killed by law enforcement officers
Ruderman Family Foundation

Population of Prison

9% - Gay Men
42% - Non-Straight Women
16% Trans-identified adults
have been in prison

Population of Prison

40% - Psychiatric Disability
56% - Nonpsychiatric
Disability
24% - ADHD



Criminalization – In Public View

Queer

Dressing Laws – 1840 to 1970's and even 2011+

- forbade a person from appearing in public “in a dress not belonging to his or her sex.”
- 1940's-1950's
 - “impersonating a female”
 - Private areas if public can see it

Disability

Ugly Laws – 1867 to 1974

- any person, who is diseased, maimed, mutilated or deformed in any way, so as to be an unsightly or disgusting object, to **expose himself or herself** to public view.”
- Exceptions if subjects of demonstration, to illustrate the separation for disability



Criminalization – In Public View

Queer

Dressing Laws

- Columbus, Ohio – 1848
- San Francisco, CA – 1863
- 45+ U.S. West Frontier cities
- Detroit, MI – 1944
- Miami, FL – 1952
- Miami, FL – 1956
- New York – Still on books in 2011

Disability

Ugly Laws

- San Francisco – 1867
- Chicago – 1881
- Portland, OR – 1881
- New Orleans, LA – 1883
- Denver, CO – 1889
- Lincoln, NE - 1889
- Omaha, NE – 1890
- State of Penn - 1891
- Columbus, OH – 1984
- Reno, NV - 1905



Criminalization – Institutionalization

Queer

Dressing Laws

- San Francisco – 1890
 - I'm neither a man nor a woman and I've got no sex at all.'
 - Remained 18 years until dying of TB in 1908
- New York – 1895
- Los Angeles, CA – 1917

Disability

Ugly Laws

- Minnesota State Board of Corrections & Charities – 1885
 - a woman “could not for shame” have guests in her home for years until her child with severe disabilities was institutionalized



Criminalization – In Public View

Queer

Repealed Dressing Laws

- 1960-1970's
 - “3 items of clothing” rule
 - Police raids on queer bars
 - Riots
 - Compton Cafeteria – CA - 1966
 - Stonewall Bar – NY - 1969

Disability

Repealed Ugly Laws

- 1967 – Omaha, NE
- 1974 – Last – Chicago, IL
- 1972 – Columbus, Ohio
 - BUT arrested a person for begging in 1974
- Use to control the use of public spaces was still occurring after the signing of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.



Medical – Immigration

Queer

Deported for Dressing Laws

- Geraldine Portica - Los Angeles – 1917
 - Lived as female since childhood refused to wear women's

Denied Entry for Dressing Laws

- Otillie Castnaugle – 1902
- Alejandra Velas – 1910's

Disability

Quarantined for disease

- San Francisco, CA – 1860's
 - Chinese immigrants unlawfully en masse

Excluded from Entry

- Ellis Island – 1891
- Compulsory Medical Inspections



Medical

Queer

1952 – 1st DSM of APA included Homosexuality.

1973 – DSM-II of APA removes Homosexuality, but REPLACED it as Sexual Orientation Disturbance.

1987 – DSM-III of APA removed Sexual Orientation.

Disability

- **Eugenic Sterilization Law for People with Disabilities – 1907**

- Indiana – 1st state eugenic sterilization law—for "confirmed idiots, imbeciles and rapists"—in state institutions.

- **24 other States soon after**



Medical – Reproductive Rights

Queer

Compulsory Sterilization

- “Perversion or marked departures from normal mentality
- Women who transgressed gender and sexual norms
- Homosexual Men
- Transgender People
- Native Americas and people with Latin surnames
- Rape Victims

Disability

▪ **Buck v Bell – 1927**

- Compulsory sterilization is ruled constitutional
- “three generations of imbeciles are enough”

OVER 60,000 sterilizations were recorded for “feebleminded” and “insane”



Medical - Nazi Germany – Today

Queer

Homosexual & Trans Care

- Magnus Hirschfeld
 - Jewish Physician
 - Exiled to France
 - Established the Institute of Sexual Sciences –
 - Burned Down: 1933
 - Completed the 1st Successful gender-affirming surgery

Disability

Aspergers

- Hans Aspergers
 - Viennese Pediatrician
 - After Nazi Invasion
 - Sent “uneducable” to Euthanasia
 - **“It seems that for success in science and art, a dash of autism is essential...”**
 - **Term is Controversial**



Medical & Criminal – Nazi Germany

Queer

Arrested: 100,000

Jailed: 50,000 Jailed

Not Freed after of the War

1933 - Enforced old Law-
Burned Magnus Hirschfeld's
Institute of Sexual Sciences –
Burned Book

Buchenwald Concentration
Camp - Medical Experiments
and Forced Castration

Disability

Sterilized 360,000

Killed: 250,000

**1933 - Law for the
Prevention of Hereditarily
Diseased Offspring**

**1939-1941 -
Tiergartenstrasse 4**
Used 6 Killing Centers
Tested Gas Chambers



Medical – Refusal of Care

Queer

Federal and State Refusal for funding and research

- 1984 – NYC: Allocated only \$24,500 to AIDS – 3 years
- 1985 – President Reagan: 1st time to publicly mention AIDS – 4 years into it
- 1987 – US Senate 94-2 vote: restricted the CDC from providing “AIDS education, ... Homosexual...”

Disability

▪ **Baby Doe - Died - Bloomington, IN – 1982**

- Down Syndrome with a blocked esophagus
 - Doctors refused surgery & Starved

▪ **Baby Jane Doe – Died - Long Island, NY – 1983**

- Open spinal column
 - Parents refused surgery



Medical – Conversion Therapy

Queer

Conversion Therapy

- University of California, Los Angeles – 60-70's
 - Richard Green
 - Recruited Ole Ivar Lovaas
 - Gay and Transgender People
 - Some Insurance s pay for it
 - Some states ban it

Disability

Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA)

- University of California, Los Angeles – 60-70's
 - Ole Ivar Lovaas
 - Autistic People
 - PAID BY INSURANCE AND GOVERNMENTAL BENEFITS TODAY



Medical – Conversion Therapy

Queer

Gay Conversion Therapy

- Adapt ABA therapy for the “Feminine Boy Project” aiming to eliminate “feminine” behaviors in male-bodied children
- Withholding food, forced to pray, aversion techniques, and even electric shock therapy

Disability

Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA)

- Therapies and interventions to shape and mold their behaviors so they appear more like “typically-developing” children
- Withholding affection or food, physical punishments, and even electric shocks



Medical – Torture called Treatments

Queer

2003 - Kirk Andrew Murphy – died by suicide - Tortured by UCLA @ 5 years old

2022 - Conversion Therapy
DOUBLES rate of attempts by suicide

20 States ban health care professionals – BUT not religious providers

Disability

▪ **Rotenberg Educational Center – Canton, Mass – 2012**

- Video surfaced showing staff using shock Andre McCollins, an autistic resident, 31 times over 7 hours because he would not remove his jacket
- Lydia XZ Brown, maintains an archive



Medical - Some Good Steps

Queer

- **Food & Drug Administration -2023**
 - Eased Ban on Blood Donations from Gay & Bisexual Men
 - Still very restrictive
 - No one on Oral PrEP
 - No new partners with certain activities

Disability

- **Food & Drug Administration – 2020**
 - Announced a ban on the center's use of shock devices
 - ONLY place in the country that uses it, but no changes.
 - 45 – 50 people still being harmed



Employment

Queen of Drag – William Dorsey Swann



Congress of Freaks of Barnum & Bailey



Employment

Queer

1950's - Lavender Scare

Fired 500 federal employees for being gay

1953 - Exec Order 10450

– President D Eisenhower –
Prevented from working in government jobs.

1994-2011 - Don't Ask, Don't Tell (Improve Sec 8)

Disability

From 1930s to 2024 -

Subminimal Pay

1000 people in NC still in sheltered Workshops (segregated jobs)

1989 - ADA passed, but excluded GID* & HIV due to Jesse Helms

1994 - HIV

2022 - Gender Dysphoria



Employment – Marriage and Property

Queer

Survivors Benefit – 2021

- Married at the time of death
- Or Lived in a state that prevented marriage
- And together for the 10 Years

Trump's Administration fought it in court.

Disability

SSI Marriage Penalty

- Single Maximum - \$914
- Couple's rate - \$1,371
- Spouse Income –
 - < \$457 NO Decrease
 - \$24,000 decrease to \$300
 - \$48,000 - NO Benefits

Saving or Financial Assets

- Ind - \$2,000
- Couple \$3,000



Education

Queer

Pre-2016 – 8 States with laws restricting staff from talking about LGBT issues at school

2009 – NC includes sexual orientation and gender identity in Bullying & Harassing Behavior Act (NCGA 115C-407.15)

Disability

1970's – NC – Crime to enroll child after school said no based on being “**uneducable**”

1977 – Federal – Creech Bill – Special education funding

1993 – NC a cap on funding – 12.5%, but 13% of are in special education



Why Intersectional Activism Today

- 36% LGBTQ+ self report as disabled
- 52% Transgender adults self report as disabled
- 6-25% Autistic youth have gender dysphoria
- 5% LGBTQ youth diagnosed as autistic
- 35% LGBTQ youth suspect they might be autistic
- 19% Multiracial LGBTQ youth are autistic
- 18% Native/Indigenous LGBTQ youth are autistic
- 85% of detained LGBTQ youth are youth of color
- 40% of incarcerated women are sexual minorities
- 49% of jailed women report a disability

Autistic LGBTQ youth had over 50% greater odds of attempting suicide than NON-autistic LGBTQ youth



Questions & answers

Invite questions from the audience.



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