

JESS WHATCOTT

San Diego State University • Women's Studies Department
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Jesswhatcott.org

EDUCATION

- 2019 PhD, Politics
Designated emphases in Feminist Studies and Critical Race & Ethnic Studies
University of California Santa Cruz
- 2016 M.A. Politics
University of California Santa Cruz
- 2011 M.A. Social Science, Environment & Community Program
Humboldt State University
- 2004 B.A. Political Science, minor in Women's Studies (Summa Cum Laude)
Humboldt State University

EMPLOYMENT

- 2019-present Assistant Professor, Women's Studies Department, San Diego State University
Affiliate of LGBTQ+ Studies and the Digital Humanities Initiative

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Critical prison studies; critical disability studies; queer studies/queer of color critique; state violence: the carceral state, state-sponsored eugenics, criminalization of immigration; carceral feminisms and carceral humanisms; American political development; California history; political economy; feminist and queer abolition; transformative justice; speculative fiction; genealogy and interpretive methods

PUBLICATIONS

REFERRED ARTICLES

Whatcott, Jess, "Speculating Crip Collectivity Beyond Neoliberal Governance," *Lateral: Journal of the Cultural Studies Association*, forthcoming June 2021.

Whatcott, Jess (2021) "Aiding and Abetting the Unruly Past: Queer and Critical Disability Studies Approaches to American Political Development," *Politics, Groups & Identities*.

Whatcott, Jess (2018) "No Selves to Consent: Women's Prisons, Sterilization, and the Biopolitics of Informed Consent," *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 44, No. 1, 131-153.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Whatcott, Jess (2021). "Sexuality, Disability, and Madness in California's Eugenics Era," in *Routledge Handbook of Disability and Sexuality*, eds. Russell Shuttleworth and Linda Mona (London: Routledge).

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Whatcott, Jess (2020). "We Survived You?: Resisting Eugenicist Imaginaries Through Feminist Speculative Fiction," in *The Future is Unwritten: Representations of Political Resistance and Emancipation in Science Fiction*, eds. Judith Grant and Sean Parsons (Maryland: Lexington Books).

ACADEMIC BLOGS

Whatcott, Jess (2017). "Sexual Deviance and 'Mental Defectiveness' in Eugenics Era California," *NOTCHES: (re)marks on the history of sexuality*. <http://notchesblog.com/2017/03/14/sexual-deviance-and-mental-defectiveness-in-eugenics-era-california/>

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS

- 2021 University Grants Program, San Diego State University, \$9,400
- 2019 Dissertation Fellowship, Social Sciences Division, University of California Santa Cruz
- 2017-2018 Alumni Service Award, Graduate Division, University of California Santa Cruz, \$500
- 2013-2017 Cota-Robles Fellowship, University of California Santa Cruz

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND ROUNDTABLES

UNPUBLISHED, REFERRED PAPERS BEFORE PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

- 2020 Whatcott, Jess. "Containing the Unruly Past: 'Fixing' Queer and Disabled Racial Subjects in Political History," Western Political Science Association; Los Angeles; May (due to COVID-19 conference moved online)
- 2019 Whatcott, Jess. "Refusing State Care, Refusing Respectability: Claiming Queer Kinship with California's Defective Class," Beyond Care Symposium: Queer, Feminist, and Trans Studies Research Cluster; University of California Davis; June
- 2019 Whatcott, Jess. "Eugenic Facts/Speculative Fictions: Foreclosing on Feminist/Queer/Crip Futures in California Public Law," Gender, Bodies, Technology; Blacksburg, Virginia; April
- 2019 Whatcott, Jess. "Building the State that Cares and Citizens Who Desire the State in Progressive Era California," Western Political Science Association, San Diego, April
- 2018 Whatcott, Jess. "Building State Biopower Through Discourses of Care: Women Reformers and Eugenics Policies in Progressive Era California," Queering Care and Cure Symposium: Queer, Feminist, and Trans Studies Research Cluster; University of California Davis; May
- 2018 Whatcott, Jess. "In the Old Days... You Could Nab Somebody Like This": ^[1]Re-Citing Eugenics in the Discourse About Mass Shootings," Western Political Science Association; San Francisco, California; March
- 2017 Whatcott, Jess. "Making Good?: Institutionalizing Immoral Girls and Women in Progressive Era California," California American Studies Association; Long Beach; April

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- 2017 Whatcott, Jess. "Making Good?: Diagnosing and Treating Girls' and Women's Deviant Sexuality in Eugenics Era California," Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science; Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; March
- 2016 Whatcott, Jess. "Prisoner Sterilizations and the Politics of Over-Population in California," Western Political Science Association; San Diego, CA; March

OTHER PARTICIPATION IN PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

- 2019 Roundtable, Tanja Aho, Ryan Cartwright, Hailee Gibbons, Meghann O'Leary, John Wang, and **Jess Whatcott**, "Mad Time/s of/and Anxiety, Chronic Illness, and Neuroqueerness: Incarcerating Realities, Imagine-Building Futures," National Women's Studies Association; San Francisco; November
- 2018 Roundtable, Tanja Aho, Brady Forrest, Jessi Jackson, Carol Moeller, and **Jess Whatcott**, "Madness and Decolonization: Histories, Stories, Futures," Critical Ethnic Studies Association; Vancouver, British Columbia; June
- 2017 Discussant, "Carceral Humanisms," Critical Prison Studies/Critical Disability Studies Caucuses sponsored panel; American Studies Association Conference; Chicago, Illinois; November
- 2014 Discussant, "Doing Critical Race and Ethnic Studies in a Neoliberal Age" Symposium for Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, University of California Santa Cruz, June

COURSES TAUGHT

Graduate Courses at SDSU

Body Politics
Methods of Inquiry

Undergraduate Courses at SDSU

Women in American History, part A
Women in American History, part B
Lesbian Lives and Cultures

Undergraduate Courses at other Universities

Gender, Race, and Class
Introduction to Ethnic Studies
Introduction to Queer Studies
"Queer" Across Cultures
Critical Race, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Theory and Methods
Feminism and the Body
Introduction to Women's Studies
Gender and Society
Act to End Sexualized Violence
Sex, Gender, and Globalization
Power, Privilege, & Environment
Introduction to U.S. Government & Politics

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Critical Race, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Professional Development
First Year Experience

OTHER PEDAGOGY AND CURRICULUM

June 2020-current Convener and co-facilitator, Women's Studies Racial Justice Pedagogy Working Group

INVITED LECTURES

March 2021 "Free Them All: Why California's Eugenics History Matters Today," Center for Inclusive Excellence, San Diego State University

February 2020 "No Selves to Consent: Women's Prisons, Sterilization and the Biopolitics of Informed Consent," Feminist Studies Department, University of California Santa Cruz

June 2019 "Queer Resistance and Queer Refusal in California's Early 20th Century Eugenics Institutions," Women's Studies, San Diego State University

April 2019 "California Eugenics as Queer History," Women's Studies, San Diego State University

February 2019 "Eugenics in the Carceral State: Troubling Treatment as an Alternative to Incarceration," Crime and Justice Studies, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

GRADUATE STUDENT SUPERVISION

2021-current M.A. Thesis Chair – Nicholas Villarreal (Women's Studies)

2021-current M.A. Thesis Chair – Jenna Wilson (Women's Studies)

2021-current M.A. Thesis Chair – Alejandra Aguirre (Women's Studies)

2021 M.A. Examination Committee – Rashanna Lee (Women's Studies)

2020-2021 M.A. Thesis Reader – Anna Buckley (Women's Studies)

2020-2021 M.A. Thesis Reader – Barbara Perez (Women's Studies)

2020-2021 M.A. Thesis Reader – Andrea Sanchez (Communication)

2019-2020 M.A. Thesis Reader – Kerry Scroggie (Women's Studies)
"The Rise of Genetic Genealogy: A Queer & Feminist Analysis of *Finding Your Roots*"

2019-2020 M.A. Thesis Reader – John Gove (History)
"From the Campus to the Community: The Struggle for Gay and Lesbian Rights in 1970s San Diego"

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

JESS WHATCOTT

- 2019-present Sexual Violence Task Force
- 2020 Consultant, Pride Center, faculty training for working with trans/non-binary students
- 2017-2018; 2012-2013 Sexual Assault Prevention Committee (Humboldt State University)
- 2015-2017 Coordinated Community Review Team (University of California Santa Cruz)

DEPARTMENT SERVICE

- 2020-present Bread and Roses Feminist Research Speaker Series Committee
- 2020-present Graduate Student Application Committee
- 2020-2021 Department Diversity Committee
- 2021 Lecturer Application Committee
- 2021 Graduate Teaching Associate Committee
- 2020-2021 Carstens-Wertz Graduate Student Fund Committee

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2020-present Reviewer: *Signs: A Journal of Women in Culture and Society* (1), *Politics, Groups, & Identities* (1), and *Journal of Lesbian Studies* (1)
- 2017-present Social media coordinator, Critical Disability Studies Caucus of American Studies Association

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP AND SERVICE

American Studies Association

- Critical Disability Studies Caucus
- Critical Prison Studies Caucus

Committee for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Trans History (American Historical Association)

National Women's Studies Association

- Disability Studies Interest Group

Society for Disability Studies

Western Political Science Association

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 2021-present Consultant, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego
- 2020-present Volunteer, Detention Resistance
- 2020-present Coalition member, Free Them All San Diego
- 2012-2013 Volunteer, Humboldt County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

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2003-2013 Organizer, Bar None (Humboldt County)

COMMUNITY PRACTICE

2010-2013 Program Assistant, Humboldt County Teen Court, Eureka CA
Diversion program for system involved youth

2009-2018 Core organizer and support Staff, North Star Quest Camp, Petrolia, CA
Overnight feminist informed summer camp for girl identified youth

COMMUNITY RESEARCH CONSULTING

2015 Campus Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault Survey for Graduate Students, Graduate Student Association and UAW Anti-Oppression Committee, UCSC

2015 Santa Cruz Jail Conditions Survey, Sin Barras, Santa Cruz, California

2013 Safer Campus Community Project Survey, Sexual Assault Prevention Committee, Humboldt State University

2012-2013 Community Safety and Accountability Assessment, Humboldt County Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee, Eureka, California