

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
 Core faculty, Institute for Ethics and Public Affairs
 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 and Liat Ben-Moshe. 2021. "Abolishing the Broom Closets in Omelas: Feminist Disability Analysis of Crisis and Precarity." *Feminist Formations*. 33:3 (Winter), 1-25.

Whatcott, Jess (2021) "Crip Collectivity Beyond Neoliberal Governance in Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Sower*," *Lateral: Journal of the Cultural Studies Association*, 10:1. Published online at:

<https://csalateral.org/section/cripistemologies-of-crisis/crip-collectivity-beyond-neoliberalism-octavia-butler-parable-of-the-sower-whatcott/>

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

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21565503.2021.1908372>

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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).

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/>

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Whatcott, Jess. "Menace to the Future: Carceral Eugenics in California." Book manuscript in progress.

Calvanico, Jessica and Jess Whatcott. "Carceral Feminism in the Eugenics Era." Journal article in progress.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS

2022	Critical Thinking Grant, San Diego State University
2021	University Grants Program, San Diego State University, \$9,400
2019	Dissertation Fellowship, Social Sciences Division, University of California Santa Cruz, \$12,000
2017-2018	Alumni Service Award, Graduate Division, University of California Santa Cruz, \$500
2013-2017	Cota-Robles Fellowship, University of California Santa Cruz, \$173,000

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND ROUNDTABLES

UNPUBLISHED, REFERRED PAPERS BEFORE PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

2021	Whatcott, Jess. "Queer and Crip Refusals of California Eugenics," American Studies Association, October (virtual)
2021	Whatcott, Jess. "Maternalist Eugenics and the Research of Grace Fernald," California Eugenics Legacies Symposium, University of California Humanities Research Institute, June (virtual)

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- 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': 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
- 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

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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

Feminist Thought (undergraduate/graduate)

Capitalism in Feminist Thought (undergraduate/graduate)

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

Critical Race, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Professional Development

First Year Experience

OTHER PEDAGOGY AND CURRICULUM

2020-2021 Convener and co-facilitator, Women’s Studies Racial Justice Pedagogy Working Group

INVITED LECTURES

November 2021 “Ecologies of Prison/Detention Industrial Complex,” Department of Women’s and
Gender Studies, San Francisco State University

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

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- 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-current M.A. Thesis Reader – Hailee Menchaca (History)
- 2021-current M.A. Thesis Reader – Sophia Guthrie (Anthropology)
- 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

- 2021-current Safe Zones Coordinator
- 2019-2021 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

- 2021-present Search Committees, Feminist Economic Justice and Feminist Environmental Justice
- 2020-present Bread and Roses Feminist Research Speaker Series Committee

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- 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

- 2021-present Co-chair, Critical Disability Studies Caucus of American Studies Association
- 2020-present Reviewer: *Signs: A Journal of Women in Culture and Society* (1), *Politics, Groups, & Identities* (1), *Disability Studies Quarterly* (1), *Journal of Lesbian Studies* (1), *Contemporary Political Theory* (1)

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
- 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

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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