

Mapping the Intersections of Information Studies and Gender and Sexuality Studies

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ABSTRACT

The interdisciplinary nexus of information studies, gender, and sexuality studies will be explored in a roundtable format. The discussion will promote ongoing and needed discourse of queer, feminist, gay and lesbian critique in relation to information, digital, and archival paradigm.

General Terms

Documentation, Design, Human Factors, Standardization, Languages, Theory.

Keywords

Gender, Sexuality, Feminism, Queer, Science and Technology, Information, Archives, Libraries, Internet

INTRODUCTION

This roundtable discussion presents research that maps the interdisciplinary space of informational phenomena and institutions alongside the study of gender and sexuality. Such an intellectual convergence can be seen in the growing body of work on affect and archives, as well as information and embodiment. Gender and sexuality research have leveraged a number of information studies concerns, such as surveillance and documentation, into new realms of inquiry and theoretical engagement. Similarly, information scholars attentive to gender and sexuality concerns provide a unique lens on contingent processes of power entangled within our digital and knowledge-based society.

As a roundtable, the thread of this discussion will necessarily follow from the expertise of its participants and the themes of their research. The collective format of a roundtable creates a collaborative discussion around some of the gender and sexuality themes that have emerged lately within information scholarship, including: the body as a repository of knowledge ("bioepistemology"), gender and computer coding, masculinity in "virtual reality," cyberfeminism, technological determinism and gender essentialism, sexual sociability online, sex and the Internet, technical change and gender power relations, and technology as a source and consequence of gender relations.