

**Stony Brook University
The Graduate School**

Doctoral Defense Announcement

Abstract

Conferencing on the Edge:

A Queer History of Feminist Field Formation, 1969-89

By

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“Conferencing on the Edge” is a history of the conflicts that shaped U.S. women’s studies and gay and lesbian studies in the 1970s and 1980s. Each chapter centers on an academic conference that is generally regarded as historically significant in the development of the field, owing at least in part to the event’s contentiousness. While conferences are routinely evoked in feminist and queer studies, “Conferencing on the Edge” pauses to ask how, why, and to what effect these events are remembered. Based on extensive archival research and oral history interviews, each chapter traces the history of a conference from its planning, to the event itself, to the conference’s afterlife as a frequently referenced event in feminist and queer scholarship. Because conferences are time and space bound events that are imagined to literally generate discourse, I use conferences to methodologically intervene in a critical conversation that is predominated by discourse analysis. Rather than analyzing a series of discursive debates, “Conferencing on the Edge” offers a history of feminist and queer field formation, which situates the development of ideas in relation to material institutional practices and the broader social movement histories that shaped these fields.

Date: May 10, 2019

Time: 2:00-4:00 pm

Place: Social & Behavioral Science Building
Room N320

Program: Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies

Dissertation Advisor: Victoria Hesford