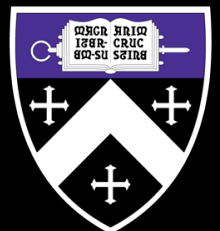




KENYON QUEER AND TRANS STUDIES CONFERENCE

APRIL 6, 2019
KENYON COLLEGE
GAMBIER, OH



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The Kenyon Queer and Trans Studies Conference is a new biennial conference that will occur at Kenyon College. Sponsored by the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Kenyon College, this conference developed from our recognized need to provide a place for queer and trans scholarship, activism, and community building. The conference is also built upon a model of interdisciplinarity, intersectionality, and equity.

In regards to interdisciplinarity, the Kenyon Queer and Trans Studies Conference holds four distinct tracks in each of its sessions--1) healthcare and technology; 2) visual and performing arts; 3) humanities and popular culture; and 4) politics, society, and the law. Each of these carefully selected tracks encompasses our desire to facilitate spaces for discussions about queer and trans issues in distinct areas of scholarship and everyday life.

By recognizing the unique set of identities throughout the broader LGBTQ+ community, the Kenyon Queer and Trans Studies Conference proudly offers drop-in networking/socializing spaces for both queer and trans femme-identified people and people of color. These dedicated spaces are offered with the intent of creating intersectional spaces exclusive to attendees who may want intra-community discussions throughout the day.

Finally, the Kenyon Queer and Trans Studies Conference models itself on practices of equity building in a number of ways. By making this conference free, we hope to eliminate some economic barriers that exist that may prohibit students from attending. We also consciously selected to offer a free breakfast and lunch, given that food insecurity is often an issue in marginalized communities. Lastly, we have also made a conscious effort to only utilize accessible spaces across our campus, when possible. We hope that these decisions will help you in further enjoying this new conference at Kenyon College!

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

8:15 - 8:45am ____ Registration and Check-In, Atrium in Peirce Hall

8:30 - 9:45am ____ Breakfast, Alumni Dining Room in Peirce Hall

10am - 2pm ____ HIV Testing Clinic, Cox Health and Counseling Center

10 - 10:45am ____ Session 1, various locations

11 - 11:45am ____ Session 2, various locations

12 - 1pm ____ Lunch, Peirce Pub in Peirce Hall

1:15 - 2pm ____ Keynote, Community Foundation Theater of Gund Gallery

2 - 6pm ____ Gender and/or Name Change Clinic, Gund Lower Commons

2:15 - 3pm ____ Session 3, various locations

3:15 - 4pm ____ Session 4, various locations

4:15 - 4:45pm ____ Queer and Trans Femme Meet-Up, Crozier Center for Women

4:45 - 5:15pm ____ Queer and Trans POC Meet-Up, Unity House

4:15 - 6pm ____ Closing/General Meet-Up, Gund Gallery

HIV TESTING CLINIC (10AM-2PM)

To ensure access to resources at the conference, we have coordinated a free HIV testing clinic. This resource is being provided by the Knox County Health Department, as they have acquired a grant for prevention programs provided for statistically higher risk communities. We encourage all interested attendees to utilize this free resource.

If you'd like to check your HIV status, simply drop into this clinic anytime during the open hours. No appointment or pre-registration is required. The testing being used at this clinic involves a slight prick of the finger, and results will be available in roughly 15 minutes.

In your conference tote bag, you'll also find additional information about pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to encourage discussions about HIV prevention in your respective communities.

Finally, the Knox County Health Department has information about a number of other public health programs and services that they provide, including LGBTQ+ smoking cessation programs and STI testing. This information is also available at the clinic.



SESSION 1 (10-10:45AM)

Healthcare and Technology

Title: Latinx Identities and Sexuality/Queerness

Featuring: Virginia Kane and Gerry Calles

Location: Samuel Mather Hall 202

Visual and Performing Arts

Title: (Invisible Album)

Featuring: Emma Reasoner

Location: Samuel Mather Hall 306

Humanities and Popular Culture

Title: Moving Beyond Welcome: Creating an Affirming Religious Community

Featuring: Jess Kotnour and Rachel Kessler

Location: Samuel Mather Hall 215

Politics, Society, and the Law

Title: Re-Envisioning LGBT Rights in Africa: Concerning the Role of Queer Theory
in International Relations

Featuring: Youssef Bellamy

Location: Hayes Hall 215

Community Interest

Title: Exploring Polyamory and Non-Monogamy

Featuring: Hailey Greenhalgh

Location: Hayes Hall 109

SESSION 2 (11-11:45AM)

Healthcare and Technology (cross-listed)

Title: Safe BDSM and Kink Practices

Featuring: Grace Harris

Location: Hayes Hall 109

Visual and Performing Arts

Title: Embodying Queer Spaces

Featuring: Will(ow) Green

Location: Hayes Hall 215

Humanities and Popular Culture (cross-listed)

Title: Safe BDSM and Kink Practices

Featuring: Grace Harris

Location: Hayes Hall 109

Politics, Society, and the Law

Title: Pigs and Umbrellas: Feminist, Queer, and Transgender Theory Reflected in
Trump's Transgender Policy

Featuring: Carissa Cunningham

Location: Samuel Mather Hall 306

Community Interest

Title: X, the Invisible Group: A Presentation on Asexuality

Featuring: Micah Smith and Nyandeng Juag

Location: Samuel Mather Hall 202

KEYNOTE ADDRESS (1:15-2PM)

Our keynote address will be delivered by Dr. Sa'ed Atshan (he/him) of Swarthmore College, and his address will center around the importance and impact of queer and trans studies in today's sociopolitical climate.

Dr. Atshan is an Assistant Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies at Swarthmore College. He previously served as a postdoctoral fellow at the Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University. He earned a joint Ph.D. in anthropology and middle eastern studies and an MA in social anthropology from Harvard University, and a Master in Public Policy (MPP) degree from the Harvard Kennedy School. He received his BA from Swarthmore in 2006. His research interests are at the intersection of peace and conflict studies, the anthropology of policy, critical development studies and gender and sexuality studies. He has two forthcoming books with Stanford University Press: *Queer Palestine and the Empire of Critique*, and *Paradoxes of Humanitarianism: The Social Life of Aid in the Palestinian Territories*.

Additionally, Dr. Atshan has been awarded multiple graduate fellowships, including from the Open Society Foundations, National Science Foundation, Social Science Research Council, Woodrow Wilson National Foundation, Andrew Mellon Foundation, and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. He is also the recipient of a Soros Fellowship and a Kathryn Davis Fellowship for Peace. He has worked for the American Civil Liberties Union, the UN High Commission on Refugees, Human Rights Watch, Seeds of Peace, the Palestinian Negotiations Affairs Department, and the Government of Dubai. He is Quaker, grew up in Palestine, and is also an LGBTQ rights activist. Atshan serves on the board of the Arab Foundation for Freedoms and Equality, a Beirut-based organization that supports LGBTQ populations across the Middle East/North Africa region.

GENDER AND/OR NAME CHANGE CLINIC (2-6PM)

To ensure access to resources at the conference, we have coordinated a free gender and/or name change clinic. This resource is being provided by Equitas Health and TransOhio, who facilitate legal clinics across the state of Ohio. We encourage all interested attendees to utilize this free resource.

If you'd like to update your name and/or gender marker on state and/or federal documents, simply drop into this clinic anytime during the open hours, as no appointment or pre-registration is needed.

The amount of time needed to complete this process is dependent upon everyone's individual situation, and we will have multiple attorneys volunteering their time to assist with as many people as possible.

TransOhio also has information about scholarship opportunities to assist with the associated costs of updating your name and/or gender on various state and/or federal documents.



SESSION 3 (2:15-3PM)

Healthcare and Technology

Title: Navigating Queer Language in the Medical Sphere

Featuring: Clair Kronk

Location: Samuel Mather Hall 202

Visual and Performing Arts

Title: Dying to See You

Featuring: Masen Colucci

Location: Samuel Mather Hall 306

Humanities and Popular Culture

Title: Roll for Gender: Exploring and Re-Inserting Queerness in Dungeons and Dragons

Featuring: Cat March

Location: Samuel Mather Hall 215

Politics, Society, and the Law

Title: Teaching the AIDS Crisis Through Historical Roleplaying

Featuring: Bella Pori

Location: Hayes Hall 215

Community Interest

Title: Navigating Clothing as a Trans/GNC Person

Featuring: Drew Gillum and Dakota Sturgill

Location: Hayes Hall 109

SESSION 4 (3:15-4PM)

Healthcare and Technology (cross-listed)

Title: Transgender Researchers and Improving Self-Care

Featuring: Hailey Greenhalgh

Location: Samuel Mather Hall 202

Visual and Performing Arts

Title: Fat Dances Out of My Body Like a Gift: Fat Burlesque and the Promise and Peril of Fat Sexual Reclamation **Session Canceled by Presenter**

Featuring: Hanne Williams-Baron

Location: Hayes Hall 109

Humanities and Popular Culture

Title: Queer and Trans Voices

Featuring: Armiya "A" Shaikh and Maria "Ria" Peteet

Location: Samuel Mather Hall 215

Politics, Society, and the Law

Title: Interpretation of Statistics in the LGBTQ Community

Featuring: Micah Fisher

Location: Samuel Mather Hall 306

Community Interest (cross-listed)

Title: Transgender Researchers and Improving Self-Care

Featuring: Hailey Greenhalgh

Location: Samuel Mather Hall 202

QUEER & TRANS FEMME MEET-UP (4:15-4:45PM)

Prior to attending the closing/general meet-up, attendees, who self-identify as queer and/or trans femme people, have an opportunity to network with other attendees who also share that identity.

A loosely structured meet-up session is available in the Crozier Center for Women, and the purpose is to ensure that meaningful intra-community connections are made for our attendees who self-identify as queer and/or trans femme people.

A conference volunteer, who also shares this identity, will be present to assist with the maintenance of this space.

Light refreshments will be provided, courtesy of the Crozier Center for Women.

Note: This meet-up is reserved for people who self-identify as queer and/or trans femme individuals. Other attendees, who do not share this identity, are asked to respect this designated space and attend the closing/general meet-up during this time.



QUEER & TRANS POC MEET-UP (4:45-5:15PM)

Prior to attending the closing/general meet-up, attendees, who self-identify as queer and/or trans people of color, have an opportunity to network with other attendees who also share that identity.

A loosely structured meet-up session is available in Unity House, and the purpose is to ensure that meaningful intra-community connections are made for our attendees who self-identify as queer and/or trans people of color.

A conference volunteer, who also shares this identity, will be present to assist with the maintenance of this space.

Light refreshments will be provided, courtesy of Unity House.

Note: This meet-up is reserved for people who self-identify as queer and/or trans people of color. Other attendees, who do not share this identity, are asked to respect this designated space and attend the closing/general meet-up during this time.



CLOSING/GENERAL MEET-UP (4:15-6PM)

To conclude the conference, we hope that you will attend this final gathering/meet-up. At this event, you can network with both new and existing peers, while also sharing information and insights that you gained throughout the day.

At this meet-up, the Gund Gallery has graciously extended the hours of their exhibition spaces, so that conference attendees can enjoy the spring semester's shows. Each of these shows comments on masculinity and its impact on social and historical issues.

The Gund Gallery will also have staff members available to assist conference attendees with making a mock protest poster, which will then be displayed in the installation at the front of the gallery.

Light refreshments will be provided, courtesy of the Gund Gallery.

Content warning: Some pieces in the gallery make reference to gender-based and/or racialized violence and oppression. Each gallery entrance has been marked with content warnings.



OUR CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS

Our conference organizing committee consists of the following representatives from Kenyon College:

- Dr. Timothy R. Bussey (he/him),
Assistant Director
Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Willow Green (they/them)
Co-Manager
Crozier Center for Women
- Grace Harris (they/them)
Co-Manager
Unity House
- James Lituchy (he/him and they/them)
Co-Manager
Unity House
- Cat March (they/them)
Co-Facilitator
Gender Group
- Armiya "A" Shaikh (she/her)
Member
Sisterhood

OUR CAMPUS CO-SPONSORS

This conference was organized by the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Our campus co-sponsors include the following departments, groups, and organizations from Kenyon College: the Asian and Middle East Studies Program; the Cox Health and Counseling Center; the Crozier Center for Women; the Diversity Advisors; Gender Group; the Gund Gallery; the LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee; the Office of Student Accessibility Services; the Office of Student Engagement; Queer Masculinities Society; Unity House; and the Women's and Gender Studies Program.

Funding for this conference was provided in-part by the Kenyon College Community Development Fund and the Student LGBTQ+ Diversity Fund.



OUR COMMUNITY CO-SPONSORS

Our community co-sponsors, who are providing services, support, and/or other contributions to this conference and its attendees include the following:



We ARE Public Health!



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OUR COMMUNITY CO-SPONSORS, CONT.

Our community co-sponsors, who are providing items for the conference raffle, include the following:



FLUIDE

TOMBOY X



HARRINGTON PARK PRESS

LGBTQ / DIVERSITY Textbooks, Scholarly
and Professional Publications

OUR CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS FOR SESSION 1

Latinx Identities and Sexuality/Queerness

This presentation shows information, from a variety of psychological sources, on the Latinx queer intersection ranging from topics such as immigration, HIV status, mental health, and the youth. This presentation also features a variety of quotes from Kenyon students to emphasize the importance of Latinx queer identities in the greater community, as well as in our own.

(Invisible Album)

Sororities promise and demand a degree of intimacy between women that exceeds the bounds of "normal friends," but, under compulsory heterosexuality, sororal structures promote fictive kinship and de-eroticize intimacy between "sisters." Using autobiographical voice, this lecture will combine text and image to describe love between women as it takes a multiplicity of forms and blurs the lines between platonic, romantic, and familial modes.

Moving Beyond Welcome: Creating an Affirming Religious Community

Although religious spaces often claim to be welcoming, the LGBTQ community is often excluded. Over the past year, Harcourt Parish, an Episcopal congregation in Gambier, adopted a statement of welcoming and affirmation to the LGBTQ community. We will share the process that the parish went through and offer insights as to how the parish is living into their commitment.

Re-Envisioning LGBT Rights in Africa: Concerning the Role of Queer Theory in International Relations

In order to examine a broader assumption of queer rights advocacy as a Western province, we will examine the relationship between colonial policy and religion in the cases of Senegal and Uganda's same-sex criminalization, discuss portrayals of African lives wrestling with the dilemma of living authentically in intolerant spaces, and seek to understand how narratives and their mediums can inspire a re-envisioning of LGBT rights in non-Western contexts.

Exploring Polyamory and Non-Monogamy

Queer individuals are statistically more likely to be interested and open to polyamory and non-monogamy than their cisgender-straight peers, but for many people, the relationship style is new and unfamiliar. This will be a safe space for those who might be questioning or just starting to claim the identity. There will be an overview of terms (as the amount of them can sometimes be overwhelming), tips and tricks, and an open space for discussion and questions.

OUR CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS FOR SESSION 2

Safe BDSM and Kink Practices (cross-listed)

In this workshop, attendees can learn how to safely engage in BDSM practices, while being mindful of health and affirmative consent. Physical and psychological safety will be discussed, as kink can be physical, psychological, or both. Topics will include: scene navigation, safeword usage, bondage, impact play (i.e. spanking, etc.), and breath play. Expect a lively and practical discussion about safe kink and BDSM practices.

Embodying Queer Spaces

For a community whose bodies are treated as radical, feeling embodied is a radical act. Coming out of accessible dance practices and collaborative storytelling, this mindfulness workshop will offer an opportunity to engage with creative prompts that encourage self-exploration and expression. We will make space for ourselves, inside and out.

Pigs and Umbrellas: Feminist, Queer, and Transgender Theory Reflected in Trump's Transgender Policy

Transgender rights are under attack under the Trump administration, and yet, there is little international outcry. I will argue that transgender people have not organized on the international level, because they are written out of UN documents due to 'strategic' concessions rooted in distinctly feminist arguments over the identity of 'women.' The Trump administration is responding to feminist debates about the category 'women,' and this session will explore this topic as well.

X, The Invisible Group: A Presentation on Asexuality

The Kinsey Scale identifies the population that experiences "no socio-sexual contacts or reactions" as 'X' at the bottom of the graph. This 'X', around 1-2% of the population, represents people who identify as asexual, but identifying as ace shouldn't put a box around one's orientation. We will discuss how every asexual (ace) or a-spec (on the asexual spectrum) person has a unique experience, while also offering insights about the language around those experiences.

OUR CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS FOR SESSION 3

Navigating Queer Language in the Medical Sphere

Encompassing past, present, and future treatment of LGBTQIA+ individuals in healthcare, this workshop presentation will discuss the development of the gender, sex, and sexual orientation (GSSO) controlled vocabulary. Important points will include LGBTQIA+ education for medical professionals, preservation and awareness of the discrimination and pathologization endured, and the evolving intimate relationship that terminology shares with the LGBTQIA+ community.

Dying to See You

Dying to See You is a short film written and directed by Masen Colucci; the film centers around a young man, who returns to his hometown to attend the funeral that his mother is holding for him. This presentation will include a screening of the film, followed by a Q&A and discussion about trans* representation in the television and film. Finally, this workshop will conclude with a discussion of why it's important to cast trans* actors.

Roll for Gender: Exploring and Re-Inserting Queerness in Dungeons and Dragons

Come talk about the endless possibilities within D&D! By creating campaigns and characters, you create a space for you and your friends to exist and explore safely, in a world free of hetero/cisnormativity. The ultimate goal of trans/queer D&D is to give trans and queer people the opportunity to envision themselves as heroes in a fantasy landscape, and this workshop will discuss the importance of queer and trans representation in these gaming spaces.

Teaching the AIDS Crisis Through Historical Roleplaying

Using primary source texts, role-playing, strategy, and elements of tabletop gaming, students can put themselves in the historical moment of the AIDS crisis from 1982 to 1985. We will explore how taking on the roles of people who have actually lived allows us to invest in and retain the complicated elements of history. We will also overview Reacting to the Past and studies that show the power of game-based learning.

Navigating Clothing as a Trans/GNC Person

Finding clothes that fit properly is a major hurdle that many trans and GNC folks face. Clothes made with cisgender bodies in mind often do not come in the size range that accommodate trans bodies and needs. Brands that cater to trans and GNC bodies often come with inaccessible price tags. We will discuss both the difficulties facing and resources available to trans and GNC folks, who are trying to find clothes that fit them, their gender expression, and their style.

OUR CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS FOR SESSION 4

Transgender Researchers and Improving Self-Care (cross-listed)

Within-community research is common among queer academics and is important to further academic discourse, but it can be incredibly taxing on the researcher's self. This is especially true for research focusing on physical and sexual violence, the political environment, human rights, healthcare, youth, and more. This workshop introduces self-care tools to improve mental health while researching topics related to one's own identity.

Fat Dances Out of My Mouth Like a Gift: Fat Burlesque and the Promise and Peril of Fat Sexual Reclamation
How should a fat body be? Should she dance? Should she move for a crowd? If she does so, is she a diva or a slob? Fat burlesque dancers occupy a curious space within contemporary dance: lauded by liberal audiences for their inspiring bravery but ignored and belittled in their sexual autonomy. For fat dancers whose sexuality is emphasized on the stage, the "camp" nature of burlesque can be both liberating and silencing. This reading disrupts binary readings of fat embodiment and carves new space for fat strangeness, fat joy, and fat imagination.

Queer & Trans Voices

This session will involve a reading that showcases queer and trans student poets. Come join us for a glimpse into what queerness and transness looks like at Kenyon College and learn more about these experiences through a creative lens. There will a short question and answer session afterward. A reading list of some quintessential queer and trans writers will be available for those wishing to hear and learn more about this intersection outside of the Kenyon College community.

Interpretation of Statistics in the LGBTQ Community

Where do the numbers we know about trans suicide attempts actually come from? What communities are most at risk? How can we learn more about queer and trans communities and the struggles they face? This talk will go over data collection methods for the study of LGBTQ people, examine the limitations inherent in them, focus in on the misconceptions about our community, and explore how to deepen our knowledge in the future.

OUR CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Listed in alphabetical order, our conference presenters include the following:

Youssef Bellamy (he/him) is a doctoral candidate at the University of Connecticut and adjunct faculty member at Eastern Connecticut State University. His work is interdisciplinary in scope, and relatedly, he cherishes the ability to use his intersectional identity (queer, black and Muslim) to engage others through relatability and understanding.

Gerry Calles (they/them and he/him) is a first year student at Kenyon College.

Masen Colucci (he/him) is a film major and English minor at Kenyon College, and he hopes to pursue a career in film or digital content post-graduation.

Carissa Cunningham (she/her) is a doctoral student in political science at Rutgers University. She recently completed her undergraduate degree in political science at Arizona State University in 2017. Her research interests include female combatants in freedom fighter or terrorist organizations, feminism as it relates to political studies, and homeless youth in Phoenix, Arizona.

Micah Fisher (he/him) is a junior Math major at Kenyon College. He is a resident of Kenyon's LGBTQ+ house, Unity House, and he co-leads the student-run Gender Group on campus. In his free time, he acts as Social Chair of Kenyon College's Men's Rugby team.

Drew Gillum (they/them) is a sophomore Music Education major at Wright State University. They are nonbinary, queer, and transmasculine. They are also an executive board member of WSU's Rainbow Alliance.

Willow Green (they/them) is a English w/Creative Writing and Dance double major at Kenyon College. They are interested in creating healing collaborative work that engages with self-exploration and communal identities.

Hailey B. Greenhalgh (they/them) is a Ph.D. candidate in the Dept. of Political Science and a graduate teaching assistant in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program at the University of Connecticut. Their research centers on transgender human rights, transgender violence, polyamory, self-care in research, and long-distance relationships.

Grace Harris (they/them) is a first generation junior in Russian area studies, sociology, and women's and gender studies at Kenyon College. They are also a co-manager for Unity House.

Nyandeng Juag (she/her) is a first year student at Kenyon College, and she identifies as asexual. Nyandeng is from Augusta, Georgia.

Virginia Kane (she/her) is a first year student at Kenyon College.

OUR CONFERENCE PRESENTERS, CONT.

Rachel Kessler (she/her) is the chaplain at Kenyon College and priest-in-charge at Harcourt Parish in Gambier, Ohio.

Jess Kolnour (they/them) is a senior at Kenyon College and a member of Harcourt Parish's vestry. They are discerning a call to the diaconate in the Episcopal Church and volunteer with Church Clarity.

Clair Kronk (she/her) is a trans woman and a Ph.D. candidate in biomedical informatics at the University of Cincinnati. Her research interests are diverse, but her current work focuses on the connection between language in medicine, technology (electronic health records), and social determinants of health (SDOH).

Cat March (they/them and he/him) is a senior English and Women's and Gender Studies double major at Kenyon College. They're a current co-leader of Gender Group and a founding member of Kenyon's Transgender Subcommittee. When they're not DM-ing, Cat can be found reading/writing poetry, chilling with their guinea pigs, and re-watching Brooklyn Nine-Nine.

Maria "Ria" Peteet (she/her), of Kenyon College, is a trans poet from Atlanta. She uses her poetry to try to understand her ownership over her home and her home's ownership over her.

Bella Pori (she/her) is a law student and game designer in Brooklyn, New York. She utilizes historical immersion and the pedagogy of "reacting to the past" to teach about queer history and the intersection of gay rights and the government.

Emma Reasoner (she/her) is a current MFA candidate at Ohio University's program in photography and integrated media. She received her bachelor's degree in political science from Denison University in 2015. Reasoner engages text, image, and fiber art to describe interior queer worlds between women/femmes.

Armiya "A" Shaikh (she/her), of Kenyon College, is a queer-non binary immigrant who splits her time between her love for numbers and poetry.

Micah Smith (they/them) is a first year student at Kenyon College, and they identify as asexual. Micah is from Chicago, Illinois.

Dakota Sturgill (he/him) is a senior Classics major at Wright State University. He is a plus-sized, pansexual trans man. He is also an executive board member of WSU's Rainbow Alliance.

Hanne William-Baron (she/her) is a senior at Oberlin College studying comparative American studies and gender, sexuality, and feminist studies. Hanne is particularly interested in fat embodiment and the somatics of trauma. Her work has been published in UCLA's Graphite Journal and the Wilder Voice Press, among others.

