

Mission

The primary mission of *My Name Is My Own* is to provide institutional support to Oberlin communities that identify as queer and of color in the broadest senses of those words. In pursuit of this goal, *My Name Is My Own* supports and creates multiple and varied spaces in order to allow for:

Support, reflection and community-building within queer communities of color at Oberlin
Education and confrontation of oppressive praxis in non-queer and/or non-PoC Oberlin communities and individuals
Inter- and intra-community coalition-building

These spaces encourage participants to explore the construction and experience of race and sexuality, gender and sex in various communities, foregrounding the experiences, concerns and work of queer people of color. In our exploration of these realities, *My Name Is My Own* commits to:

Being accountable to transformative anti-oppressive thought, conversation and action
Examining histories, present realities and visions of the future
Honoring our ties to national, transnational and global communities and dynamics
Honoring our local connections and particularities
Honoring differences and particularities within and across communities and building coalition and solidarity
Examining and confronting privilege
Increasing support for queer of color individuals and communities at Oberlin College

In this inaugural year of the series, our goal is to support and create as many of these spaces and conversations as possible; to challenge the Oberlin College community to expand our understanding and commitment to queer communities of color and anti-oppressive struggle.

*I am not wrong: wrong is not my name
My name is my own my own my own*

-from June Jordan, "Poem About My Rights"



**This series is dedicated to Gloria Anzaldúa,
who passed away on May 15, 2004.**



A collaborative effort by the Multicultural Resource Center, Comparative American Studies, the Edmonia Lewis Center for Women and Transgender People, the Working Our Way Home conference, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, and the Center for Service and Learning.

Series Events

Catrióna Esquibel: “From the Aztec Princess to the Zapatista: Chicana Lesbian Representation and ‘The Indigenous Woman’”

November 15, 2004 – West Lecture Hall – 8pm

Catrióna Esquibel is the author of the forthcoming book “With Her Machete In Her Hand: Reading Chicana Lesbians” and an Assistant Professor of Women’s Studies at OSU, teaching courses such as “Representations of Chicana Lesbians.”

¡Viva La Vida! Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Gloria Anzaldúa

November 16, 2004 – Edmonia Lewis Center - Noon

A luncheon featuring reflections and readings by students, faculty and staff, honoring the life, work and legacy of the late Gloria Anzaldúa.

Making Community On Film: Film Nights

February 13 and 20, 2005 – Multicultural Resource Center – 7pm

Join us for movie snacks, good company, and screenings of three Oberlin student films (“Though We Are All Queer, Queer Is Not All We Are” “Border Edge Home” “Revolutionary Love: The Definition”) and video of Audre Lorde’s 1989 Oberlin commencement address.

Emi Koyama: “Colonialism and the Queer Adoption Discourse”

March 16, 2005 – West Lecture Hall – 8pm

Emi Koyama self-identifies as a multi-issue social justice slut synthesizing feminist, Asian, survivor, dyke, queer, sex worker, intersex, genderqueer, and crip politics, as these factors, while not a complete descriptor of who she is, all impacted her life. Emi is currently the director of Intersex Initiative. *Her visit is cosponsored by the Edmonia Lewis Center for Women and Transgender People.*

From Discussion to Action

March 23, 2005 - Edmonia Lewis Center - noon

A practical conversation with Allison Curseen Campus/Community Collaboration Leader on moving from thought to action in the service of queer communities of color. In this conversation, the group will actively explore challenges, possibilities and strategies for bringing activism into the community as individuals and as a group.

Open to all.

Martin Manalansan IV: “Whose Queer Eye?: The Search for Race and Queerness in the Neoliberal City”

April 12 – West Lecture Hall – 4:30pm

Martin Manalansan IV is author of the recent, much-acclaimed book “Global Divas: Filipino Gay Men in the Diaspora” and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. *His visit and lecture are cosponsored by Oberlin’s Comparative American Studies Program and Leading Edge Funds.*

Lance McCready: “When Fitting In Isn’t an Option: The Marginalization of Gay and Gender Non-Conforming Black Male Students in an Urban High School”

April 22, 2005 – West Lecture Hall - 4:30pm

Lance McCready received his Ph.D. in Social and Cultural Studies with a designated emphasis in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from the University of California, Berkeley. His research and writing focuses on institutional marginalization, Black subjectivities, identity formation, urban education, masculinities, queer youth, community arts, and West African dance and culture. He is currently preparing a book-length manuscript on the ways gender and sexuality compound the marginalization of Black gay male students in an inner-city high school. In addition to being an academic, he is an accomplished dancer specializing in movement styles that fuse West African and modern dance. *Prof. McCready’s visit is in conjunction with the conference “Working Our Way Home: ‘We Are the People We’ve Been Waiting For.’”*

Pauline Park

April 25 – West Lecture Hall – 4:30pm

Pauline Park is co-founder and co-chair of the New York Association for Gender Rights Advocacy (NYAGRA), the first statewide transgender advocacy organization in New York. Pauline led the campaign for the NYC gender rights bill enacted in 2002. She has a Ph.D in political science with a focus on International Relations, and has written widely on race, ethnicity and LGBT issues. Park also co-founded Gay Asians & Pacific Islanders of Chicago (GAPIC) in 1994, and founded Iban/Queer Koreans of New York in 1997. *Dr. Park’s visit is in coalition with APA Heritage Month.*