

The Queer Studies Award

Information and application packet

For the twenty-first year, the Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality at Columbia University is proud to present the Queer Studies Award. Established in 1994, this prize is meant to honor an undergraduate student for his or her excellence in research and writing in the rapidly growing fields of queer studies, queer theory, and gender studies. Its purpose is twofold: to recognize undergraduate students - who often have few opportunities for such recognition - for their superb intellectual achievement, and to provide students interested in the discipline with an instructional framework in which to work.

The Queer Studies Awards Committee is composed of Columbia University faculty and staff who organize and coordinate the awards, and an interdisciplinary group of Columbia University and Barnard College faculty who are responsible for selecting the winners. The committee encourages undergraduates from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences to submit a paper for consideration for the cash award. It encourages papers that investigate the connections between sexuality, gender, race, class, nationality, and religion. In keeping with the open spirit of investigation that characterizes these disciplines, the committee sets no topical, ideological, or methodological requirements for submissions, and generally looks for papers that exhibit clarity, originality, ambition, and those that are informed by, and engage in, large critical issues. (There is another award for Women's and Gender Studies. Students are invited to enter both contests, but must enter a different essay for each contest.)

The Queer Studies Group will continue its support of undergraduates through the annual Queer Studies Awards. For more information, please contact the Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality at (212) 854-3277, or write to: irwgs@columbia.edu.

Eligibility

1. Only papers written by ***undergraduate students*** registered at Barnard or Columbia will be accepted. This means that candidates must be registered students at one of the following schools: Barnard College, Columbia College, the School of General Studies (except post-Bac and MLA programs), and the School of Engineering and Applied Science.
2. All papers must be no more than twenty-five (25) pages in length.
3. Papers from every discipline will be accepted, as long as they are non-fiction and are queer (broadly defined) in scope, focus, or perspective.
4. No previously published work will be accepted
5. Papers submitted for previous consideration, which did not win a prize, may be submitted again for reconsideration
6. Only one entry per student will be accepted.
7. Students may enter both the Women's and Gender Studies contest as well as the Queer Studies contest, but must submit *two different* essays if they are entering the two different contests.

Submission Information

1. This year's DEADLINE for submission is **5:00pm, Monday, April 18, 2016**. ***No papers will be accepted past 5:00pm on that day.*** Papers must be submitted to the Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality at 763 Schermerhorn Extension.
2. All papers must be titled, typed, and double-spaced in standard paper format. This means 11 or 12-point type, standard one-inch margins, page numbers, and full references and citations. Include any reprints of any art or visual aids if necessary.
3. Do not put your name anywhere on your paper. ***All papers will be judged anonymously. Your paper will be disqualified if your name appears on it.*** Your name should appear **only** on the Application Form. Submit the completed form with the required number of copies of your paper.

Judging and prizes

1. While no formula is used to determine which papers will win, committee members look for such qualities as clarity, originality, ambition, and how the paper is informed by or engaged in large critical issues.
2. The Prize is \$250.00. To ensure fairness in the judging, and depending on the number and nature of the submissions, a special prize may be established for the best senior thesis.
3. All decisions are final.

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Application form

Complete the following form and submit along with **FOUR (4) COPIES OF YOUR PAPER by 5:00pm, Monday, April 18, 2016** to the Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality, 763 Schermerhorn Extension. Please make sure that your name appears on this sheet only, and nowhere else on your paper. Again, your paper will be disqualified if your name appears on it. Questions should be referred to IRWGS.

Full name (please print) _____

Major/Concentration _____

School: BC CC SEAS GS Graduation year: _____

Title of your paper _____

Is this your senior thesis? Yes No Total pages _____

Current address: _____

Permanent address: _____

Email address: _____

By signing below, I agree to abide by the rules and conditions for submissions to the Queer Studies Awards, and certify that I am the author of the attached papers, and that the above information is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature _____ Date _____

Staff use only: Received by _____ Code _____

Date _____ Time _____