

# QSoCC 2013

## Radical Self-Care and The Decolonized Mind



Queer Students of Color Program  
Portland State University  
PO Box 751  
Portland OR 97207-751

## Friday

*5-7 Parkway North (Smith Memorial Student Union 1<sup>st</sup> Floor)*

### **Registration/Meet’N’Greet**

Come pick up your conference materials, pay your registration if needed, and meet local Queer Organizations.

*7-9 Parkway North (Smith Memorial Student Union 1<sup>st</sup> Floor)*

### **DJ Dance Party Featuring Monika MHZ**



Technical proficiency and trickery to be rivaled only by a mad scientist, Monika MHZ uses the full arsenal features and glitches of whatever equipment she’s up against with unmatched creative and technical expertise to build something fresh and fun. Well regarded as “one of the most technically knowledgeable DJs this side of the continent,” she plays only the best house. That counts for exclusive, original tracks, and remixes — from Miss Palmer to Tegan & Sara — that have been blowing up dance floors around the world.

With a high energy performance that would make a 5 year-old on a sugar rush look shy, this loud redheaded Latina brings a show that shakes dance floors to their knees. And she has no intention of stopping anytime soon.

## Saturday

*10 am – 11:30 am Room 328*

**Stephanie D. Johnson**

**The "A" Word: Exclusion..is..Enough! (open)**

The aim of this workshop is to demonstrate how having hearing privilege violates true collective work to make a social change by refusing to acknowledge audism. To shift audism away from ableism for The Deaf/Deaf Blind/Hard of Hearing queer community is must needed to ensure collective work to make a social change. To analyze how intersections of Deaf/DeafBlind/Hard of Hearing Queer /Queer POC and other identities impacts the larger community and the strength of the impact on both communities.

*10 am – 12 pm Room 327*

**Cory Kirshner-Lira and Jess Mease**

**QTPOCAS Queer Trans People of Color and Size: A discussion of Visibility (closed)**

Using personal experiences and conversation, this workshop looks at the often ignored experiences and discourse of size/fatness within the QTPOC community. The primary goal of this workshop is to create visibility for the rarely discussed issues of fatness/health, identity as QTPOCAS , and the identity/body politics this identity may hold for people.

*11:40 am – 12:30 pm Room 328*

**Tonya Jones**

**See Me: Issues that Affect Our Lives, Acts of Resistance Against Oppression and Black Feminist Thought (open)**

The purpose of the workshop is to encourage Black women to use their voices to speak out against racist and sexist acts that degrade Black womanhood. The creative process of zine making, can be empowering for Black women. The workshop will conclude with a short video called "Black Issues Forum: Empowering Force of Feminist Teaching," an interview with noted Black feminist/womanist, Dr. Alexis P. Gumbs.

*11:40 am – 12:30 pm Room 329*

**Nicole Sangsuree Boeh-Barrett, Jasmin Thana, Kirk Rea, Sajani Patel**

**Creating a Sense of Place: Nature and Our Identities as Queer People of Color (open)**

What are our eco-histories as queer people of color? How do our relationships with nature create or support a sense of place within our unique identities? Reconnecting with nature may help us de-colonize our minds, healing fractured identities as we embrace wholeness and interdependence. This panel discussion will allow you to explore and reflect on the role of nature in our lives. A dynamic panel of QPOC will share their own personal stories about nature, race and sexuality.

## Lunch (on own)

*1:30-2:30 pm MCC (Room 228)*

### Keynote: Mia Mingus



Mia Mingus is a queer physically disabled woman of color, Korean transracial and transnational adoptee writer and organizer. Through her work on disability justice and transformative justice to end child sexual abuse, she recognizes the *urgency* and *barriers* for oppressed communities to work together and build solidarity for liberation. She works for community, interdependency and home for all of us. Over the years, her activism has included work addressing reproductive justice, queer liberation, cross-movement building, feminism, transracial and transnational adoptees, radical women of color racial justice, disability justice, transformative justice, child sexual abuse, challenging privilege and anti-oppression and community building. She also has a passion for community fundraising and communication skills.

*2:45pm – 3:30pm Room 328*

**Raven E. Heavy Runner**  
**Two Spirit People and The Decolonization Process (open)**

Colonization had a devastating effect on Indigenous People and Two-Spirit People are no exception. By examining how colonization has effected Indigenous People in general and Two-Spirit People specifically, we can learn to decolonize ourselves, our families and our communities for the betterment of All Our Relations. This presentation will analyze history, our communities and ourselves to see how we can play an instrumental part in being change agents. This will be done by informing ourselves, dialoguing, and creating personal and community plans towards the process of decolonization.

*2:45 pm – 4:15 pm Room 327*

**Kodey Park Bambino**  
**Our Families: The Trials and Triumphs of LGBT Families of Color (open)**

Come and learn about “Our Families,” a project dedicated to increasing the visibility of LGBT families of color within communities of color! We’ll showcase 4 inspirational short videos that highlight the trials and triumphs of our unique families. We’ll also talk about how to get involved with exciting “on the ground” work to ensure political victories for our communities in the Oregon legislature. Our Families is a project of Basic Rights Oregon, a statewide organization committed to ensuring all LGBT people experience equality . For more information about Basic Rights Oregon or Our Families please visit our website: [www.basicrights.org/ourfamilies](http://www.basicrights.org/ourfamilies).

*3:45 pm – 5:15 pm Room 328*

**Dana Joud and Mimi Alcantar**  
**Honoring Ourselves, Honoring Our Dimensions: Navigating the In-Between While Telling Our Stories (Closed)**

How do we honor ourselves in spaces that devalue our identities and roles in society? How do we fill ourselves in paradigms that are constantly starving us? Through the medium of poetry and storytelling we will be exploring the roles migration and assimilation play in our identities; cultivating the tools to translate our constant “shape-shifting” and validate our wholeness and visibility.

*4:15 pm – 5:05 pm Room 329*

**Crystal Davis**  
**Reiki: Healing the QPoC Community (open)**

Many folks have heard of “Reiki”—but, what is it and how does it work? How does it compare to bodywork and other energy healing modalities? Reiki (pronounced “ray-

key”) is a Japanese form of energy healing that allows a practitioner to work with a recipient to promote stress reduction, facilitate relaxation, and create a collaborative healing experience. During this workshop you will learn more about Reiki, the importance of maintaining the health of our energetic systems, the potential of Reiki to heal the individual on multiple levels (physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually) and why it is a powerful tool to have in your self-care knapsack.

## **Dinner on Own**

*6:00 pm – 6:30 pm MCC/Smith 228*

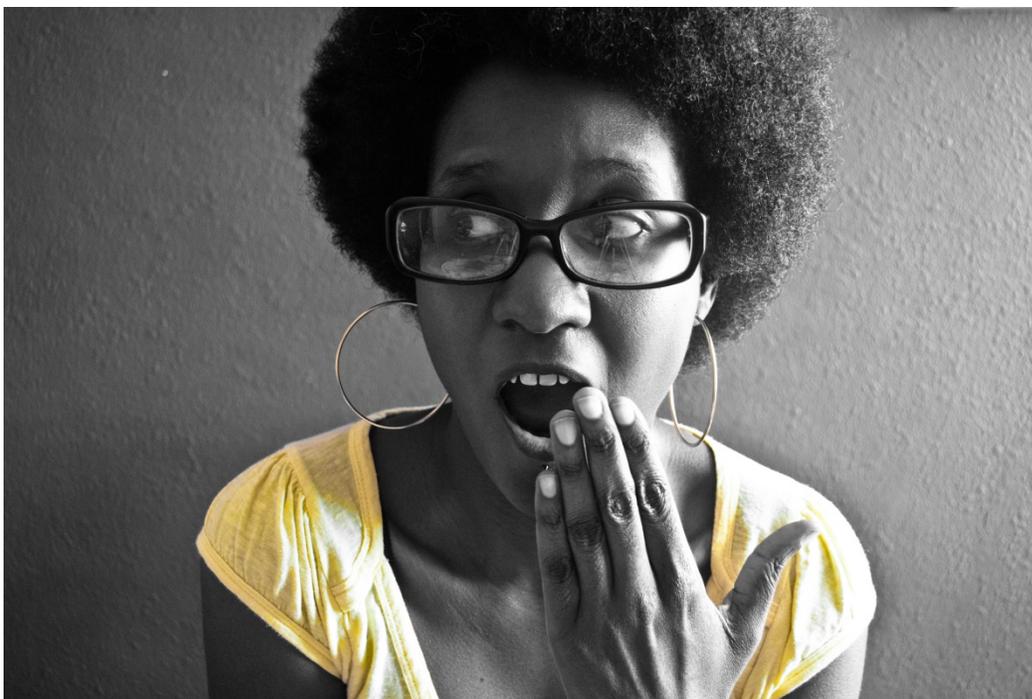
### **Caucusing/A Red Girl’s Reasoning**

Open space in the MCC will be provided for folks who want to sit together and talk about community building from within one or more of the identities groups indicated on your registration. We will also be showing A Red Girl’s Reasoning.

*6:30 pm – 7:30 pm MCC/Smith 228*

### **Evening/Closing Plenary: Mia McKenzie**

**How to Be Happier and More Dangerous: On Radical QPOC Love and Self-Love**



[Mia McKenzie](#) is an award-winning writer and the creator of *Black Girl Dangerous*. She’s a smart, scrappy Philadelphian with a deep love of fake fur collars and people of

color. She's a black feminist and a freaking queer. She studied writing at the University of Pittsburgh. She is the winner of the Astraea Foundation's Writers Fund Award ('09) and the Leeway Foundation's Transformation Award ('12). You can find her short stories in [The Kenyon Review](#) and *make/shift*. Her debut novel, [The Summer We Got Free](#), is a finalist for the 2013 Lambda Literary Award and has been described by author and critic Jewelle Gomez as "a brilliant tapestry filled with exuberance and anxiety." Her recent live performances include *Queer Rebels of the Harlem Renaissance*, *Mangos With Chili Presents: WHIPPED! QTPOC Recipes For Love, Sex & Disaster*, and *Black Girl Dangerous: Mia McKenzie on Being A Queer Black Femme Nerd In A Ridiculous World*, the last of those being a signature reading of her diverse works, performed at universities across the country. Her work has been quoted on *The Melissa Harris Perry Show* and recommended by *The Root*, *Colorlines*, *Feministing*, *Angry Asian Man*, and *Crunk Feminist Collective*, among others. She lives in Oakland.

## Sunday

9 am – 9:50 am Room 328

**Showing: Milind Soman Made Me Gay & Queer Immigration Stories with Jackie Altamirano (open)**

We will watch the film and then have a guided discussion about the intersections of immigration and queerness and what policies or activism can help address qtpoc needs.

9am – 9:50 am Room 329

**Monty Herron, Daniel Simon, Sonny Nguyen, and Peter Molof QTPOC Men and Cultural Masculinity (closed)**

We will have an open discussion about masculine of center identities in the queer community, moderated by a panel of discussants. Information will include individual decisions, groups for Queer Men run out of university settings, trans masculinities, etc.

10 am – 11:30 Room 327

**Rio and Ana.bel  
BDSM/BIKE KINK FOR QUEER/TRANS PEOPLE OF COLOR: reinventing sex, pleasure and the erotic (closed)**

Let's talk about sex and the ways BDSM/kink decolonizes and re-defines our sexuality. Let's share stories, deconstruct "normal" sex, and expand our ways to have sex/make love/enjoy the erotic. Let's whip out the whips and our other handcrafted devices to discuss the make of sex toys do not compromise our earth, our hard earned cash, nor our spirits. Let's dabble into what play time can look like- transformative, healthy, consensual, and pleasurable. BDSM/kink practices can help enhance our lives and

communication in the bedroom and beyond. This is a mutual sharing and learning space. Check-us out: [facebook.com/masociclistas](https://www.facebook.com/masociclistas)

*10 am – 11:30 Room 329*

**Theresa I. Soto**

**Self-Care for Your Spiritual Side: Embodiment and Heart (open)**

For the person of color and the activist, self-care for the spirit may be a low priority. Centering on voices other than the usual dominant ones and the common figures can help us get in touch with traditions and ideas that are meaningful and offer solace. Trusting our bodies as the sites where miracles and magic happen allows us to build loving relationships with ourselves. This is the place from which unshakeable self-care can spring. How can our relationships with our bodies feed our spirits? How does the spiritual context for our work add to our resiliency?

*11:30am – 12:30pm MCC/Smith 228*

**Sunday Plenary: Vivek Shraya**

**What I love about being a Queer Person Of Colour**



Description: This plenary includes the opportunity to take a photograph and tell your own story about what you love about being queer.

Bio: Vivek Shraya is a Toronto-based multimedia artist, working in the mediums of music, performance, literature and film. Vivek also creates and delivers workshops and guest lectures about writing, art, gender, sexuality and homophobia, and currently facilitates the [Supporting Our Youth Pink Ink writing program](#) for queer, transgender, Two-Spirit and questioning youth writers. His first collection of short stories, [God Loves](#)

[Hair](#), was a 2011 Lambda Literary Award finalist, won the Applied Arts Award for Illustration in 2010, and is currently being used as a textbook at several post-secondary institutions. Vivek was nominated for LGBTQ Person of the Year in the [2012 INSPIRE Awards](#), and was #1 on *Nightlife*'s list of "[Reasons 2011 was a Queer Year](#)". He is currently adapting *What I LOVE about being QUEER* into an art book, and working on his next writing project. His new short film, [What I LOVE about being QUEER](#), premièred in Toronto in June and will be making its Pacific NW debut at QSoCC.

## Lunch on Own

*1:30pm – 2:20 pm Room 327*

**Olivia**

**Goodbye Cruel World and Dear Johns: How to Write the Letters You Will Never Send (closed)**

Cathartic letter writing and confessions can give the writer a way of dealing with the everyday tolls of White American Terrorism on the Body and Mind. We sometimes need to find out what we would say if we weren't responsible to anyone for our words, so we can we speak freely at least alone. If you can't speak the truth, you're not alive, and they can't hear it, then they're not either.

*1:30pm – 2:20pm Room 328*

**Galadriel Mozee**

**"Our revolution will not be on a diet: Self-love and body revolution in communities of color" (closed)**

This open dialogue workshop will center on the foundations of fat activism and body liberation work as it pertains to communities of color. We will discuss the impact of POC's work in the area of body liberation and resources for new and experienced fat activists to practice self-care, radical acceptance and action. This workshop is a beginning activist level learning space in which the voices of self-identified QPOC and size will be centered.

*1:30pm - 2:20pm Room 329*

**Samantha Taylor**

**Bias Incident Reporting as a Form of Resistance (open)**

When we are armed with the knowledge to navigate complex systems of power, we strengthen the skills required to take care of ourselves and each another. By reporting bias incidents on campus we are taking advantage of an institutionally backed way to support our own and each other's, marginalized identities. Colleges and universities should be held accountable for the happenings in and out of classrooms, including behaviors of its students, staff and faculty. Let's talk about how to report and why it is

important for us to be well-informed of the laws and policies in our higher education institution.

*2:30pm - 4:30 pm Room 327*

**Monika London**

**Passing, Visibility, and Oppression (open)**

The false dichotomy of passing versus visibility, in a variety of contexts (race, trans, sexuality, etc.), ties as a singular catalyst to oppression individuals perceptions of visibility. The goal is to expand both mine and the audience's perceptions of the axis of oppression beyond our own perceptions of visibility. And to ultimately, have the audience leave the room with a wider understanding of oppression dynamics, and how the constructs of passing and visibility are damaging to the effective systemic change and greater goals that would begin to shift those same oppression dynamics.

*2:30pm - 4:30pm Room 328*

**Sonny Nguyen**

**Spoken Word: Storytelling for Survival (open)**

What happens when we use the language of our oppressors as a tool for revolution? National prize-winning poet Sonny Nguyen will lead a discussion on the power of storytelling as a self-care tool as they share their arsenal of spoken word skills. Participants will practice their own writing skills and have an opportunity to practice their performance skills as well.

*2:30pm -4:00pm Room 329*

**Sarah Camiscoli**

**Facilitating Radical Love in School Communities in Conflict (open)**

Schools pattern their communities with colonial structures of dominance, passivity, social hierarchy, and violence. While they commit this violence, they offer the opportunity for transformation through teaching and learning. Knowing that schools are built upon this paradox, why not focus our radical, queer energies to engage with these conflicts on a personal, more intimate level? This workshop will investigate how everyday conflicts that emerge inside school buildings may actually provide the opportunity for radical love: the opportunity to transform colonial legacies of power, queer roles of teacher/ student, and promote forgiveness and understanding through vulnerability, openness, and political consciousness. Participants will partake in one open mediation discussion and one restorative circle to engage with several practices that may be used to facilitate transformation and understanding in the face of school-based conflict.

## Supporting Our Own

Besides our wonderful speakers, the following people made this conference possible through donation of time, support, money, and/or labor:

Basic Rights Oregon: Racial Justice Program

<http://www.basicrights.org/programs/racial-justice/>

Seahdom Edmo

Harjant Gill

[http://www.tilotamaproductions.com/Tilotama\\_Productions/HOME.html](http://www.tilotamaproductions.com/Tilotama_Productions/HOME.html)

Matt Hosanna

William LeeRoy

David Martinez

Mario Parker Mulligan

Cristy C. Road

<http://www.croadcore.org/bio.htm>

Elle Maija Tailfeathers

<http://blogs.vancouver.sun.com/2012/03/11/a-hungry-crew-is-not-a-happy-crew/>

The PSU Trans and IPV Program

<http://www.pdx.edu/queer>

The QRC Volunteers past and present

**Thank you all so much!**

## Consider Giving Back

The following artists have given their time, their thoughts, and/or their skill to the QSoC Program this year and to various QTPOC Communities. Please consider donating to help them do the work they do.

### The Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project

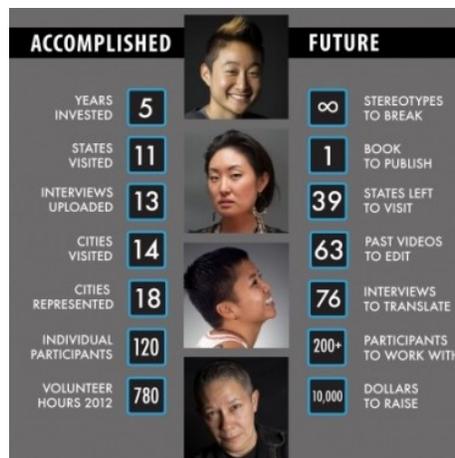
<http://www.qwocmap.org/>

QWOCMAP provides professional training, equipment, screening opportunities and resources free of charge to guarantee full access to our traditionally underserved community, particularly young, low-income and immigrant queer women of color. They actively bridge seemingly disparate populations to transform and empower our filmmakers, audiences and communities through art, activism and community building. We actively invest in, develop and nurture the creativity of emerging media artists who are Asian/Pacific Islander, African Descent/Black, Chicana/Latina, Native American/Indigenous/First Nations, South Asian, Southwest Asian/North African/Middle Eastern and Mixed-Race lesbians, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning women in the Bay Area.

After a fundraising event, more than \$10,000 worth of equipment copies of 30 films, footage from the event, and documents created for our Filmmaker Training Program workshops over 100s of hours of work, was stolen. We need to raise \$50,000 by the end of June so that we can continue our programs.

### The Visibility Project

<http://www.crowdrise.com/VisibilityProject/fundraiser/elizabethsy>



[The Visibility Project](http://www.crowdrise.com/VisibilityProject/fundraiser/elizabethsy) is the most comprehensive intergenerational national photo and video platform that publishes collected histories of the Queer Asian American Women and Trans\* community. Mia urgently needs your support to continue this work.