

Queer Analytic Philosophy Conference

Abstract

We seek seed funding to support the second annual Queer Analytic Philosophy (Queer Aφ) Conference, a first of its kind space dedicated to analytic philosophical work informed by queer experience. The 2025 conference brought together over 80 participants for a two-day event with panels on ethics, language, identity, and love and sex, all explored through queer philosophical frameworks. In 2026, we aim to expand to a three-day program that includes a public philosophy lecture, a poster session, and a graduate paper prize. The conference offers a rare and vital venue for rigorous, queer-informed analytic work. It also creates a one-of-a-kind networking opportunity for LGBTQ+ philosophers, especially early-career scholars and those at under-resourced institutions, to build community. This funding will help institutionalize this unique event, making it a rotating annual conference, and will build analytic LGBTQ+ philosophical thought in a way that has not been done before.

Basic Information

Project Coordinator(s)

Lauren Lyons, Erin Beegly, Carolina Flores, Joshua Kramer

Steering Committee

- Lauren Lyons, Assistant Professor, UCSC — lyons@ucsc.edu
- Carolina Flores, Assistant Professor, UC Santa Cruz — caro.flores@ucsc.edu
- Nico Orlandi, Professor, UC Santa Cruz Nico.orlandi@ucsc.edu
- Scout Etterson, PhD Candidate, ASU — setterson@asu.edu
- Joshua Kramer, PhD Candidate, University of Pittsburgh — joshuakramer@pitt.edu
- Pixie Shen, PhD Candidate, University of Notre Dame — pshen2@nd.edu
- Erin Beeghly, Associate Professor, University of Utah — erin.beeghly@utah.edu

Funding Amount Requested

up to \$20,000

Expected Project Completion Date

July 2026

Project Description

Despite the increasing visibility of queer voices across many disciplines, queer analytic philosophy remains underdeveloped, especially compared with its continental counterparts. When queer work does appear in philosophy, it is often subsumed under broader headings such as social philosophy, rather than given a platform as a distinctive area of inquiry. Likewise, queer philosophers—especially those working within or in dialogue with analytic traditions—have few opportunities to

build intellectual community around experiences, questions, and methods that are distinctively queer. The Queer Analytic Philosophy (Queer Aϕ) Conference was created to address these gaps. It offers both a scholarly forum for queer-informed analytic philosophy and a vital space for queer community building within the discipline.

We hosted the inaugural Queer Aϕ Conference at UC Santa Cruz in Spring 2025. The event brought together over 80 registered attendees—including undergraduates, master’s and PhD students, early-career professors, and senior scholars—for two days of rich philosophical exchange and community building. The academic program featured four themed panels—on ethics, identity, language, and love and sex—each composed of three talks and paired with an invited commentator. The keynote lecture, delivered by Talia Mae Bettcher, offered a powerful reflection on the possibilities and limitations of analytic methodology, setting the tone for the conference’s critical orientation. We concluded with a panel on queer organizing within and beyond the discipline, featuring undocumented student organizers and other activists, followed by breakout groups on building collective power in philosophy, organizing within universities, and self-care in activist contexts. The formal program was complemented by community-building social events, including a happy hour at a local queer bar, catered lunches, and a closing party.

On behalf of the broader LGBTQ+ philosophy community, we are applying for APA funding to support the 2025 Queer Aϕ Conference, with the goal of institutionalizing it as an annual, rotating event. We plan to host the next iteration at UC Santa Cruz again, building on existing institutional support. In response to enthusiastic feedback and specific suggestions from attendees, we plan to expand the conference to three days and introduce several new elements:

- A public lecture designed to engage the broader queer community and encourage reflection on philosophy’s role beyond the academy. This event will be held in a financially accessible public forum.
- A poster session open to undergraduate and graduate presenters, allowing us to include more voices and make the conference more accessible. In 2024, we received over 60 submissions but were only able to accept 12 papers; the addition of a third day and a poster session directly addresses this high level of interest and will increase the amount of LGBTQ+ philosophical thought generated for the broader discipline.
- A graduate paper prize to support emerging scholars and help institutionalize queer philosophy, particularly work that is under-supported within traditional subfields.
- Senior commentators for graduate papers to foster mentorship and intellectual exchange between early-career philosophers and established scholars, potentially helping participants identify external dissertation advisors.
- A “work in progress” session to create space for emerging projects and foster innovative queer philosophical work that challenges the confines of analytic philosophy.

Finally, we continue to prioritize philosophical work that engages both theory and praxis. Building on this commitment, we will feature sessions on activism and organizing, and are exploring keynote

invitations to public intellectuals whose work speaks to the political stakes of queer thought (e.g., Judith Butler).

We have a strong and committed organizing committee well-positioned to advance our goal of institutionalizing this important conference. While the inaugural event was organized by faculty at UC Santa Cruz, the 2025 conference is being planned by a cross-institutional team that includes both faculty and graduate students from public and private universities across the United States. This diverse and collaborative structure reflects the conference's national scope and strengthens its long-term sustainability, outreach, and vision.

Project Impact

The Queer Aφ Conference directly advances diversity and inclusion within philosophy in multiple ways. First, it supports the diversification of philosophy by creating an unprecedented platform for analytic queer philosophical work—a presently underdeveloped area. Second, it offers a space for community building and networking among queer philosophers at all stages, from undergraduates to senior professors. This community-building role is especially urgent in the current political moment, when trans and queer lives are under attack and academic freedom is at risk.

Our aim is not only to expand the content of queer analytic work but also to critically examine its methodological boundaries—asking what counts as “analytic,” “queer,” and “philosophical.” While we affirm the growing body of analytic work on gender and sexuality, we echo Kristie Dotson’s insistence in “How is this Paper Philosophy?” that such categories are contested and must be continuously interrogated. Can analytic philosophy engage queerness not merely as an object of conceptual analysis, but as a method?

Moreover, in addition to giving space to LGBTQ+ philosophers, we are committed to foregrounding the structural exclusions and epistemic absences that have shaped the field thus far. Intersectional queer voices—especially queer and trans people of color, disabled and neurodivergent queers, financially under-resourced scholars, and diasporic queers from the Global South, who, as Maria Lugones describes, travel between different worlds, cultures, and languages—remain largely unseen in both analytic and queer philosophical spaces. In line with Jasbir Puar’s critique of homonationalism and her call for a non-normative, non-identitarian queerness, we aim to build a philosophical space that goes beyond national belonging and the immediately legible or respectable.

While the conference will primarily include participants based in the US and Canada, we are deeply committed to building an international network of queer philosophers. Indeed, the success of the Spring 2025 conference has already catalyzed such connections: shortly after the event, a one-day “Queer Aφ Europe” was organized in Germany by Nico Orlandi, demonstrating both the demand for and the generative potential of these spaces beyond the US context.

To further this commitment, the CFP will explicitly encourage submissions by queer scholars of color, disabled queer philosophers, and others whose identities or institutions have historically

been marginalized in academic philosophy. We aim to spotlight research at the intersections of queer theory, critical race theory, Black feminist philosophy, and more through talks and poster sessions, while also welcoming projects not squarely situated within LGBTQ philosophy—such as work engaging Marxism or canonical figures—especially when pursued by queer scholars or bringing queer-informed perspectives to broader philosophical debates.

With your support, we aim to sustain and expand this intellectual home for queer philosophers by keeping costs low for participants, prioritizing funding for those at under-resourced institutions, and building long-term institutional and community partnerships to ensure its continued growth and impact.

Project Goals

- Host a three-day, hybrid-format Queer Analytic Philosophy Conference with at least 20 presenters and 80 attendees.
- This will be achieved through an expanded call for papers, the addition of a poster session to include more undergraduate and graduate voices, and robust outreach via professional networks and social media.
- Increase access and inclusion by providing at least 10 travel and lodging grants to disabled presenters, early-career scholars, and participants from under-resourced institutions.
- This will be achieved by prioritizing budget allocations for participant support and publicizing funding availability in the CFP and registration materials.
- Facilitate mentorship and intellectual community-building between early-career and senior scholars.
- This will be achieved through structured senior commentary on graduate papers, networking events, and informal social gatherings integrated into the conference program.
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- Critically expand the boundaries of queer analytic philosophy as a subfield.
- This will be achieved by explicitly welcoming interdisciplinary and methodological critique in submissions, hosting a keynote that reflects on analytic boundaries, and including a “work in progress” session to foster innovative emerging projects.
- Engage the broader queer community beyond academia through a public lecture.
- This will be achieved by organizing an accessible public lecture featuring a prominent speaker whose work bridges queer theory, activism, and philosophy, held in a community-accessible venue.

Project Timeline

Fall 2024: Issue CFP; secure keynote speaker and public lecturer; finalize venue.

Winter 2025: Finalize program; publicize widely; open registration.

Spring 2025: Host conference; collect post-event feedback.

Summer 2025: Compile and share evaluation report; initiate planning for future iterations and funding.

Project Outreach

The potential audiences for the Queer Analytic Philosophy Conference include queer philosophers at all career stages—undergraduates, graduate students, contingent faculty, early-career researchers, and senior scholars—particularly those working within or in dialogue with analytic traditions. The conference will also appeal to scholars in related areas such as feminist philosophy, critical race theory, disability studies, and queer studies, as well as LGBTQ+ activists and community members interested in philosophical engagement with queer issues.

We will publicize the conference widely by emailing philosophy departments across the US and Canada, encouraging faculty to circulate the call for papers and registration materials to students and colleagues. Additionally, we will work through informal queer networks to encourage fellow members of the queer community to submit. The event will also be posted on PhilEvents to reach philosophers searching for upcoming conferences, and we will use social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, Bluesky, and relevant online communities to share the CFP, registration details, and updates.

All publicity materials will explicitly encourage submissions and participation by queer scholars of color, disabled and neurodivergent queer philosophers, and others whose identities or institutions have historically been marginalized in philosophy.

Accessibility Plan

We are committed to making the Queer Analytic Philosophy Conference accessible to all participants, recognizing that accessibility encompasses physical, sensory, technological, and financial dimensions. We understand that potential disability accommodations include ensuring all venues are wheelchair accessible and ADA compliant; providing ASL interpretation or CART captioning for talks and sessions; offering hybrid Zoom participation with live captioning; reserving seating for those with mobility or sensory needs; ensuring food options accommodate allergies and dietary restrictions; and providing access to quiet or sensory-friendly rooms for attendees needing a break from overstimulating environments.

Our proposed budget includes a dedicated line item for accessibility services, estimated at \$1,000–\$2,000, to cover CART captioning and potential ASL interpretation. These costs will be paid directly from conference funds, supplemented as needed by services provided through UC Santa Cruz's Disability Resource Center.

Josh Kramer (joshuakramer@pitt.edu) will serve as the designated accessibility point person for the conference. He will coordinate accommodation requests, liaise with university services and external providers, and ensure that accessibility information is clearly communicated to all participants.

All publicity and registration materials will include the following statement: “We are committed to making the Queer Analytic Philosophy Conference accessible to all participants. If you require any accommodations to participate fully in the conference, please let us know as soon as possible by contacting Josh Kramer at joshuakramer@pitt.edu. We will make every effort to meet your needs.”

We will consult with both the UC Santa Cruz Disability Resource Center, which advises on event accessibility and coordinates ADA compliance, and the UC Santa Cruz ADA Compliance Office, which ensures adherence to federal and state disability regulations and provides guidance on venue accessibility and accommodation policies. Through proactive planning, a dedicated accessibility budget, and consultation with these expert resources, we aim to ensure the conference is accessible, inclusive, and welcoming for all participants.

Evaluation Plan

We will collect both quantitative and qualitative data to assess our impact:

Demographic Data: Voluntary self-report on gender, race, disability, institution, and career stage.

Participation Metrics: Counts of attendees, paper posters, institutions, etc.

Post-Conference Survey: Feedback on intellectual value, accessibility, community-building, and financial inclusion.

Follow-Up Report: Shared with funders and participants; used in planning future events.

Success metrics include volume of LGBTQ+ philosophy output, high rates of participation by underrepresented scholars, positive feedback on accessibility and community-building, and evidence of ongoing networking or collaboration.

Online Presence

Yes! We will have an Instagram page, website, and Phil events page.

Last year, we only have a PhilEvents page. It is attached below.

<https://philevents.org/event/show/125782>

Budget Narrative

We are requesting either \$10,000 or \$20,000 in seed funding and have prepared scalable budgets to reflect both possibilities. Our budget philosophy is to minimize unnecessary costs so we can prioritize supporting participants—particularly early-career scholars, those from under-resourced institutions, and disabled presenters—with travel and lodging grants. To keep costs low, we rely on in-kind institutional support and low-cost catering options (e.g., purchasing meals and supplies from COSTCO rather than hiring caterers).

Both budgets include a dedicated line item for accessibility accommodations, such as captioning services or other disability-related supports, to ensure inclusive participation. These costs will be covered by the grant and supplemented, where possible, by UC Santa Cruz's institutional resources. We also include modest funds for a keynote speaker honorarium and a poster prize to support and recognize excellent work by emerging scholars. The expanded \$20,000 budget would allow us to more fully meet the demand for funding and participation generated by our inaugural event.



\$10,000 Budget (Text Version)

- Travel & Lodging for Participants: \$5,000
- Food & Refreshments: \$3,000
- Accessibility Services: \$1,000
- Keynote Honorarium: \$500
- Poster Prize: \$500

Total: \$10,000



\$20,000 Budget (Text Version)

- Travel & Lodging for Participants: \$13,000
- Food & Refreshments: \$4,000
- Accessibility Services: \$2,000
- Keynote Honorarium: \$500
- Poster Prize: \$500

Total: \$20,000

Other Funding Sources

To supplement this institutional support, we are pursuing co-sponsorship from other universities affiliated with the organizing team, including the University of Notre Dame, Arizona State University, and the University of Pittsburgh (Philosophy, HPS, and the Center for Philosophy of Science). In addition, we plan to seek funding for the graduate paper prize and public lecture from LGBTQ+ advocacy and philanthropic organizations such as Lambda Legal, GLAD (GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders), GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation), the Point Foundation, and similar groups that support queer scholarship, university education, and leadership development.