2017 SEWSA LGBTQ Caucus
Crafting Liberation: Southern Trans and Queer Strategies of Survival and Resistance

In *Sister Outsider*, Audre Lorde writes “we are powerful because we have survived.” For trans and queer folks in the U.S. South, these are words for our now, following months of brutality, homicide, and targeted legislative abuse directed at trans, queer, and gender non-conforming folk, particularly trans and queer folk of color. This year, we have witnessed a spate of so-called “bathroom bills” that seek to heighten surveillance and criminalize trans and gender non-conforming folk, rollback city-level LGBTQIA protections, and solidify conservative electoral bases through transphobia. We have been devastated by the shootings at Pulse and at the Emanuel African Episcopal church in Charleston, by the continual murder and abuse of black and brown folks by police, and by the systemic maltreatment of trans women of color at both macro and micro levels.

Trans and queer folks in the South are in mourning, but we’re also continuing to organize resistance in the name of our collective survival. This year’s panel seeks to take stock of this current moment of grief, loss, and political ferment, exploring how we are taking care of each other, how we are getting by, and how we are fighting back. What strategies are being devised to ameliorate what trans legal theorist Dean Spade has called “the maldistribution of life chances” that shapes the experience of poor, disabled, non-white, and femme trans and queer folks? What does trans and queer activism that foregrounds these questions of maldistribution look like in the U.S. South? How does this activism link up or otherwise resonate with transnational/decolonial feminisms in the Global South?

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Queerness, race, and gentrification in the “New South”
- LGBTQIA youth homelessness in the South
- Trans folk, criminalization, and the Prison Industrial Complex
- Queer and trans youth of color and the school-to-prison pipeline
- Backlash, “bathroom bills,” and the targeting of trans populations
- Southern queer anti-urbanism/resisting metronormativity
- Queer rurality
- Trans necropolitics
- Black Lives Matter and queer/trans anti-racist organizing in the South
- Southern homonationalism and LGBTQIA racism/xenophobia
- Mourning, grief, and grievability
- Queerness and political affect
- Queer utopianism, intentional communities, and prefigurative politics
- Southern Women of Color/Queer People of Color feminisms
- Decolonial feminisms in the U.S./Global South
- Resisting neo-confederacy and racist nostalgia
- Social/new media, LGBTQIA organizing, and ‘slacktivism’

Please submit abstracts of 200 words no later than October 18, 2016 through the SEWSA 2017 website: sewsa.kennesaw.edu. SEWSA 2017 will be hosted by Kennesaw State University and held at the Crowne Plaza Midtown in Atlanta, Georgia, March 23-25, 2017.