“Queer Publics, Queer Praxis [QP^2]” is a graduate student symposium attending to the relationships between community engagement, social justice and academic work.

“Community,” or as Miranda Joseph puts it, “the romance of community,” is often a loaded signifier at the University. Community work is extracurricular, or imagined to be untouched by the work that goes on at the University (or by academics who work with/in “communities”).

What then does it mean to engage in queer praxis? To build and work within queer publics? How is community work co-constitutive with queer studies?

Who is being engaged and produced through different forms of engagement? What are the politics of doing so?

To pose the question in a different way: How can and do we work queerly for justice? What even is queer work? Can we queer work? What are the processes?

This symposium pays special attention to the relationship between queer studies (and other modes of critical inquiry) and social justice work. Queer and social justice work can be: small acts of resistance; direct action; movements with big bases; movements that fall apart; collectives; cooperatives; public lectures; program development; making something out of nothing; working together on something that was forgotten or done wrong. It can be done by: agitators, reformers, radicals, participatory action researchers, (auto-)ethnographers, public historians, workshop facilitators, volunteer grant writers, artists, hustlers, health practitioners, or just about anyone.

We invite papers, panels, workshops, presentations, and digital projects addressing the role of publics and praxis in queer studies and social justice work, with an emphasis on interdisciplinarity and intersectionality. Tell us about a project you are working on, an idea you are wrestling with, a group you are working with/for, a problem you cannot seem to solve, or a set of practices that have really worked out. Tell us history about those who have come before us, those among us who are working it out, or who’s coming next down the line.
Topics include but are not limited to:

- Transmisogyny, violence, visibility
- Slow death, biopolitics, necropolitics
- Surveillance, policing, militarization
- Transnational sexualities, feminisms, organizing
- HIV/AIDS justice and public health
- Engagement with the many industrial-complexes: medical, prison, nonprofit, academic...
- Citizenship, immigration, refugeeism
- Indigeneity, sovereignty, representation, determination
- Kinship, family, coalition
- Race & racism within fields & movements, separatism, multi-racial movement building
- Labor: manual, emotional, activist, sexual, academic, etc.
- Sex work, survival economies, pleasure economies
- Reproductive justice
- Queer and trans youth
- Disability justice
- Housing and homelessness
- Resilience and resistance
- Public history, public memory, archives
- Digital and social media, rhetoric, connectivity, strategy

Please send a 250 word abstract describing your proposed presentation, along with a short bio, to Lars Mackenzie at macke157@umn.edu by November 30, 2015.

For those proposing a panel: please send a 250 word abstract and short bio for each presenter, along with a panel title and brief (>100 word) description of your panel theme.