

Documenting Queer Performance on the Texas A&M Campus

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Territorial Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that Texas A&M University (College Station) is situated on the land of multiple Native nations, past and present. These original homelands are the territory of Indigenous peoples who were largely dispossessed and removed. We specifically acknowledge the traditional stewardship of this land by the Tonkawa, Tawakoni, Hueco, Sana, Wichita, and Coahuiltecan peoples. We pledge to support and advocate for the histories, cultures, languages, and territorial rights of historic Indigenous peoples of Texas and the Indigenous people that live here now. This statement affirms continuous Indigenous presence and rights, acknowledges the ongoing effects of settler colonization, and supports Indigenous struggles for political, legal, and cultural sovereignty.



Today's Presentation

- Study Background
- Problem Statement and Research Approach
- Research Questions
- Relevance and Expected Impact
- Invite Feedback

Larger Context of the Study

- New study
- Student-led performance on university campuses
- Existing documentation and newly created documentation

Larger Context of the Study

- Texas A&M University Campus (Aggie Players, current student organizations, etc.)
- Initial focus on Queer performance

Broad Problem Statement

- From **Draggieland** to **The Coming Out Monologues**, forms of Queer performance are becoming established at Texas A&M University: how do we document the performances and the people who make them happen?

The Coming Out Monologues

- LGBTQ+ Pride Center
- Started in 2010 at Texas A&M University
- It was created in 2007 by Nancy Tubbs

The Coming Out Monologues

- Originally inspired by **The Vagina Monologues** (1996) by V (formerly Eve Ensler)
- It was first part of the National Day of Silence (April 18, every year)

The Coming Out Monologues



- Story-telling performance
- Current and former students, faculty, staff, community members and allies

Draggieland

- Student-organized drag performance contest
- Started in 2020

Draggieland



Jessy B. Darling,
Queen of
Draggieland 2022.
Photo by Robert
O'Brien, The
Battalion.

Research Approach

- Qualitative study
- In-depth interviews
- Analysis of existing sources

Draft Research Questions

- What role does student-led performance play in campus life?
- How is Queer performance represented at Texas A&M University?

Draft Research Questions

- What are the main goals of **The Coming Out Monologues** and **Draggieland?**

Draft Research Questions

- What challenges do these events face?
- Who are the main stakeholders associated with these events?

Draft Research Questions

- What impact have these events had on campus climate?
- How do these events compare to similar events on other campuses?

Relevance and Expected Impact

- Addressing campus climate challenges
- Creating a body of research that can support campus efforts promoting inclusivity and representation

Possible Challenges

- In the current political climate, will this kind of research attract negative attention that could put the community at risk?

Possible Challenges

- As an ally of the Queer community, will I be able to fully understand and convey the culture that supports these events?

Future Research

- Expand on the study results
- Analyze other forms of student-led performance at Texas A&M and other campuses

Feedback and Questions

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