

ERIQUE ZHANG
(they/she)

Department of Communication Studies
School of Communication
Northwestern University

EDUCATION

- 2024 (exp.) PhD, Media, Technology, and Society, Northwestern University
- committee* Drs. Aymar Jean Christian (*chair*), TJ Billard (*co-chair*), Brooke Erin Duffy (Cornell University), Mimi Thi Nguyen (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)
- dissertation* Assigned Beautiful at Birth:
Media, Beauty, and the Problem of Transgender Visibility
- 2015 MA, Visual Culture: Costume Studies, New York University
- 2010 BFA, Studio Art, New York University

PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Forthcoming “Introduction: Who’s In and Who’s Out of (Queer) Fashion (Studies)?” *Critical Studies in Fashion and Beauty* 15 (1). (With Roberto Filippello)
- 2024 “A Tranifesto for the Dolls: Toward a Trans Femme of Color Theory.” *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly* 10 (3–4): 328–49.
<https://doi.org/10.1215/23289252-10900872>. (First author, with Julian Kevon Glover, Ava L.J. Kim, Tamsin Kimoto, Nathan Alexander Moore, æryka jourdaine hollis o’neil, and LaVelle Ridley.)
- 2023 “‘She Is as Feminine as My Sister, as My Mother, as My Biologically Female Friends’: On the Limits of Transgender Visibility in Fashion Media.” *Communication, Culture & Critique* 16 (1): 25–32.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/ccc/tcac043>.
- 2023 “‘I Don’t Just Want to Look Female; I Want to Be Beautiful’: Theorizing Passing as Labor in the Transition Vlogs of Gigi Gorgeous and Natalie Wynn.” *Feminist Media Studies* 23 (4): 1376–91.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14680777.2022.2041687>.
- 2022 “Whither Trans Studies? On Fields, Post-Disciplines, and the Need for an Applied Transgender Studies.” *Bulletin of Applied Transgender Studies* 1 (1–2): 1–18.
<https://doi.org/10.57814/pe84-4348>. (With TJ Billard and Avery Everhart)

- 2022 “Toward a Transgender Critique of Media Representation.” *JCMS: Journal of Cinema and Media Studies* 61 (2): 194–99. <https://doi.org/10.1353/cj.2022.0005>. (With TJ Billard)
- 2020 “Rethinking (and Rethorizing) Transgender Media Representation: A Roundtable Discussion.” *International Journal of Communication* 14: 4494–4507. (With TJ Billard, Traci B. Abbott, Oliver L. Haimson, Kelsey N. Whipple, and Stevenson Brooks Whitestone)
- 2016 “Memoirs of a GAY! Sha: Race and Gender Performance on *RuPaul’s Drag Race*.” *Studies in Costume & Performance* 1 (1): 59–75. https://doi.org/10.1386/scp.1.1.59_1.

EDITED VOLUMES

- Forthcoming “Transgender Embodiment in Fashion and Beauty.” Special issue. *Critical Studies in Fashion and Beauty* 15 (1). (Editor, with Roberto Filippello)

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Forthcoming “Queer and Transgender Media Studies.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Media and Social Justice*, edited by Srividya Ramasubramanian and Omotayo Banjo. New York: Oxford University Press. (First author, with TJ Billard)
- 2021 “Social Media Influencers.” In *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Trans Studies*, edited by Abbie E. Goldberg and Genny Beemyn, 90. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781544393858.n263>.

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2024 “When Technology Fuels and Is Fueled by Precarity.” Review of *Technoprecarious*, by the Precarity Lab. *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly* 10 (3–4): 560–63. <https://doi.org/10.1215/23289252-10901082>.
- 2020 Review of *Terrorizing Gender: Transgender Visibility and the Surveillance Practices of the U.S. Security State*, by Mia Fischer. *International Journal of Communication* 14: 1279–82.

ESSAYS AND PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

- 2022 “Framing Georgia: Thinking Through the Question of Trans Visibility in *Framing Agnes*.” *Flow*, April 14. <https://www.flowjournal.org/2022/04/framing-georgia/>.
- 2022 “The Radical Act of Invisibility on Trans Day of Visibility.” *Washington Post*, March 31. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/2022/03/31/trans-day-visibility-erique-zhang/>.
- 2022 “My Mother’s Daughter.” *Joysauce*, March 7. <https://joysauce.com/transfemininity-my-mothers-daughter/>.

- 2021 “Seeing and Being Seen: *Lingua Franca* and Trans Asian Media Representation/Production.” *Flow*, November 16.
<https://www.flowjournal.org/2021/11/seeing-and-being-seen/>.
- 2020 “Fashion as Collective Action.” *Fashion Studies Journal*, October 29, 2020.
<https://www.fashionstudiesjournal.org/longform/2020/10/21/fashion-as-collective-action>.
- 2020 “Making Asian American Feminist Politics.” *On the Ground*, Institute of Human Development and Social Change, June 12. (Interview with Rachel Kuo)
<https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/ihdsc/on-the-ground/making-asian-american-feminist-politics>.
- 2017 “Kim Chi and Me.” *Fashion Studies Journal*, April 2.
<https://www.fashionstudiesjournal.org/3-what-were-wearing-3/2017/4/2/kim-chi-and-me>.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

- In prep. *Paradise on the Margins: Worldmaking by Trans Women of Color*. (With Lexi Adsit, Nava Mau, LaVelle Ridley, and Raquel Willis, eds.)
- In prep. “High Femme Tranny Antics.” Invited contribution to “Femme Feels, Feeling Femme” special issue, *Women’s Studies in Communication*.

PRESENTATIONS

CONFERENCE PAPER PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 “‘I Feel Them Following Me, Watching My Every Move’: Mediating the Politics of Surveillance in *Lingua Franca*.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Boston, MA, March 14–17.
- 2023 “‘Why Don’t I Look Like That?’: Exploring Trans Femme of Color Beauty through Beauty Workshops.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association, Toronto, Canada, and virtual conference, May 25–29.
- 2023 “‘I Don’t Do This for the Misogynistic Male Gaze, I Do It for My Gaze!’: Contextualizing Bimbo Feminism.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Denver, CO, April 12–15.
- 2022 “‘I’m Creating Things I’ve Always Wanted to See in the Beauty Industry’: Girlbossing Trans Femme Beauty.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association, Paris and virtual conference, May 26–30.
- 2022 “‘She Is as Feminine as My Sister, as My Mother, as My Biologically Female Friends’: Transgender Validation in Fashion Magazines.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association, Paris and virtual conference, May 26–30.

WINNER: *Top student paper award, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Studies Interest Group*

- 2022 “Trans Commodification in the Fashion Industry.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association, Paris and virtual conference, May 26–30.
- 2022 “I’m Creating Things I’ve Always Wanted to See in the Beauty Industry’: Trans Commodification in the Beauty and Fashion Industries.” Paper presented at New Directions in Feminist Thought: Research in Times of Crisis and Change, virtual conference, May 9–10.
- 2022 “Nothing About Us Without Us: Exploring Centres of Liberation.” Paper accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Popular Culture Association, virtual conference, April 13–16. (Paper withdrawn due to unforeseen circumstances.) (With Cat Pausé)
- 2021 “Toward a Transgender Critique of Media Representation: Bringing the Sociology of Culture into Trans Media Studies.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association, virtual conference, May 27–30. (With TJ Billard)
- 2019 “Do Not, under Any Circumstances, Imitate Cis Women’: Transfeminine Vloggers and the Labor of Passing.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Studies Association, Honolulu, HI, November 7–10.
- 2019 “It Helps to Femme It up a Little’: Transfeminine Vloggers, Beauty, and Passing.” Paper presented at Northwestern University’s annual Queertopia conference, Evanston, IL, March 2.
- 2015 “Just Landed Like Fresh Tilapia: Race, Gender, and Ambivalence in Asian American Drag Performance.” Paper presented at New York University’s annual Richard Martin Visual Culture Symposium, New York, NY, April 10.
- 2015 “Just Landed Like Fresh Tilapia: Race, Gender, and Ambivalence in Asian American Drag Performance.” Paper presented at the 2015 Critical Costume Conference, Helsinki, Finland, March 25–27.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 “Where Are the Dolls?: Tracing a Trans Femme of Color Genealogy.” Invited keynote presentation at the Trans Lineages Symposium, New York University, New York, NY, March 3.

CONFERENCE ROUNDTABLES AND WORKSHOPS

- 2022 “For the Dolls: Toward a Trans Femme of Color Theory,” chaired by Tamsin Kimoto. Roundtable presented at the annual meeting of the National Women’s Studies Association, Minneapolis, MN, November 10–13. (Participant)

- 2022 “Transing Cinema and Media Studies,” chaired by Laura Horak and Cael M. Keegan. Roundtable presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, virtual conference, March 31–April 3. (Participant)
- 2021 “Subtle CSCW Traits: Tensions Around Identity Formation and Online Activism in the Asian Diaspora.” Workshop held at the 24th annual ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing, virtual conference, October 24. (Participant)
- 2021 “Media-Based Community and Self Care Practices as Activism,” chaired by Tonia Sutherland. Roundtable presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association, virtual conference, May 27–30. (Participant)
- 2021 “Paradise on the Margins: Lessons and Dreams from Trans Women of Color,” moderated by Eriqie Zhang. Roundtable presented at the annual Queertopia conference, Northwestern University, virtual conference, April 24–25. (Moderator)
- 2020 “How to Do Things with Drag: A Roundtable on Drag and/as Queer Performance in 2020,” chaired by Harris Kornstein. Roundtable accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the American Studies Association, Baltimore, MD, November 12–15. (Conference canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.) (Participant)
- 2020 “Imagining Transgender Cultural Production as Revolt: A Conversation,” chaired by Cassius Adair. Roundtable accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the American Studies Association, Baltimore, MD, November 12–15. (Conference canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.) (Moderator)

INVITED AND ORGANIZED PANELS AND ROUNDTABLES

- 2023 “Challenges in using the umbrella race category of AAPI in LGBTQ research,” moderated by Ysabel Beatrice Floresca. Data Dialogues, Institute of Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing, Northwestern University. August 10. <https://youtu.be/LnTAj8rIkdo> (Participant)
- 2022 “Where Trans Activism and Abolition Meet,” moderated by Eriqie Zhang. Big Idea Panels Series, Center for Applied Transgender Studies, virtual roundtable, November 16. <https://youtu.be/yBQbbwb4tvk> (Moderator)
- 2021 “Applied Transgender Studies: A Call to Action,” moderated by Paisley Currah. Big Ideas Panel Series, Center for Applied Transgender Studies, virtual roundtable, March 25. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oq1MO_AmzMI. (Participant)
- 2020 “Imagining Transgender Cultural Production as Revolt: A Conversation,” chaired by Cassius Adair. Co-sponsored by the Queer Pride Graduate Student Association, Sexualities Project at Northwestern, Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies, and Department of Communication Studies, Northwestern University, November 12. (Moderator)

MEDIA APPEARANCES

- 2024 De La Cretaz, Frankie. "Regina George Has Always Been a Lesbian." *Daily Beast*, January 15, 2024. <https://www.thedailybeast.com/obsessed/mean-girls-regina-george-has-always-been-a-lesbian>
- 2023 Kuang, Robert. "Transitions and Transformation With Erique Zhang." *Side by Side* podcast, May 9, 2023. <https://www.podbean.com/ew/pb-bc9jr-1403556>
- 2022 Pérot, Marine. "The Changing Narrative Around Transgender Characters." *Giddy*, August 31, 2022. <https://getmegiddy.com/transgender-characters>
- 2022 Woodstock, Tuck. "BONUS: Trans Day of Visibility (and Snacks) 2022." *Gender Reveal* podcast, March 31, 2022. <https://gender.libsyn.com/bonus-trans-day-of-visibility-and-snacks-2022>
- 2021 Wong, Brittany. "The Racist Misogyny of the Atlanta Spa Shootings." *Huffington Post*, March 18, 2021. https://www.huffpost.com/entry/misogyny-against-asian-women-atlanta-spa-shootings_n_6052478cc5b6264a8fb8e58b
- 2019 Smith, Erika W. "Ahead of the Met Gala, Remember: 'You Can't Have Camp Without Queer.'" *Refinery 29*, May 2, 2019. <https://www.refinery29.com/en-us/2019/05/231016/camp-fashion-gay-culture-drag-lgbtq-history>
- 2017 Davis, Joy. "Drag History, Kim Chi, RuPaul's Drag Race: Interview with Eric Zhang." *Unravel: A Fashion Podcast*, May 1, 2017. <https://soundcloud.com/unravelpodcast/reprise-drag-history-kim-chi-rupauls-drag-race-interview-with-eric-zhang>

GRANTS

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

- 2022 Summer Research Grant, Sexualities Project at Northwestern (\$2,500)
- 2022 Graduate Research Grant, The Graduate School (\$3,000)
- 2021 Social Justice Mini-Grant, TGS Office of Diversity & Inclusion (\$2,500)
- 2021 Dissertation Research Support, Communication Studies (\$1,500)
- 2021 SSRC Dissertation Proposal Development Program (\$4,000)
- 2021 Sexualities Project at Northwestern Reading Group (\$3,500)
- 2020 Summer Research Grant, Sexualities Project at Northwestern (\$2,045)
- 2020 Graduate Fellow Research Award, Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing (\$1,000)

HONORS AND AWARDS

FELLOWSHIPS

- 2022 – 2023 Graduate Fellowship (four quarters of stipend and tuition funding, plus \$4000 in research funding)
Council for Race and Ethnic Studies, Northwestern University
- 2022 Wallace R. Bornhoeft Graduate Fellowship in Communication (\$9,000 in tuition funding)
School of Communication, Northwestern University
- 2022 Dissertation Fellowship (one quarter of stipend and tuition funding)
Sexualities Project at Northwestern, Northwestern University

AWARDS*Northwestern University*

- 2023 Conference Travel Award, Sexualities Project at Northwestern (\$750)
- 2022 Conference Travel Award, Sexualities Project at Northwestern (\$750)
- 2019 Conference Travel Award, Sexualities Project at Northwestern (\$300)

New York University

- 2015 Student Excellence Award, Art & Art Professions
- 2015 Professional Development Fund, Steinhardt Graduate Student Organization (\$520)
- 2015 Conference Fund, Student Senators Council (\$700)
- 2010 Founders Day Award
- 2010 Ida Bodman Service Award, Art & Art Professions
- 2010 University Honors Scholar
- 2009 May and Samuel Rudin Foundation Multimedia Technology Scholarship, Art & Art Professions

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY*As Instructor of Record*

- 2021, Spr. COMM_ST 102: Public Speaking

As Teaching Assistant

- 2021, Win. COMM_ST 333 / GNDR_ST 371: Girlhood in Public Culture (Janice Radway)
Guest lecture: 2/4/2021

- 2020, Spr. COMM_ST 274: Power in Entertainment (Kalyani Chadha)
Guest lecture: 5/21/2020
- 2020, Win. COMM_ST 375: Sociology of Online News (Pablo Boczkowski)
Guest lecture: 2/26/2020
- 2019, Fall COMM_ST 225: Communication and Culture (Maria Mastronardi)
Guest lecture: 11/4/2019

Reading Groups and Workshops

- 2021, Win. Co-facilitator, Applied Transgender Studies, Sexualities Project at Northwestern Reading Group (with TJ Billard)

INVITED GUEST LECTURES

- 2023 WGS 111: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies, Kenyon College, Gambier, OH, October 9
- 2023 "Assigned Beautiful at Birth," ENG/GWS 319: Leather and Glitter (queer studies), Connecticut College, New London, CT, March 8
- 2022 WGS 111: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies, Kenyon College, Gambier, OH, October 26
- 2022 "I'm Creating Things I've Always Wanted to See in the Beauty Industry," MACS 351: Social Aspects of Media, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, October 6
- 2021 "She Is as Feminine as My Sister, as My Mother, as My Biologically Female Friends," JOUR 250: Journalism Ethics and Diversity, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, October 28
- 2021 "I Don't Just Want to Look Female; I Want to Be Beautiful," CRIS 140: Trans Studies/Trans Activism, Beloit College, Beloit, WI, September 22
- 2021 "I Don't Just Want to Look Female; I Want to Be Beautiful," CMNS 355: Technologies of Gender and Sexuality, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, Canada, August 3
- 2020 "Do Not, under Any Circumstances, Imitate Cis Women," Gender and Media, Wofford College, Spartanburg, SC, September 14

MENTORSHIP

Undergraduate Mentorship

- 2022 – 2023 Alex Chun, Northwestern University, Council for Race and Ethnic Studies Undergraduate Fellow
- 2019 – 2020 Rachel Fimbianti, Northwestern University, Media and Creative Markets Module
- 2019 – 2020 Avery Powell, Northwestern University, Media and Creative Markets Module

2019 – 2020 Olivia Winn, Northwestern University, Media and Creative Markets Module

2019 Yolanda Bennett, Northwestern University, Media and Creative Markets Module

RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

2021 – Distinguished Fellow
Center for Applied Transgender Studies

2018 – Affiliate
Center for Critical Race and Digital Studies

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS

2021 Northwestern SSRC Dissertation Proposal Development Program

2020 – 2021 Teaching Certificate Program
Searle Center for Advanced Learning & Teaching, Northwestern University

2020 Introduction to Focus Group Interviewing Research Methods
Summer Institute in Survey Research Techniques, University of Michigan

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

2023 – Organizing Committee, Second International Trans Studies Conference
Center for Applied Transgender Studies

2021 – Assistant Editor
Bulletin of Applied Transgender Studies

2021 – Managing Director
Center for Applied Transgender Studies

2019 – 2021 Graduate Coordinator
Center for Critical Race and Digital Studies

2019 Organizing Committee
Race, Technology, & the Future: Setting the Agenda
Center for Critical Race and Digital Studies ICA Post Conference

SERVICE TO THE INSTITUTION

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

2020 – 2021 President, Queer Pride Graduate Student Association (QPGSA)

2020 – 2021 Organizing Committee, 2021 Queertopia Conference, QPGSA

2019 – 2020 Advocacy Chair, QPGSA

2019 – 2020 Organizing Committee, 2020 Queertopia Conference, QPGSA

2019 – 2020 LGBTQ Advisory Board, Multicultural Student Affairs

2019 – 2020 Media and Creative Markets Module Fellow, Communication Studies

2018 – 2019 Gender-Queer, Non-binary, and Transgender Task Force

2018 – 2019 Organizing Committee, InfoSocial 2019 Conference, Communication Studies

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Studies Association

International Communication Association

National Women's Studies Association

Popular Culture Association

Society for Cinema and Media Studies