

Studying Duke and Durham's LGBTQIA+ History

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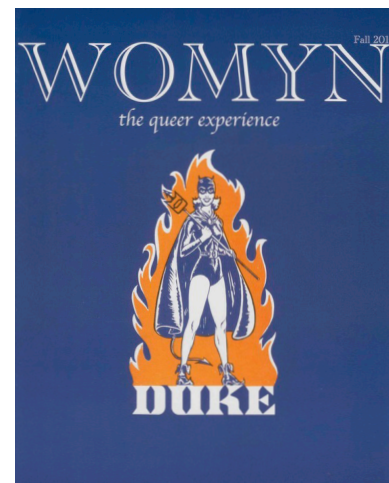
guides.library.duke.edu/lgbtqia-duke-durham

BRIEF OVERVIEW

This session traces the rich history of LGBTQIA+ communities at Duke and in Durham. From the formation of the Duke Gay Alliance in 1972 to the ongoing work of [Southerners on New Ground \(SONG\)](#), queer people on and off campus have created socially, spiritually, and politically active communities for many years.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Practice** textual and visual analysis using magazines, newspapers, and other periodicals.
- **Explore** the history and culture of LGBTQIA+ people at Duke as well as in and around Durham.
- **Analyze** the ways that LGBTQIA+ communities use newspapers, magazines, and other periodicals to communicate, advocate, and celebrate.



BEFORE CLASS

- Have your students take a moment to [read the Rubenstein Library's approach to classes](#). It's very short, but includes things students will want to keep in mind as they work with primary sources now and in the future.
- Ask students to watch [Finding the Rubenstein Library](#) and [The Rubenstein Library's Collections](#).

SESSION OUTLINE

Activity:

- Divide students into pairs or small groups. Within those groups, designate one person as the **notetaker**, one person as the **timekeeper**, and one person as the **reporter**.
- Have students explore 2 or 3 of the publications [in this list](#). These can be assigned or groups can choose. Students can access a digitized copy of a publication by clicking on its title in the list.
- Have students spend **10 minutes** browsing through their publication, making notes (including page numbers!) of anything that interests or puzzles them. Allow students to turn off their cameras and microphones while they work. Students may not have enough time to look through all of their publication—that's fine!
- **In their groups**, have students spend **10 minutes** sharing their observations about their group's publication.
 - To start, the timekeeper should give each group member **one minute** to share their observations with the rest of the group.
 - With the remaining time, students should work together to answer the group discussion questions (see below).

Discussion Questions:

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR PUBLICATION (10 MINUTES)

- What do you notice about the physical characteristics of the publication? For example, is it photocopied or glossy? How are colors and graphics used?
- Who created the publication you're looking at and why do you think it was created? Is it a Duke or a Durham/local publication? Is there a specific point the creators were trying to make or message they were trying to send?
- How do these publications make you feel? How do they help you see your own role in LGBTQIA+ history?

DISCUSSING YOUR PUBLICATION IN SMALL GROUPS (10 MINUTES)

- Do different articles and features tell the same story but in different ways? Are some articles or features more powerful or effective in sharing information? If so, why?
- After exploring these publications, what would you tell a friend about queer history at Duke and in Durham?
- Sometimes historical sources raise as many questions as they answer. What questions do you still have about the publication you explored?

Suggested Reading:

Students may want to learn more about LGBTQIA+ history at Duke and in Durham. Here are some online exhibits and other resources focused on these topics:

- [Love and Liberation: A History of LGBTQ+ Durham](#)
- Out History: [LGBT Identities, Communities, and Resistance in North Carolina, 1945–2012](#)
- [Queering Duke History](#)
- [Timeline of Duke's LGBTQ History](#)

Additional Resources:

- [LGBT Studies](#): A guide to resources in the Duke University Libraries that focus on various aspects of LGBT Studies.
- [LGBT Studies: LGBTQIA+ Duke History at the University Archives](#): An introductory guide to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) resources at Duke Libraries.
- [Rights, Gender, and Sexuality—resources in the Duke Human Rights Archive](#): A guide to collections documenting the growing confluence between human rights and gender and sexual rights movements.
- [Women's and LGBTQ Periodicals Collection](#): Almost 1000 boxes of newspapers, newsletters, magazines, and other periodicals from queer and feminists movements.

Suggested Follow-Up Assignment:

CREATE A ZINE!

What is a zine? A zine is a small, self-published booklet. Zines are a great way to share your art, poems, writing, musings, and anything else you want to express. Like the LGBTQIA publications students explored during the session, zines are characterized by freedom of thought, subversion, and the sharing of lived experiences.

As students consider the questions and prompts in this guide they can write, draw, collage, or otherwise record their reflections on paper. The resulting pages can be put together as individual zines or one compilation zine for the class.

Resources on zine making:

- [Zines 101 by We Make Zines](#). A quick guide to zines and zine making.
- [Duke Libraries Queer Resources Minizine!](#) A mini zine featuring LGBTQIA+ resources from across the Duke University Libraries.
- [How to fold a minizine](#). Illustrated guide to folding a minizine like our queer library resources minizine!
- [Zines](#). A guide to the 6000+ zines in the Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture.

QUESTIONS?

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