

THE BUTLER CENTER

NEWSLETTER

ATTENDING THE CREATING CHANGE CONFERENCE 2024 IN NEW ORLEANS



By Giorgio Gioele Sirito

We had the opportunity to attend the Creating Change Conference 2024 thanks to the support of the Butler Center and the Mellon "Humanities For All Times" student grant. Creating Change represents one of the biggest conferences on the LGBTQIA2S+ community in the country, offering hundreds of workshops, training sessions and network opportunities to over 3500 attendees from all over the United States.

For these reasons, through Creating Change we were able to connect to numerous activists from a multitude of different backgrounds and places that have been engaging towards Queer liberation. This experience has been especially formative and relevant considering the wave of anti-LGBTQIA2S+ legislation that has been affecting queer communities all over the US.

In fact, we were able to connect and discuss with other activists the way they are facing and resisting this institutional oppression that has been affecting every aspect of Queer people lives in the last years. Creating change also gave us the opportunity to connect to many Queer artists and their art through performances and events that happened throughout the conference.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



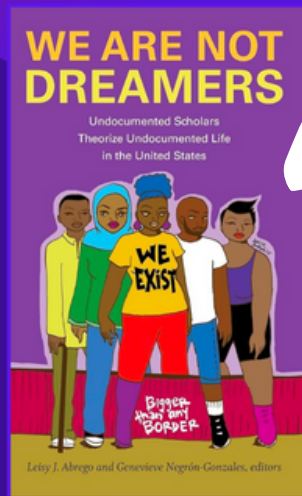
Brailey Harris

My name is Brailey Harris. I use She/They/He pronouns, and, while I am currently undeclared, I have major academic interests in Forensic Anthropology, especially at the intersection of Black Queer Theory and Africana Studies. I work on the Butler Center's Peer Education Team under our Anti-racism, diversity, Equity, and Inclusion department. After Colorado College, I hope to do anthropological research surrounding various global societies notions of death and the afterlife. Specifically, I want to engage in research that re-centers and demystifies the Black, Brown, and Queer body, being a voice for those who are no longer around to tell their story. In fact, I got into ADEI work because I wanted to get better at using my own voice and talking through the issues most prevalent to my lived experience. I hope that the work I do might encourage other CC students to explore their own identities and use any new insight they find to create more meaningful, expansive communities. When I'm not working, studying, or pondering the afterlife, I love getting out the mixing bowl and seeing what fun and interesting things I can come up with. Did you know that I make the best blueberry-matcha pancakes in town? Top it with my homemade rose-petal simple syrup and you'll have everything you need to start your day off right!

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

ADEI TEAM, BUTLER CENTER & SOCIOLOGY PRESENT:

The Antiracism Book Club Author Talk: Joel Sati, JD, Ph.D



PSST... If you haven't picked up your FREE copy of *We are not Dreamers* there is still time to get it from the bookstore!

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024
12:30PM-2PM
GATES COMMON ROOM - PALMER HALL
LUNCH PROVIDED

Joel Sati, J.D, Ph.D, is an Assistant Law Professor at the University of Oregon School of Law. Professor Sati's research and teaching interests are in Criminal Law, Immigration Law, Crimmigration, Privacy Law, and Jurisprudence.

Professor Sati was born in Nairobi, Kenya, and has lived in the United States since 2002. He is an undocumented immigrant himself and has been an immigrant rights activist since 2012, working on campaigns at the federal level and across various states. He is one of authors of *We Are Not Dreamers* and will be discussing his chapter and research.

UPCOMING EVENTS

31

Out of the Closet Workshop - Anti-LGBT Legislation

Jan 31st, WES Room (Worner Basement). 12:30-1:30 pm.

6

T Time - Love Letter to Yourself

Feb 6th. Open to trans, nonbinary, genderqueer, and questioning students. Contact Deka (dspears@coloradocollege.edu) for information.

6

Table Talk Karaoke Kick Off

Feb 6th. RTD Lounge (Worner 2nd floor). 5:00 pm
For BIPOC women and femme-identifying students.

8

Queer And Trans Collective: Self-Love Talk

Feb 8th. QTC Lounge (Worner 2nd floor). 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Follow us!

Make sure you're following us on Instagram and Tiktok @butlercentercc :)

WEEKLY PAIRINGS - BOOK RECOMENDATIONS

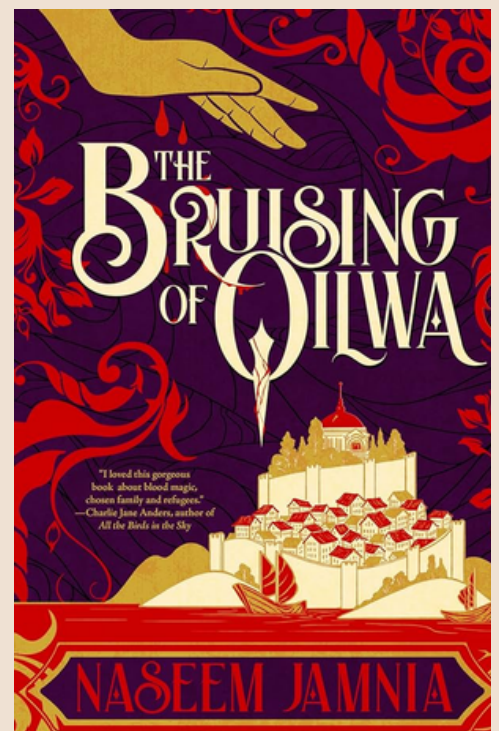
Trans Characters in Fantasy and Scifi



In *The Blighted Stars*, by Megan O'Keefe two enemies collide in the battle for survival. Naira Sharp, revolutionist and traitor, is determined to figure out why an unstoppable blight is destroying habitable planets. She suspects the powerful Mercator family is behind it and she's determined to stop them. Tarquin Mercator never wanted to be heir to the most powerful family in the galaxy, he'd rather be a scholar. When his father forces him on a mission, he'll end up stranded on an uninhabitable planet with his enemy-turned-bodyguard-turned-romantic-interest. This book features a trans protagonist (Tarquin), but beyond that many of the book's themes revolve around the meaning of body, self, and consciousness. In O'Keefe's world, consciousness can be uploaded and bodies can be reprinted. But what does it mean to be in your own "preferred print" and who has the luxury of affording the technology behind immortality? Furthermore, what does it mean when people and powerful forces can turn your consciousness against you? And what does it take for a person to break? While Tarquin's trans identity doesn't take center stage in his story, *The Blighted Stars* is a book full of themes that are likely to resonate with the queer community as well as a deep exploration of class issues and big questions like what does it mean to be human.

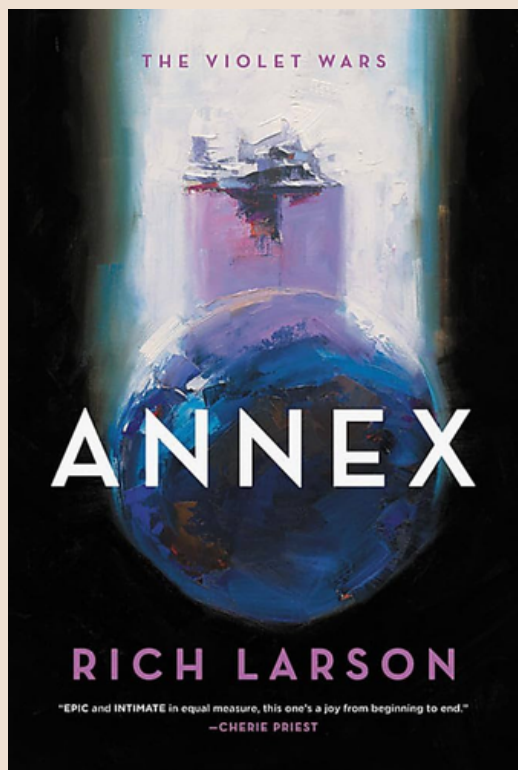
The Devoured Worlds series, of which this is the first book, was also named Thecla's favorite read of 2023!

The Bruising of Qilwa is Naseem Jamnia's intricate and gripping debut. Set in a queernormative Persian-inspired world, the story follows Firuz-e Jafari, an asexual nonbinary refugee. Firuz is a practitioner of blood magic and a skilled healer. When they discover a strange new disease that leaves distinctive bruising on its victims they must battle accusations that the deaths are caused by blood magic. Firuz must break down systemic prejudices and anti-immigrant regulations in order to protect themselves and their family. This story has been described by reviewers at *Self Awareness* as "full of magic and queerness" and author Charlie Jane Anders said, "People in this book are trans, nonbinary, asexual, and aromatic, and it's never a big deal but does matter to their character, which I just adore." Reviewers agree this is a must-read! *The Bruising of Qilwa* is a quick read full of hope and healing and a brilliant contribution to the queer fantasy canon.



WEEKLY PAIRINGS - BOOK RECOMENDATIONS

Trans Characters in Fantasy and Scifi



Annex by Rich Larson is an energetic and action-packed YA sci-fi novel. After the aliens invade, adults are turned into zombie-like creatures, and their friends are kidnapped, two precocious teens, Violet [who is trans] and Bo must navigate their newfound independence while fighting the aliens. This book captures the deep emotional experience of growing up and just how “lonesome” families can be all while leading readers through an “energetic, nonstop adventure” (Chicago Tribune). This book is marketed as *Independence Day* meets *Lord of the Flies*. Booklist reviewers describe it, saying, “Annex’s combination of a likable and diverse cast of characters with breakneck, engaging action—all against the background of an evocative and sinister world—make it an accomplished and impressive debut.” While the book is intended for younger audiences, Larson’s work is sure to please any sci-fi lover and the young trans rep highlights the difficulty of navigating identity and family in a cathartic way.

“Shizuka Satomi made a deal with the devil: to escape damnation, she must entice seven other violin prodigies to trade their souls for success. She has already delivered six.” That is the premise for the wonderful, wacky, and utterly heartwarming adventure that is **Light From Uncommon Stars** by Ryka Aoki in which the lives of three women will become entangled in fate. Katrina Nguyen is a talented trans violinist. She ran away from her abusive family and sought sanctuary in Los Angeles, but her safety may be threatened when her talent catches Shizuka’s eye. However, when Shizuka and Lan Tran - retired starship captain, interstellar refugee, and mother of four - meet everything might be about to change. Lan Tran will make Shizuka question what a soul is truly worth and as something sweet begins to bake in their favorite coffee shop that might just be powerful enough to break a devilish curse. **Light from Uncommon Stars** is marketed as *Good Omens* meets *The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet*. The New York Times says, “The book brought me to tears . . . and bursts with love and insights on food, music, inheritance and transformation.” With award nominations from Kirkus, Hugo, and the Stonewall Book Awards, this is a must-read for any sci-fi lover as well as anyone craving a book about identity, transformation, and love.



PHOTO OF THE WEEK



A throwback photo from Fall 2023. Associate Director, Erik Quezada helps lead a class on macrame for the QTC.

Correction from Jan 23rd issue. In last week's issue, we stated that a photo of a student protest was from a 2020 BLM protest. We were later corrected and informed that the photo was of Giselle Ratalane and was taken at a 2015 demonstration organized in part by Heidi Lewis.