

CFP: Bailey Controversy (10/29/07; NWSA, 6/19/08-6/22/08)

The Bailey Brouhaha: Community Members Speak Out on Resisting Transphobia and Sexism in Academia and Beyond

For this panel, I invite individuals to submit abstracts who are interested in presenting papers about the controversy surrounding J. Michael Bailey and his theories regarding the lives and identities of transgender/transsexual women. While Bailey's book The Man Who Would be Queen was released in 2003 to overwhelmingly negative reviews, the book caused a stir for its assertion that trans women can be split into two groupings: "homosexual transsexuals" and "autogynephilics." Trans activists and allies mobilized and took Bailey to task for his bogus claims and helped to document a compelling case against him. Many considered it an open-and-shut case until the 2007 appearance of an article by Bailey colleague and intersex researcher Alice Dreger, who published a lengthy apologia for Bailey in the Archives of Sexual Behavior and castigated trans women activists for their attempts at "ruining" Bailey.

Possible paper topics may include (but are not limited to):

- The colonization of trans bodies and identities by non-trans academics
- The invisibility of transpeople in academia
- The vital importance of resisting "Master Narratives" like those produced by Bailey, Dreger et. Al.
- The role of "Science" in perpetuating transphobia and sexism
- The mobilization by the trans community post-publication of The Man Who Would Be Queen as a unique liberatory project in the history of transgender activism, including the Internet and the blogosphere
- An analysis of the work performed by specific trans advocates in the wake of the Bailey fiasco, such as Andrea James, Lynn Conway and Deirdre McCloskey
- (dis)similarities between The Man Who would be Queen and Janice Raymond's The Transsexual Empire
- How the discourse of Bailey, Dreger et. Al. helps to further a chilly climate for transpeople in academia and in society as a whole
- The sexism in J. Michael Bailey's book The Man Who Would Be Queen
- The interrelationship between misogyny, heterosexism and transphobia
- Bailey's connection to eugenics and reparative therapy and its impact on trans communities
- Bailey's alleged research misconduct, including sex with a trans woman research subject

Proposals should be submitted via e-mail to Joelle Ruby Ryan (joeller@bgsu.edu) no later than Monday, October 29, 2007. Please include a 250-500 word proposal description, a brief bio and a 50-100 word abstract and the following info:

Name

Institutional Affiliation

Address

Phone

Email