

# JESS WHATCOTT

San Diego State University • Women's Studies Department  
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## EDUCATION

- 2019            PhD, Politics  
Designated emphases in Feminist Studies and Critical Race & Ethnic Studies  
University of California Santa Cruz
- 2016            M.A. Politics  
University of California Santa Cruz
- 2011            M.A. Social Science, Environment & Community Program  
Humboldt State University
- 2004            B.A. Political Science, minor in Women's Studies (Summa Cum Laude)  
Humboldt State University

## EMPLOYMENT

- 2019-present    Assistant Professor, Women's Studies Department, LGBTQ+ Studies, San Diego State Univ.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Critical prison studies; critical disability studies; queer theory; the carceral state; state-sponsored eugenics; carceral feminisms and carceral humanisms; American political development; California history; political economy; feminist and queer abolition; transformative justice; speculative fiction; genealogy and interpretive methods

## PUBLICATIONS

### REFERRED ARTICLES

Whatcott, Jess (2021) "Aiding and Abetting the Unruly Past: Queer and Critical Disability Studies Approaches to American Political Development," *Politics, Groups & Identities*.

Whatcott, Jess (2018) "No Selves to Consent: Women's Prisons, Sterilization, and the Biopolitics of Informed Consent," *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 44, No. 1, 131-153.

### BOOK CHAPTERS

Whatcott, Jess (2021). "Sexuality, Disability, and Madness in California's Eugenics Era," in *Routledge Handbook of Disability and Sexuality*, eds. Russell Shuttleworth and Linda Mona (London: Routledge).

Whatcott, Jess (2020). "We Survived You?: Resisting Eugenicist Imaginaries Through Feminist Speculative Fiction," in *The Future is Unwritten: Representations of Political Resistance and Emancipation in Science Fiction*, eds. Judith Grant and Sean Parsons (Maryland: Lexington Books).

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*ACADEMIC BLOGS*

Whatcott, Jess (2017). "Sexual Deviance and 'Mental Defectiveness' in Eugenics Era California," *NOTCHES: (re)marks on the history of sexuality*. <http://notchesblog.com/2017/03/14/sexual-deviance-and-mental-defectiveness-in-eugenics-era-california/>

*ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION*

Whatcott, Jess, "Speculating Crip Collectivity Beyond Neoliberal Governance," *Lateral: Journal of the Cultural Studies Association*, forthcoming May 2021.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- 2019 Dissertation Fellowship, Social Sciences Division, University of California Santa Cruz
- 2018 Finalist, Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship
- 2017-2018 Alumni Service Award, Graduate Division, University of California Santa Cruz
- 2013-2017 Cota-Robles Fellowship, University of California Santa Cruz

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND ROUNDTABLES

*UNPUBLISHED, REFERRED PAPERS BEFORE PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES*

- 2020 Whatcott, Jess. "Containing the Unruly Past: 'Fixing' Queer and Disabled Racial Subjects in Political History," Western Political Science Association; Los Angeles; May (due to COVID-19 conference moved online)
- 2019 Whatcott, Jess. "Refusing State Care, Refusing Respectability: Claiming Queer Kinship with California's Defective Class," Beyond Care Symposium: Queer, Feminist, and Trans Studies Research Cluster; University of California Davis; June
- 2019 Whatcott, Jess. "Eugenic Facts/Speculative Fictions: Foreclosing on Feminist/Queer/Crip Futures in California Public Law," Gender, Bodies, Technology; Blacksburg, Virginia; April
- 2019 Whatcott, Jess. "Building the State that Cares and Citizens Who Desire the State in Progressive Era California," Western Political Science Association, San Diego, April
- 2018 Whatcott, Jess. "Building State Biopower Through Discourses of Care: Women Reformers and Eugenics Policies in Progressive Era California," Queering Care and Cure Symposium: Queer, Feminist, and Trans Studies Research Cluster; University of California Davis; May
- 2018 Whatcott, Jess. "In the Old Days... You Could Nab Somebody Like This":<sup>[1]</sup>~~[SEP]~~Re-Citing Eugenics in the Discourse About Mass Shootings," Western Political Science Association; San Francisco, California; March
- 2017 Whatcott, Jess. "Making Good?: Institutionalizing Immoral Girls and Women in Progressive Era California," California American Studies Association; Long Beach; April

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- 2017        Whatcott, Jess. “Making Good?: Diagnosing and Treating Girls’ and Women’s Deviant Sexuality in Eugenics Era California,” Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science; Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; March
- 2016        Whatcott, Jess. “Prisoner Sterilizations and the Politics of Over-Population in California,” Western Political Science Association; San Diego, CA; March

### *OTHER PARTICIPATION IN PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES*

- 2019        Roundtable, Tanja Aho, Ryan Cartwright, Hailee Gibbons, Meghann O’Leary, John Wang, and **Jess Whatcott**, “Mad Time/s of/and Anxiety, Chronic Illness, and Neuroqueerness: Incarcerating Realities, Imagine-Building Futures,” National Women’s Studies Association; San Francisco; November
- 2018        Roundtable, Tanja Aho, Brady Forrest, Jessi Jackson, Carol Moeller, and **Jess Whatcott**, “Madness and Decolonization: Histories, Stories, Futures,” Critical Ethnic Studies Association; Vancouver, British Columbia; June
- 2017        Discussant, “Carceral Humanisms,” Critical Prison Studies/Critical Disability Studies Caucuses sponsored panel; American Studies Association Conference; Chicago, Illinois; November
- 2014        Discussant, “Doing Critical Race and Ethnic Studies in a Neoliberal Age” Symposium for Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, University of California Santa Cruz, June

## COURSES TAUGHT

### *Graduate Courses at SDSU*

Body Politics  
Methods of Inquiry

### *Undergraduate Courses at SDSU*

Women in American History, part A  
Women in American History, part B  
Lesbian Lives and Cultures

### *Undergraduate Courses at other Universities*

Gender, Race, and Class  
Introduction to Ethnic Studies  
Introduction to Queer Studies  
“Queer” Across Cultures  
Critical Race, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Theory and Methods  
Feminism and the Body  
Introduction to Women’s Studies  
Gender and Society  
Act to End Sexualized Violence  
Sex, Gender, and Globalization  
Power, Privilege, & Environment  
Introduction to U.S. Government & Politics

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Critical Race, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Professional Development  
First Year Experience

## OTHER PEDAGOGY AND CURRICULUM

June 2020-current      Convener and co-facilitator, Women's Studies Racial Justice Pedagogy Working Group

## INVITED LECTURES

March 2021              "Free Them All: Why California's Eugenics History Matters Today," Center for Inclusive Excellence, San Diego State University

February 2020          "No Selves to Consent: Women's Prisons, Sterilization and the Biopolitics of Informed Consent," Feminist Studies Department, University of California Santa Cruz

June 2019                "Queer Resistance and Queer Refusal in California's Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Eugenics Institutions," Women's Studies, San Diego State University

April 2019                "California Eugenics as Queer History," Women's Studies, San Diego State University

February 2019          "Eugenics in the Carceral State: Troubling Treatment as an Alternative to Incarceration," Crime and Justice Studies, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

## GRADUATE STUDENT SUPERVISION

2021-current      M.A. Thesis Chair – Nicholas Villarreal

2021-current      M.A. Thesis Chair – Jenna Wilson

2021-current      M.A. Thesis Chair – Alejandra Aguirre

2020-2021          Graduate Teaching Associate Mentor – Anna Buckley (Women's Studies)

2020-2021          M.A. Thesis Committee – Anna Buckley (Women's Studies)

2020-2021          M.A. Thesis Committee – Barbara Perez (Women's Studies)

2020-2021          M.A. Thesis Committee – Andrea Sanchez (Communication)

2019-2020          M.A. Thesis Committee – Kerry Scroggie (Women's Studies)  
"The Rise of Genetic Genealogy: A Queer & Feminist Analysis of *Finding Your Roots*"

2019-2020          M.A. Thesis Committee – John Gove (History)  
"From the Campus to the Community: The Struggle for Gay and Lesbian Rights in 1970s San Diego"

## UNIVERSITY SERVICE

JESS WHATCOTT

2019-present Sexual Violence Task Force

2020 Consultant on faculty training for working with trans/non-binary students

2017-2018; 2012-2013 Sexual Assault Prevention Committee (Humboldt State University)

2015-2017 Coordinated Community Review Team (University of California Santa Cruz)

## DEPARTMENT SERVICE

2021 Graduate Teaching Associate Committee

2020-present Department Diversity Committee

2020-present Bread and Roses Feminist Research Colloquium Committee

2020-present Carstens-Wertz Graduate Student Fund Committee

2020-present Graduate Student Application Committee

2020 Women's Studies Virtual Commencement Committee

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2020-present Reviewer: *Signs: A Journal of Women in Culture and Society* (1), *Politics, Groups, & Identities* (1), and *Journal of Lesbian Studies* (1)

2017-present Social media coordinator, Critical Disability Studies Caucus of American Studies Association

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP AND SERVICE

American Studies Association

- Critical Disability Studies Caucus
- Critical Prison Studies Caucus

Committee for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Trans History (American Historical Association)

National Women's Studies Association

- Disability Studies Interest Group

Society for Disability Studies

Western Political Science Association

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

2020-present Volunteer, Detention Resistance

2020-present Coalition member, Free Them All San Diego

2014-2015 Volunteer, Sin Barras (Santa Cruz)

2012-2013 Volunteer, Humboldt County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

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2003-2013 Organizer, Bar None (Humboldt County)

### COMMUNITY PRACTICE

2010-2013 Program Assistant, Humboldt County Teen Court, Eureka CA  
Diversion program for system involved youth

2009-2018 Core organizer and support Staff, North Star Quest Camp, Petrolia, CA  
Overnight feminist informed summer camp for girl identified youth

### COMMUNITY RESEARCH CONSULTING

2015 Campus Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault Survey for Graduate Students, Graduate Student Association and UAW Anti-Oppression Committee, UCSC

2015 Santa Cruz Jail Conditions Survey, Sin Barras, Santa Cruz, California

2013 Safer Campus Community Project Survey, Sexual Assault Prevention Committee, Humboldt State University

2012-2013 Community Safety and Accountability Assessment, Humboldt County Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee, Eureka, California