



Jill Koyama, Associate Professor and Coordinator of Educational Leadership and Policy, currently serves as the Director of the Institute for LGBT Studies (iLGBTS), a transdisciplinary center. The iLGBT staff, which includes two graduate students in Educational Leadership and Policy—Angela Labistre Champion and Adrienne Carmack—remains dedicated to bringing people and ideas together to conduct research, develop curriculum, and delivering program centered on issues important to LGBTQ+ communities. The staff, like the faculty in Educational Leadership and Policy, is also committed to acting courageously and in solidarity with all those who are oppressed by the inequitable institutions, policies, and practices at UA and across Southern Arizona.

Last year, during her first year as Director, Jill and the iLGBTS staff, sponsored 31 events. They collaborated with 16 community organizations and 16 UA partners. Nearly 2, 500 participants attend the iLGBTS events and activities.

To increase the connections between the iLGBTS and the faculty in the College of Education (CoE) and other UA faculty who are conducting work in education, the iLGBTS launched the Arts & Education Initiative. In 2019-2020, it is committed to funding initial six research and engagement projects selected in a competitive process. Two of these projects are headed by CoE faculty members, Z Nicolazzo (EPSP) and Carol Brochin (TLS). Dr. Nicolazzo, along with her Trans Studies Research Cluster colleagues, will be kicking off their three-day Trans Studies Symposium with a free showing of *Happy Birthday Marsha!* At the Loft Theatre, followed by a Q & A with the writer/director, Tourmaline. Dr Brochin, as a member of the Coalition for the Arizona 3 (CAZ3), a collective of student and faculty scholar-activists will present a series of campus/community gatherings relating to the interconnected issues of immigration, detention, law enforcement, and queer/trans activism.

Broadening the iLGBTS commitment to connecting with communities in Tucson, the theme for the 2019-2020 academic year is Arts, Culture & Expression. Under this theme, iLGBTS will be holding a variety of free workshops throughout the academic year focused on LGBTQ+/queer/trans storytelling and zine-making; physical art such as spray paint and found object art; exploration of representation in literature and comics; comedy; letter writing and divination poetry; and drag as therapy and “Drag Story Hour”. The culmination of all of this will be on November 9th when the iLGBTS will host the Artistic InQUEERies: An Evening of LGBTQ+ Art, Culture, and Expression, which will center LGBTQ+-identified people, and especially those with intersectional identities within the LBGTQ+ community.

The iLGBTS is currently developing a new website that will be launched by the end of August. For now, you can follow the iLGBTS on social media: IG: @ilgbt_uofa and FB: @ilgbtuofa