

Women and Gender Services, LGBTQ+ Services

April 2025

NEWSLETTER

///WELCOME

April is Arab American Heritage Month

April is Arab American Heritage Month! During this time, we celebrate Arab Americans throughout the past and present, and recognize their invaluable contributions to our country. It also serves as a time to combat Anti-Arab bigotry and to challenge stereotypes and prejudices.

While the celebration of Arab American Heritage Month is fairly new, the history which it commemorates dates back as far as 1527,[\(Open external link\)](#) when Estebanico Azemmouri, a native of present-day Morocco, and Antonio Bishallany, a native of present-day Lebanon, arrived to what would many years later become the United States, becoming the first members of the Arab American community that is estimated today to number approximately 3.7 million people.

Lesbian Visibility Week

Lesbian Visibility Week is a week at the end of April that is meant as a time for lesbians to be seen, heard and celebrated. Just like any other week to commemorate different groups in the LGBTQ+ community, Lesbian Visibility Week is a great time to reflect on how lesbians are treated within the LGBTQ+ community and in everyday life.

Lesbians exist in a somewhat unique intersection of misogyny and homophobia because their lives and relationships don't revolve around men (outside of living in a patriarchal society, of course). This can make their relationships seem less viable or worthy of respect to others. This is perfectly displayed when someone says a variation of, "Well, maybe you just haven't met the right guy yet" (or something more vulgar), which every lesbian or sapphic person has heard at least once in their lives

Meet the Team

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///Follow Us on Social Media

LBGTQ+: linktr.ee/lbgtmit
WXGS: linktr.ee/wxgs

///UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

April Book Recs.

LBGTQ+: Green Fuse Burning

TAGS: *Arab, Historical Fiction, Magical Realism, Trans Man,*

Five years after a suspicious fire killed his ornithologist mother, a closeted Syrian American trans boy sheds his birth name and searches for a new one. The only time he feels truly free is when he slips out at night to paint murals on buildings in the once-thriving Manhattan neighborhood known as Little Syria, but he's been struggling ever since his mother's ghost began visiting him each evening

Books at: libib.com/u/lbgtqmit

WXGS: When Women were Dragons

TAGS: *Anthology, Feminism, Arab Women, Politics, Essays*

Nineteen Arab women journalists speak out about what it's like to report on their changing homelands in this first-of-its-kind essay collection. A growing number of intrepid Arab and Middle Eastern sahafiyat—female journalists—are working tirelessly to shape nuanced narratives about their changing homelands, often risking their lives on the front lines of war.

Books at: libib.com/u/wxgs

///WXGS and LBGTQ+ Services Announcements

New Workshop Series: It's a Vibe!

LBGTQ+ Services is excited to announce the second installment of the workshop series “It's a Vibe: Navigating Identity, Advocacy, and Belonging.” This spring, join us for the second interactive workshop: Your Queer Career: Thriving in Academic & Professional Spaces. Go to tinyurl.com/itsavibeinfo to learn more about the workshop series such as topics, attendance, and more!

Complete all three workshops, and you'll earn a reimbursed trip to Provincetown, MA (Ptown)!

Attend in-person or online for the third workshop: Queer Joy as healing

Saturday, April, 5th

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Rainbow Lounge 50-250

Lavender Graduation

Join [LBGTQ+ Services](#) for the 2025 hybrid Lavender Graduation on Friday, May 2nd at 4:30 pm US Eastern Time to celebrate our LBGTQ+ MIT undergraduate and graduate/post doc students who have graduated or will be graduating in 2025 and the wonderful things they've accomplished. This event is in collaboration with and hosted by our friends at Alumnx Pride and the MIT Alumni Association.

[Please make sure to RSVP and share within your networks so you can receive the information on how to participate. Graduates must RVSP to participate.](#)

If you have any questions please feel free to email LBGTQ+ Services at lbgt@mit.edu. The entire MIT community (students, alumni, staff, faculty, family, friends) is invited to enjoy and be with us on this date to recognize our grads. There will be music, speeches, food.

WXGS and LBGTQ+ Events

It's a Vibe Workshop Series

Join us for an engaging, discussion-based workshop where we explore the power of Queer Joy as a form of resistance and healing. Whether you're looking to deepen your

understanding of Queer Joy or simply seeking a supportive space to connect and reflect, this workshop is for you. All are welcome!

When and Where Is This?

Location: Rainbow Lounge 50-250

Date: Saturday, April 5th

Time: 12:00-1:30 PM

Lunch & Lounge (Graduate Student Appreciation Week)

Join LGBTQ+ Services and Women and Gender Services for a casual, come-and-go lunch event designed for graduate students to relax, connect with peers, and take a break from their busy day. Enjoy good food, light activities, and a welcoming space to recharge.

Location: Cheney Room (3-308)

Date: Tuesday, April 10th

Time: 12:00 pm -1:30 pm

RSVP: [Register here](#)

Rainbow Seder

MIT Hillel and LGBTQ+ Services invite you to join us for a Rainbow Seder celebrating community and togetherness this Passover. Our seder will be vegetarian/vegan friendly. All levels of experience and background are welcome, bring your friends!

When and Where Is This?

Location: Rainbow Lounge 50-250

Date: Monday, April 14th

Time: 6:30 pm

///@Happening For All

SHASS Stand-Up Comedy Live! with Joel Kim Booster

MIT's School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences and the de Florez Fund for Humor invite members of the MIT community to an evening of laughter with actor and comedian Joel Kim Booster, named one of The Queer Young Comics Redefining American Humor by the New York Times!

When and Where Is This?

Location: Kresge Auditorium

Date: Sunday, April 6th

Time: 7:00-8:00 PM

MIT SPECTRUM Drag show and Pane

Come watch some of Boston's most iconic drag performers slay the stage! The show will feature Candace Persuasian, Linda Maripossa, and MIT alum MT Hart. Performances will be preceded by a Q&A panel with our special guests.

When and Where Is This?

Location: Lobdell Dining Hall (W20-208)

Date: Saturday, April 12th

Time: 8:00 PM

InterAsian Intimacies across Race, Religion, and Colonialism

Chie Ikeya will discuss her research in transnational histories of Asian mobility and intimacy in the era of European colonial empires and her recent book, *InterAsian Intimacies across Race, Religion, and Colonialism*. Come uncover the obscured history of intimacy and estrangement between indigenous people and Asian migrants.

When and Where Is This?

Location: E51-275

Date: Thursday, April 17th
Time: 5:00-6:30 PM

Signature Series presents Grand Gathering: Jazz and Gender Justice

The Berklee Institute of Jazz and Gender Justice presents its second Grand Gathering, showcasing all nine of its ensembles, ranging from modern to mainstream and free to electronic jazz.

When and Where Is This?

Location: Berklee Performance Center
Date: Tuesday, April 8th
Time: 8:00 PM

MIT Reads: Let's talk "Burnout" with authors Emily and Amelia Nagoski

Join us to hear Emily Nagoski and Amelia Nagoski, co-authors of this semester's MIT Reads selection, in dialogue with Dr. Karen Singleton, Deputy Chief Health Officer of MIT Health.

Where Is This?

Location: 14S-130 (Nexus)
Date: Wed, April 16th
Time: 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

///Announcements for All

Love Across Difference: Mixed Marriage in Lebanon w/ Prof. Laura Deeb

Intersectarian and interreligious marriages often provoke strong opposition from Lebanese of all sects and faiths. In this talk, Prof. Lara Deeb (Anthropology, Scripps College) will introduce her new book, *Love Across Difference: Mixed Marriage in Lebanon*. Through mixed couples' stories and the innovative ways many of them think about social difference and confront patriarchy, Deeb highlights the role of family and close social relationships in reproducing sectarianism and explores its impact on people at the personal level, outside the formal realms of law and politics. [More](#)
Food will be provided. For questions, email wgs@mit.edu

Louis Kampf Writing Prize

Due date: Fri April, 11th, 2025 at 5pm eastern.

For rules and guidelines, go to wgs.mit.edu/kampf-prize

Please consider submitting your academic essays or creative writing (creative nonfiction, short stories, poetry, etc...) to the Louis Kampf Writing Prize in Women's and Gender Studies.

The \$500 prize, sponsored by The Program in Women's and Gender Studies (WGS), was started in 1995–96 to honor Louis Kampf, distinguished professor emeritus of Literature and Women's Studies, and to reward high quality undergraduate writing in women's and gender studies. The Prize is judged by faculty from WGS. It also includes a luncheon with committee faculty and a guest of your choosing.

MIT students can submit entries in different genres of academic writing as well as fiction and poetry. Submissions should provide thoughtful reflection using gender as a central category of analysis.

Questions concerning the requirements for entries should be directed to wgs@mit.edu.

QUEEAH

a literary magazine for queer artists in the northeast

...is now accepting submissions!

Queeah Literary Magazine is seeking fiction, poetry, critical writing, art and photography made by queer people from the northeast. Whether it be political, environmental, romantic, or even erotic, we want to see it!

Email submissions* to gueeahlitmas@gmail.com.

Meet the Editors

submit by April 15th!

Guidelines Max 3000 words

///Acronyms In Our Newsletters

There's a lot of acronyms at MIT and we use a lot of them for character length in our newsletter. However, you might not be familiar with every one. One of our readers had a great suggestion of including a key at the end of the newsletter and here it is so folks can know what everything means.

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If you have any suggestions for our newsletter then don't hesitate to reach out at: lbgt_wxgs@mit.edu

- **GA:** Graduate Assistant
- **ICEO:** Institute Community & Equity Office
- **IDHR:** Institute Discrimination and Harassment Response Office
- **I.E.:** Intercultural Engagement
- **LBGTQ+:** Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, Transgender, Queer Plus

- ***RL: Rainbow Lounge***
- ***WGS: Women and Gender Studies***
- ***WXGS: Women and Gender Services***

You are welcome here

MIT Rainbow Lounge
(50-250)

studentlife.mit.edu/lbgtqmit

Cheney Room
3-308

studentlife.mit.edu/womenmit