

Lazarus Nance Letcher

lazarusnletcher@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in American Studies: University of New Mexico

Expected Graduation: May 2025

Masters in American Studies: University of New Mexico, NM

Graduated: May 2018

Bachelor of Arts Degree: St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN

Graduated: May 2014

Majors: Race and Ethnic Studies, Music

Awards: 2021 National Performance Network Creation Fund Awardee, McNair Scholar

Certificates: Foundations of Project Management, Leading Diverse Teams & Organizations

WORK EXPERIENCE

Strategic Communications Manager: Bocoup LLC, Virtual; January 2022-May 2024

Develop and implement a communications strategy for our organization and partners, craft compelling stories about the apps and projects we create. Update our website and social media regularly to align with our missions of accessibility in tech and centering minoritized communities. Wrote long-form blogs on the tech industry's trends in environmental justice, Black Lives Matter, and accessibility and inclusion.

Project Assistant: LGBTQ Resource Center, UNM, Albuquerque, NM; June 2017 - September 2019

Assist in the creation and editing of the Safe Zone training manual to foster safer spaces for LGBTQ individuals on campus and in the community. Create, distribute, and analyze surveys of LGBTQ faculty and staff. Lead health initiatives by scheduling regular HIV testing for the center, reaching out to local traditional healers, and leading talks on topics like self-care and sobriety. Facilitate a biweekly support group for transgender and gender non-conforming students.

DEI Project Lead and Recovery Coach: Tempest Sobriety School, Virtual; September 2019 - September 2021

Help other BIPOC people in recovery from alcohol connect and share their stories. Recruit and retain BIPOC talent by forming ERGs. Create DEI programming and learning opportunities. Launch a mentorship program to address inequity. Keep up to date with the healing work put out by Tempest and assist my peers with the material. Attend keynotes and workshops on addiction, recovery, and intersectionality.

Adjunct Professor: Education Department, Endicott College June 2021-July 2021

Led a graduate-level course on DEI in education settings. Created content to reflect current events. Provided prompt and compassionate feedback. Helped teachers make their schools safer spaces for minoritized students.

Research Assistant: Religion Department, UNM, Albuquerque, NM; March 2021-July 2021

Research and summarize Jesuit Catholic priests' abuse of children in Indigenous communities in the Western Diocese. Track yearly movements of credibly accused priests with dates and geolocations. Collected data will be used in the creation of an interactive map to assist indigenous peoples and tribes in accessing justice.

Instructor: Peace Studies Department, UNM, Albuquerque, NM; January 2020 - May 2020

Connect grassroots movements across time and identities to demonstrate the evolution of activism in the United States. Curate and teach a syllabus centering on Indigenous environmental justice, intersectional

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feminism, and LGBTQ liberation. Assign and grade assignments, providing feedback to create better writers and speakers. Connect students with campus resources.

Community Advisor: Ibis Reproductive Health, Cambridge, MA 2018 - Present

Edit and advertise the nation's largest survey of trans masculine patients. Develop inclusive language for hospital intake forms to aid in cancer research. Advise on language and outreach. Provide an intersectional and historical perspective on OBGYN care. Contribute to ongoing projects related to trans-masculine reproductive rights.

Teaching Assistant: American Studies Department, UNM, Albuquerque, NM; January 2019 - Present

Guide students through Southwestern historical and cultural material. Grade and provide feedback weekly on assignments. Moderate and intervene in discussions on difficult topics. Foster writing skills, critical reading, and interpersonal knowledge production.

Graduate Assistant: American Studies Department, UNM, Albuquerque, NM; September 2018 - December 2018

Substitute teach and proctor exams. Create posters and graphics to promote the Red Power Speaker series. Coordinate with guest speakers and venues. Transcribe and edit interviews with Native elders and activists. Collaborate and create a database on Native death at the hands of police.

Sexuality Educator Self Serve Toys, Albuquerque, NM; September 2015 - Present

Educate folks about sex and sexuality from all walks of life. Maintain knowledge of products and companies. Provide resources and information to folks in need. Handle delicate and difficult situations with grace and poise. Promote products, classes, and services on social media.

Freelance Musician: Self-Employed, Albuquerque NM; August 2007- Present

Practice and prepare for rehearsals, concerts, and gigs. Network and connect with classical and folk musicians to build ensembles. Clearly communicate desires and fees with the hiring party. Adjust performance to fit different national and international audiences.

Research Assistant: Department of Communication & Journalism, UNM, Albuquerque, NM; January - May 2017

Contact local high schools and set up appointments with students. Meet with groups of folks aged 13-19 to facilitate discussions on teen privacy and technology. Make teens feel heard and important. Conduct literature reviews relevant to the field. Transcribe hours of dialogue.

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VOLUNTEER WORK

Court Appointed Special Advocate: NM Kids Matter, Albuquerque, NM; December 2023-Present

Amplify Indigenous foster children's voices, meet with them once a month, write court reports, meet with social workers and medical providers, and advocate in court for them. Stay up to date on ICWA changes and attend trainings.

Board Chair and Volunteer: QORDS, Durham, NC; July 2019 - March 2023

Support queer and trans Southern youth to find their voices through music, LGBTQ education, and other artistic endeavors. Raise awareness and funds throughout the year. Interview prospective counselors. Coach a band, teach voice lessons, and hold space for youth in crisis.

LGBTQ+ Advisory Board: LGBTQ+ Resource Center of the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque NM; 2020-2022

Advise the LGBTQ+ Resource Center on how to better assist students, faculty, and staff. Engage with representatives from community organizations to better connect the center with Albuquerque's LGBTQ+ community. Relay the concerns of transgender students.

Community Advisor: Patient and Family Advisory Council University of New Mexico Hospitals, Albuquerque, NM; 2020 - Present

Advise and guide the hospital network to better care for transgender and BIPOC patients. Meet with the committee and hospital staff monthly. Help navigate complaints from transgender and gender non-conforming patients. Improve and integrate more holistic trans care.

Selection Committee: Albuquerque Poet Laureate Program Albuquerque, NM; 2020-2022

Read and review poetry from local artists. Meet regularly with the committee to choose a poet laureate to best represent the city of Albuquerque. Support events and causes led by the poet laureate. Promote the arts in diverse communities.

American Studies Graduate Student Association Chair: University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM; 2019-2020

Act as a liaison between graduate students and the department. Organize graduate student orientations, prospective student events, and regular meetings to connect. Collaborate with alumni to host events.

Transgender Liberation Coalition, Albuquerque, NM; 2018-2019

Assist transgender and Two-Spirit asylum seekers from Mexico and Central America access necessary care and services. Pick up asylees from detention centers, purchase gender-affirming clothing, find or provide housing.

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PRESENTATIONS AND TALKS

“Black Liberation is Queer Liberation”

NAACP Sonoma County, Positive Images, June 2024

“Weaving the Work: Art, Activism, Academia”

Mellon Mays Undergrad Fellows, June 2024

“Drag as Resistance”

(online) Nutanix, June 2023

“Enchantment, Entrapment, Enchiladas: New Mexico “True”

The Santa Fe Opera, June 2023

“This Little Light of Mine: Why we needed Fannie Lou Hmaer and where we are today”

The Sante Fe Opera, December 2022

“Translating the Hustle”

(online) TransTech Conference, April 2022

“Intersectional Understanding of Addiction and Recovery”

(online) NMSU Nursing Department, March 2022

“Black and Trans: As We Have Always Been”

Cisco/Meraki, February 2022

“Transgender Day of Remembrance: Trans History and Futures”

(online) The City of Toronto, November 2021

“Black and Trans: As We Have Always Been”

(online) Zipcar, June 2021

“Juneteenth: Black Queer Radical History”

(online) Indivisible, June 2021

“Racial Reckoning: True Equity in Mental Health”

(online) New Mexico Black Leadership Caucus, June 2021

“QTBIPOC and Two-Spirit Resistance: Before Stonewall”

(online) The Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women Youth Summit, Albuquerque, NM, November 2020, September 2020, April 2021

“Stories of Thriving: Celebrating Trans Resilience”

(online) University of New Mexico, April 2021

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“Sobriety in the Queer Community”

(online) American University, March 2021

“Black Trans Liberation”

(online) University of Windsor, March 2021

“Black and Queer in Academia”

(online) University of New Mexico, February 2021

“Who’s Missing?: Making Sobriety Spaces More Inclusive and Accessible”

(online) Sober Voices Summit, February 2021

“Black and Tan: Past, Present, Futures”

(online) Central New Mexico Community College, February 2021

“What’s in a Name?: Troubling Colonial Archives of Lives and Loves Beyond the Archive”

(online) University of Illinois Library System, Urbana-Champaign, IL, October 2020

“QTBIPOC and Two-Spirit Resistance: Before Stonewall”

(online) Durham Pride, Durham, NC, September 2020

“Laughing through the Hard Times: Centering Trans & Queer Black Voices”

(online) University of New Mexico LGBTQ Resource Center, Albuquerque, NM, June 2020

“Town Hall Combating Anti-Blackness at UNM”

(online) University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, May 2020

“‘Gay Liberation, but Transgender Nothing!’: Stonewall’s Folklore, the Limits of Neoliberal Commemorations and the Necessity of Coalition”

Colorado University, Queer and Trans Studies Conference, March 2020 (Covid Cancelled)

“Queer as Folklore”

University of North Carolina Asheville, Queer Studies Conference, March 2020 (Covid Cancelled)

“Being Trans in Higher Ed”

University of New Mexico Student Union Building, Albuquerque, NM, November 2019

“Self Care for Queer and Trans People of Color”

University of New Mexico LGBTQ Resource Center, Albuquerque, NM, April 2019

“Trans in Public: Navigating Space in Transgender Bodies”

The National Consortium for Creative Place Making, Albuquerque, NM, February 2019

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“Safety in AA: How to Support Gender and Sexual Minorities in Recovery”

St. Mark’s Church, Albuquerque, NM, January 2019

“Trans and Two-Spirit Migration from the Tail of Turtle Island: The Role of Settler Colonialism, and How to Help

The Red Nation’s “NoThanks NoGiving” Teach In, Albuquerque, NM, November 2018

“Managing Difference: Protecting Trans and GNC Faculty in the Age of Diversity, Multiculturalism, and the Alt-Right”

National Women's Studies Association National Conference, Atlanta, GA, November 2018

“Human Rights and Intersectional Coalition Building”

University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, October 2018

“Race & America’s Long War: A Conversation with Dr. Nikhil Pal Singh”

University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, September 2018

“Trans 101”

Native American Community Academy, Albuquerque NM, November 2017

“Navigating Racism, Transphobia, and Gay Hookup Apps From Coast to Coast”

Bed Talk Series with the Graft Gallery, Albuquerque NM, October 2017

“#BlackLivesMatter and Intersections of Indigeneity: Colonial Kinship and Decolonial Collaboration”

Young Indigenous Femmes Retreat with The Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women
Santa Fe NM, April 2017

“Decolonial Kinship: Black and Indigenous Liberation Movement Alliance Potentials”

American Indian Studies Association Conference, Albuquerque NM, February 2017

“LGBTQ+ People of Color: Decolonizing Gender and Sexuality”

Together for Brothers, Albuquerque NM, February 2017 and November 2016

“Pretty Boi Flow: QTPOC Musings on Blackness, Gender, and Faith”

Bed Talk Series with the Graft Gallery, Albuquerque NM, February 2017

“Rearticulations of Native Savagery: Standing Rock and the Resurgence of Indigenous Activism”

The Institute for American Indian Research Conference, Albuquerque NM, October 2016

“Sermon on Race and Sexuality in the Lutheran Church”

St. Olaf Chapel, Northfield, MN, May 2014

“Rethinking Diversity: Racial Identity, Racism, and White Privilege”

Ongoing St. Olaf Workshop, Northfield, MN 2013-2014

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PUBLICATIONS AND INTERVIEWS

“The Sound of Community: The Uplifting LGBTQIA+ Stories of StormMiguel Florez’s Films”

El Palacio Magazine, Spring 2024 Issue

“Beverly Glenn-Copeland’s Revolution Songs”

Them, October 2023

“I Survived an Armed Attack. This is Why Gun Control is My QueerActivism”

Them, September 2023

“The heart expands during Pride Month”

Source New Mexico, June 2022

“What if Technology was Created for the Benefit of All Life on Earth”

Bocoup, April 2022

“Crossed Wires: Tech and the Movement for Black Lives”

Bocoup, February 2022

“Who Profits From Our Suffering? The Black Trans Housing Scam Taking Over Instagram”

TransTech Monica Roberts Award Winner, January 2022

“Fighting anti-trans legislation is suicide prevention”

Source New Mexico March 2021

“Gender Journey Without the Gender Studies”

Transgender Studies Quarterly, 2021

“Outsiders: Navigating Outdoor and Recovery Spaces as a Black Trans Person”

Get Rad Be Rad: Making Space and Stepping Back, 2021

“Flower for Freedom”

Carry Water: An Abolitionist Zine, November 2021

“Queer Halloween Saved Lives”

Source New Mexico, October 2021

“School Daze”

We Thought You Been Knew Podcast, October 2021

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“From TDOR to Tony McDade: Black Transgender Mourning in the Wake of the Murder of George Floyd”

QED: A Journal in GLBTQ World Making, Forthcoming

“Anjimile is a Spiritual Songwriter Using Music to Commune with their Ancestors.”

Them, April 2021

“Gender Fluidity and the Black Atlantic”

Autostraddle, February 2021

“Sobriety and Identity”

Sober Curious, December 2020

“I’m More Dangerous to White Supremacy Sober”

WNPR *Audacious*, September 2020

“Resources for BIPOC and LGBTQ Recovery”

Recovery Happy Hour, July 2020

“The Imperative for Transgender and Gender Nonbinary Inclusion: Beyond Women’s Health”

Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, May 2020

“Yelling his Name: Black Trans Mourning and the Murder of Tony McDade”

Autostraddle, June 2020

“How to Make Recovery Spaces more Inclusive”

The Temper, June 2020

“Keeping an Eye on You”

KUNM *Your New Mexico Government & Covid*, June 2020

“Sober in a Shutdown”

KUNM *Your New Mexico Government & Covid*, April 2020

“Sobriety in the Summer”

KUNM *Let’s Talk New Mexico*, July 2019

“Transgender Visibility”

KUNM *Let’s Talk New Mexico*, November 2018

“Still Reeling That I Made It”

Autostraddle.com Bad Behavior Special Edition, August 2018

“Expanding the Definition of ‘American Boys’”

Strange Fruit Podcast, August 2018

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“Nonbinary Identity, Academia, and Art”

Land of Enlightenment Podcast, August 2018

“Trans Recovery and Religious Baggage”

Transitional Wisdom Podcast, May 2018

“Transgender Murder Memorials: A Call for Intersectionality and Trans Livability”

Master’s Thesis, April 2018

“A Man Was Lynched Yesterday: A Sad Black Queer Trans Bois Thoughts On The Murders Of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile”

Pioneer’s Press, 2016