



LGBTQ
Religious Archives Network

Caro Bratnober Receives 2021 Educational Resource Prize

The LGBTQ Religious Archives Network (LGBTQ-RAN) honors Caro Bratnober with the 2021 LGBTQ-RAN Educational Resource Prize for their workshop, “Queering Religious Archives.”

Caro Bratnober is the Public Services Librarian at the Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. They completed a Master’s degree in Library & Information Science at the Pratt Institute, then a Master of Arts at Union Theological Seminary. Her library and archival work is informed by her research in gender and sexuality studies, (dis)ability studies, ethics, and religious studies, along with digital-media and information-literacy studies. They coordinate research and access services for the Burke Library and across the Columbia University Libraries and create exhibits, user-engagement projects, and instruction-design initiatives.

“Queering Religious Archives” is designed as a three-hour workshop—situated in a library or archive—for introducing students in college, seminary, or graduate school to researching LGBTQ subjects using primary-source documents. The workshop materials include a lesson plan, worksheet, presentation slides, and other instructional materials. In the workshop, students gain familiarity with archival concepts, hands-on practice with archives on-site, and theoretical understanding of the archive. They will learn about the role of archives in research and how collections are processed and stored. In researching queer subjects documented in the archives of a seminary, church, or other religious institution, questions of visibility, identity, and “the closet” inevitably arise. Finally, through handling archival materials, students will gain tactile experience of manuscript document research and investigate the extent to which their questions about queer subjects can (or cannot) be answered.

Bratnober is the first recipient of the LGBTQ-RAN Educational Resource Prize. LGBTQ-RAN initiated this Prize to honor scholars and teachers who develop curricular and instructional materials for the teaching of LGBTQ+ religious history at all levels of education from primary to higher education, as well as in congregational or community settings. The Prize is intended to support and amplify the development of these educational resources and to make excellent resources available by publishing them on the LGBTQ-RAN website. The “Queering Religious Archives” workshop can be found [at this link](#).

Submissions for next year’s LGBTQ-RAN Educational Resource Prize must be postmarked or received electronically by June 30, 2022. Complete information on submission guidelines for the Prize can be found here: <https://www.lgbtqreligiousarchives.org/educational-resource-prize-guidelines>.

The [LGBTQ Religious Archives Network](https://lgbtqreligiousarchives.org/) is a ground-breaking venture to preserve the history of LGBTQ religious movements around the world. It has three primary purposes: a) to assist LGBTQ religious leaders and groups in determining how best to preserve their records and papers in appropriate repositories; b) to provide an electronic information clearinghouse for these archival collections and other historical data about LGBTQ religious history; and c) to encourage research and study of LGBTQ religious history. Learn more about LGBTQ-RAN at its website: <https://lgbtqreligiousarchives.org/>

September 15, 2021