

Zhuanxu Xu

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Pronouns: she/her

PROFILE

My primary research areas are trans and queer studies, feminist philosophy, and social and political philosophy, with a particular emphasis on the intersection between them and their entanglement and imbrication with language, visual culture and socio-cultural transformation.

My artistic practices are rooted in the investigation and reflection on a heterogeneous class of phenomena apropos of deviant sex/gender/sexuality through the prism of trans Marxist scholarship, utilising various media such as writing, photography, film, and performance to manifest the antagonistic position towards hegemonic societal discourse and knowledge production.

AWARD

Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2021 – 2021

EDUCATION

MPhil/PhD Culture, Communication and Media, University College London, United Kingdom – 2021-Present

MFA Fine Art, Goldsmiths, University of London (pass with distinction), United Kingdom – 2018-2020

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2024

Teaching Assistant: Gender and Digital Media (Critical Studies), Digital Media: Critical Studies MA, University College London

2023

Teaching Assistant: Digital Media Theory (Production), Digital Media: Production MA, University College London

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Feminist & Trans Philosophy; Marxist Political Philosophy; Critical Theory; Visual and Digital Culture; Affect Theory

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2023

FLOOR FIVE COLLECTIVE: FILM NIGHT, Goldsmiths Centre for Contemporary Art, London, United Kingdom

2022

Trans Tales for Toxic Times, Ugly Duck, London, United Kingdom

Tour de Moon, Leicester 13–16 May, Newcastle 27–30 May, and Southampton 10–13 June (all linked by a touring sustainable Tour de Moon Convoy, 11 May–16 June), United Kingdom

Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2021, South London Gallery, London, United Kingdom

2021

Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2021, Firstsite, Colchester, United Kingdom

2020

Goldsmiths MFA Degree Show 2020, Goldsmiths, University of London, London, United Kingdom

2019

Imagined Communities, Crypt Gallery, London, United Kingdom

A Better Tomorrow, The Artworks Creekside, London, United Kingdom

Interim+, MFA Fine Art Studios, Goldsmiths, University of London, London, United Kingdom

Disidentification (solo exhibition), A/part, Kowloon, Hong Kong

FILMOGRAPHY

2022

The Lunar Month

17min / Colour / Digital & 35 mm / United Kingdom / 2022

2020

One Narrow and Flimsy Grasp

23min / Colour / Digital / United Kingdom / 2020

PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES

2024

Chapter Contribution: *Epistemic Complicity and Trans in Mainland China* in the book *Gender and Digital Media: A Critical Companion* (Upcoming, Routledge)

Presentation: *Transition as Unwaged Labour and Moving Beyond It*, at Trans-inclusivity Seminar Series - Researchers' Panel, UCL Institute of Education

Panel Discussion: *Mapping Transgender Survival and Transfeminism in Contemporary China*, in the role of Speaker for the 2024 Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference

2023

Presentation: *Materialities and lived experiences of trans people in contemporary China at Violence, Gender and Discourse: an Interdisciplinary Workshop*, UCL Institute of Education

2022

Visual Culture and Transness Roundtable Discussion at Feminist Gender Equality Network Conference: *Living Gender in Diverse Times*

2019-2020

Gender Politics in China (Mandarin, Cantonese, English), 4-day reading group, A/part, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Imaging Trans liberation and Its Practicability in China (Mandarin, Cantonese, English), 5-day workshop, A/part, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Gender Studies in China (Mandarin), Online Teaching Programme (10 lectures)

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

2023-2024

Photographer at GGI events, examples here:

<https://www.dazeddigital.com/music/article/62662/1/ggi-is-a-trans-led-club-night-for-london-s-queer-esea-community>

2022-2024

Bartender at Simmons Bar | Kings Cross

2022-2023

Welfare Staff at Riposte

2021-2022

Welfare Staff at Pxssy Palace

2015- 2018

Volunteer at Wuhan LGBT Center - I played a key role in organising community-driven projects, such as mutual aid networks, aimed at providing practical resources and fostering a sense of solidarity among community members. Additionally, I provided peer-to-peer counselling, offering a listening ear and guidance to individuals navigating the challenges associated with their gender identities and sexual orientations. Through these experiences, I witnessed firsthand the power of community care and the transformative impact of supporting one another in times of need. Since migrating to the UK, I have remained in contact with the network of community activists I built during my time working at the centre. I now contribute by making translations of trans-feminist texts and finding ways to securely distribute this material to my friends in China.