

*Sexuality at the End of the World?: Grassroots Sexual Health Collectives and the Rewriting of Sex for Precarious Times*

Project abstract

This project considers how queer and trans sexual health collectives in Berlin produce knowledge about sexuality in a moment pervaded by a sense of precarity related to growing authoritarian political trends in Germany and the transnational landscape. For this study, I will conduct an ethnography, working in collaboration with grassroots collectives. My methods will include participatory action research, interviews, and community mapping.

My research addresses three questions: 1) How do queer and trans knowledge practices intervene, reshape, or build on scientific knowledge about sexuality? 2) What conceptual and political shifts emerge from these modes of knowledge production and how do they inform queer and trans activism? For example, how might interventions into conventional scientific knowledge about sexuality (like scientized notions of sexual orientation, gender, or sexuality) reconsider some of the identities around which queer groups organize? 3) What sense of futurity—or sense of a possible future—do grassroots sexual health collectives connect their work to, and how does this shape the knowledge they produce about sexuality?

Whereas much scientific knowledge about sexuality has been produced in labs, medical contexts, or through institutional avenues, these groups produce knowledge through grassroots efforts like group conversations, collection of testimonies, archival research, and via experience with different healing modalities. I propose these grassroots sexuality collectives operate as citizen science laboratories for the production of knowledge about sexuality.