

This presentation probes changing sexual cultures across a life span to traffic in the voyeuristic pleasures offered by a glimpse into the erotic life of another. Organized like a glossary, the presentation pairs a word or phrase with a brief affirmation that explores the ways sexual meaning is encoded in language. Written as abbreviated assertions rather than precise definitions, these are combined with autobiographical fragments that exemplify the ways gender, culture, age, geography, and the queer contours of a sexual life are revealed in real world exchanges.

**Juana María Rodríguez** is a cultural critic, public speaker, and award-winning author who writes about sexual cultures, racial politics, and the many tangled expressions of Latina identity. She is the author of *Put a Life: Seeing Latinas, Working Sex* (Duke UP 2023); *Sexual Futures, Queer Gestures, and Other Latina Longings* (NYU Press 2014); and *Queer Latinidad Identity Practices, Discursive Spaces* (NYU Press, 2003). A Professor of Ethnic Studies and Performance Studies at UC Berkeley, she is a recipient of The Center for Gay and Lesbian Studies' Kessler Award for her lifetime contributions to the field, as well as the prestigious Berlin Prize. An international public speaker, her work touches on sexual politics, Latinx pop culture, queer kink, feminist politics, digital cultures, and sexuality and aging and has been translated into Spanish, Portuguese, Greek, and German.

**Alison Sperling** is assistant professor of Literature, Media, and Culture at Florida State University. She has previously held positions as a Junior Faculty Fellow at Technische Universität Dresden (2023), an International Postdoctoral Initiative Fellow (IPODI Fellow) at the Technische Universität Berlin (2020-2022), and a fellow at the ICI Berlin (2018-2020). She works on 20th and 21st century American literature and culture, ecocriticism/the Anthropocene, science fiction and the Weird, queer and feminist theory, Black studies, and contemporary art.

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# Queer Lessons from a Sexual Life

**With  
Juana María Rodríguez**

**Moderated by  
Alison Sperling**