

Since the beginning of the modern era, states have been preoccupied, as Michel Foucault claimed, not only with carceral justice and the general question of 'who deserves to live', but also with the growth and protection of the population in their biopolitical functions. While various states have long claimed their caring capacities, they do not disclose the details of their agency or the range of tools employed to target different parts of the population. When it comes to LGBTQIA+ communities, and gay men in particular, they have until very recently been subjected to carceral tools, including forced hormone treatment and compulsory admission to psychiatric clinics, by various European states, both East and West. Recent discoveries of Ewa Majewska in the archives of the Hiacynt operation, which targeted gay men in 1980s Poland, show that the police documents issued during this operation are still in use. This has led to discussions about the aims and limitations of the state's actions towards LGBTQIA+ people, how to reclaim equality and due diligence for queer populations, and how to create and transform archives, including state-operated, grassroots, activist, and artistic ones. The discussion will address the possibilities and responsibilities of queer theory in relation to the interests of LGBTQIA+ populations, the collecting strategies of affective and institutional archives, and the ways in which resistance might include, rather than exclude, making critical, queer claims against the state.

Who Cares?

Queer Archives, Resistance, and the State

Tomasz Basiuk is a professor of American Studies at the University of Warsaw and the director of the Institute of the Americas and Europe at UW. He co-edited the volume *Queers in State Socialism: Cruising 1970s Poland* (with J. Burszta, 2020), and has published numerous chapters and articles on gay and queer lives in Poland, the USA, and Europe. These include 'Homosexuality and Activism in State-Socialist and Postsocialist Poland' in the volume *The Routledge Handbook of Sexuality in East Central Europe*. He also co-edits the queer studies journal *Interalia*.

Nikita Dhawan is the Chair of Political Science with a focus on Political Theory and the History of Political Thought at TU Dresden in Germany. Her research interests include global justice, human rights, democracy, and decolonisation. She is the author and co-author of several books, including: *Decolonising the Enlightenment: Transnational Justice, Human Rights and Democracy in a Postcolonial World* (2014), and *Save the Enlightenment from Europe. Critical Theories of Decolonisation* (2024), and three editions of *Postkoloniale Gender Studies* (with Maria do Mar Castro Varela; English editions in 2005 and 2015; forthcoming German edition in 2027).

Ewa Majewska is a feminist theorist of culture, associate professor at the SWPS University in Warsaw, and former ICI Fellow. Her most recent publications are: *The Caring Leviathan? Hiacynt Pink Files, Biopolitics, and the Queer Weak Resistance* (2026); *Weak Avant-Garde?* (2026); and *Feminist Antifascism* (2021) as well as numerous articles published in: *Signs*, *Third Text*, the *Journal of Utopian Studies*, the *European Journal of Women's Studies*, *Jacobin*, *e-flux*, *Interalia*, and others. She lives and works in Berlin and Warsaw. ewa-majewska.com

Antke Antek Engel (they/them) is director of the Institute for Queer Theory (iQt) in Berlin; a site where academic debate meets up with political activism and artistic/cultural practices. They received their Ph.D. in Philosophy at Potsdam University in 2001, and since then held various guest professorships in gender and queer studies. They have published widely in the fields of queer, feminist, and poststructuralist theory, political philosophy as well as visual cultural studies.

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With Tomasz Basiuk, Nikita Dhawan, Antke Antek Engel, Ewa Majewska

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