



Illustration:  
Şafak Şule Kemancı

# Call for Papers: **Lesbian Lives**

**New York Oct 24-25 2025**

For the first time since its inception in 1993, the Lesbian Lives Conference is crossing the Atlantic to New York City! The conference is hosted by the Journal of Lesbian Studies, Sinister Wisdom, and CLAGS: The Center for LGBTQ Studies, at the City University of New York. Lesbian Lives brings together academics, artists, writers, and activists to showcase, enjoy, and critically analyze lesbian culture. Rooted in an ethos of inclusivity, dialogue, diversity, and accessibility, the conference welcomes people of all sexualities and genders.

In keeping with its arrival in the global city of New York, this year's theme is:

***"The Lesbian International: Creating Networks of Knowledge Across Space and Time"***

Our aim is to foster international and interdisciplinary conversations on critical issues in lesbian studies today. By engaging with global scholars, activists, and artists, we seek to deepen understanding of the lesbian erotic and generate new knowledge, artistic imaginations, and activist strategies to sustain lesbian lives and resistance.

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**We invite proposals on (but not limited to) the following themes:**

**Lesbian Desires**

The lesbian erotic, sexual practices, norms, sex work, BDSM and poly lesbian relationship; political lesbianism, the joy of lesbian sex, friendships, companionship, and chosen families.

**Lesbian Memory Work**

Lesbian oral histories, memory work, and counteracting lesbian erasure across global communities.

**Lesbian Genius**

Highlighting and engaging with the work of groundbreaking lesbian visual artists, choreographers, filmmakers, writers, poets, and activists.

**The Sapphic State**

Lesbian political resistance to lesbophobia, transphobia, and anti-gender ideology. Combating intersectional forms of oppressions, including patriarchy, capitalism, neoliberalism, racism, colonialism, and white supremacy. Anti-war, anti-genocide lesbian organizing and resistance to pink washing. Lesbian political theory from around the world.

**Intergenerational Conversations**

The evolving landscape of lesbian genders, racial and ethnic formations, sexualities, communities, and politics, and their impact on solidarity and intergenerational dialogues.

**Lesbians Spaces**

Lesbians in everyday space, lesbian domesticity, lesbian at work, lesbian mapping projects and gentrification, lesbian festivals, parties, and clubs, online lesbian culture, shift to the rural, the lesbian trans-national, lesbian refuges and lesbian migrations.

### **Lesbian Earth**

Exploring lesbian relationship to nature, interspecies entanglement, resistance to climate change, back to the land communities, and eco-lesbianism.

### **Imagining Lesbian Futures**

Exploring new lesbian imaginations identities, sexualities, genders, cultural formations, and visions for the future.

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## **We welcome proposals for:**

- **Individual papers panel sessions**
- **Roundtable discussions**
- **Workshops**
- **Film (after 2020) screenings**
- **Visual presentations**

We encourage submissions across all genres—both factual and fictional—that align with the conference theme. The Lesbian Lives Conference aims to build bridges across disciplines and embrace innovative forms of critical engagement with the politics of solidarity.

Proposals should be no longer than 300 words and must be submitted via our online form 31 March 2025. Successful applicants will be required to register for the conference by 30 April 2025.

For questions write to: **[sinisterwisdom@gmail.com](mailto:sinisterwisdom@gmail.com)**

**[Press here to submit your proposal](#)**