

Introduction: What Can Be Queer and What Can Queer Be?

This heterogeneous issue of *InterAlia* works hard to stretch the meaning of queer in unexpected ways. While it includes the Spanish translations of seminal queer studies essays by Lee Edelman and David M. Halperin, it also contemplates the queerness of the figure of the smoker, the music made by an egg slicer, the adult who refuses to renounce childhood, the talking pine tree that spins a melodramatic tale of the Weimar Republic, and the Montana-born writer who learned her immigrant husband's language – Ukrainian – well enough to be recognized as a poet in Ukraine, then came out as a lesbian, and went on to publish the first American bestseller about gay men. This issue of *InterAlia* also worries about the condition and prospects of queer studies in various places, and about the commodification of queer identities as a consequence of feeding preferred gender pronouns and other personal data into the global information economy. Finally, this issue probes the perennial question of the apparent absence of a ground for community among self-identified queers, who have nothing in common but their singular desire. What, ask the contributors to this issue, can queer be/be queer politically, philosophically, aesthetically?

Showcased in this issue is an original interview with Heather Love, who reflects on a wide range of topics, including the institutionalization of queer studies. On the one hand, Love explains her uneasy relation to academia, caused by her sensitivity to class and geographical inequalities, and, on the other, she emphasizes the nurturing horizontal and transgenerational relations fostered by academia.

We also proudly bring out four superb essays: by Settimio Fiorenzo Palermo (musicology), Zoey Sophia Pook (communication), Mateusz Świątlicki (literary studies), and Luiz Valle Junior (philosophy). The most unusual feature of the 2020 issue is the short story by Liliana Piskorska, who deployed the Polish Romantic folk tale convention to make sense of fragmentary archival materials about a trans woman living in pre-World War II Germany. Performed in a city park in Wrocław, Poland, this text not only commemorated a forgotten queer icon but also served as a commentary on the present-day homophobia in Poland, where queer desire and gender nonconformity are dismissed as “ideology.”

All but one of the original texts are available in English. The article on Patricia Nell Warren was written with Polish readers in mind, to introduce this once popular American writer who forged her queer identity through a bond with Eastern Europe. Having published an issue mostly in Spanish in 2017, we include in the 2020 issue two important theoretical texts translated into Spanish, to sustain contact with our readers in Spain and Latin America.