The Ohio State University Diversity and Identity Studies Collective at OSU (DISCO) is an interdisciplinary and university-wide project centered around eight academic programs that foster understanding of how issues of identity and culture—whether related to gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, dis/ability—intersect within our complex national and global worlds.

**PRIMARY GOALS OF DISCO**

- Promote innovative and intersectional research on issues of diversity, identity, and social difference and power.
- Coordinate and advertise courses and curricula on these issues.
- Sponsor diversity-focused intellectual and creative programs.

**PARTNER UNITS INCLUDE:**

- African American and African Studies
- American Indian Studies
- Asian American Studies
- Comparative Ethnic and American Studies
- Disability Studies
- Latino/a Studies
- Sexuality Studies
- Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies

"It is our belief that interdisciplinary, intersectional, cross-cultural work is the necessary path to understanding the borders and barriers that divide and marginalize people, and to fostering ethical relationships that bridge these divides."

(Debra Moddelmog, Former Director and Co-Organizer, DISCO)
THE FETISHISM OF COLONIAL COMMODITIES AND THE INTIMACIES OF FOUR CONTINENTS

Lisa Lowe, professor of comparative literature, UCSD, gave a public lecture, drawn from her forthcoming book The Intimacies of Four Continents, on reification of colonial products and the occlusion of racialized colonial labor relations.

QUEER STUDIES CONFERENCE


This two-day conference—the first, full-scale, academic queer studies conference at Ohio State—provides a forum for scholars, creative writers, performance artists, archivists, and others to present and discuss their work relating to queer issues. Keynote speaker, Justin Spring, is the author of the award-winning book, Secret Historian: The Life and Times of Samuel Steward, Professor, Tattoo Artist, and Sexual Renegade (2010).

DEGREE PROGRAMS

DISCO’s eight affiliated academic programs offer over 20 Undergraduate and Graduate degrees, including majors, minors, graduate interdisciplinary specializations, master’s, and PhD degrees.

DISCO administers an Interdisciplinary Programs Scholarship to support undergraduate students who are enrolled in any of the DISCO interdisciplinary minors: American Indian Studies, Asian American Studies, Disability Studies, Latino/a Studies, and/or Sexuality Studies.

The DISCO Graduate Student Caucus works to build and support a community for graduate students to engage with issues of working, teaching and researching within identity and diversity studies.

NEWS

The Sexuality Studies Program welcomes Jian Chen, assistant professor of English specializing in Queer Studies, to the associated faculty and oversight committee.

Mitsu Narui, who earned her PhD in Education, Policy, and Leadership (EPL) and completed the Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Sexuality Studies, is in the spotlight for her research on Asian/American gay, lesbian, and bisexual college students’ experiences. She recently published Understanding Asian/American Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Experiences from a Poststructural Perspective in The Journal of Homosexuality.

The (2011) Society of American Indians Centennial Symposium marked the centennial of the formation and first national meeting of the Society of American Indians (SAI) in 1911 on the Ohio State campus. Organized by AIS coordinator Chad Allen, this symposium had over 100 attendees, and featured talks, workshops, and performances by some of the major figures in American Indian Studies, activism, literature, and music. The event culminated in a tour of the Newark Earthworks.

A screening of Ingelore, a documentary about a deaf woman who survived Nazi Germany, was co-sponsored by Disability Services and DISCO.