12fed Gynhadledd Dysgu ac Addysgu

12th Annual Learning and Teaching Conference

10-12 Medi 2024 | 10-12 September 2024

'History is so Gay!': Developing skills for queering analysis of historical sources using collage

Diana Valencia-Duarte

Hanes a Hanes Cymru | History and Welsh History

I propose to reproduce the 10th session of our skills-based 'Module HY24320: Interdisciplinary and Decolonial History'. This seminar used the collage *language* to analyse Solimar Otero’s chapter: ‘Yemayá y Ochún Queering the Vernacular Logics of the Waters’, from the book *Yemoja: Gender, Sexuality, and Creativity in the Latina/o and Afro-Atlantic Diasporas*, ed. by Toyin Falola, 1st ed. (Albany: SUNY Press, 2013, pp. 118–45). We used printed images from three editions of the magazine 'Aperture' (No 235 Orlando - on gender fluidity, No 252 - on Ghanian photography, No 254 Counter Histories), all of which were provided by our library in the Aspire reading list.

This seminar aimed not only to foster reflection on the use of primary and secondary sources trough the deconstruction and reconstruction of messages, but also to develop specific skills:

1. empathy to approach research decolonially (dismantling historical narratives that perpetuates power imbalances across gender, race, class, disability), and
2. critical thinking through 'queering the analysis' to challenge and transcend traditional disciplinary boundaries, dichotomies, and essentialisms. For example, we challenge disciplinary frontiers trough interdisciplinary practices. Similarly, we can blur the distinction between approaches to primary and secondary sources, a dichotomy that we could understand with more fluidity.

The activity was accompanied by Afrodiasporic Caribbean music themed around Yoruba Orisha deities and was closed by an exposition of the participants’ works, followed by a discussion and conclusions.

