“You Can Tell Just By Looking” and 20 Other Myths About LGBT Life and People

A conversation with authors Michael Amico, Ann Pellegrini, and Michael Bronski

Friday, November 15
5:00-7:00 pm
HGS 211, 320 York St.

“You Can Tell Just By Looking” and 20 Other Myths About LGBT Life and People takes aim at some of the most persistent and pernicious myths about lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, culture, and life in the United States. Some of these myths – such as the notion that “all religions condemn homosexuality” or that “transgender people are mentally ill” – have been used to justify discrimination and even violence against LGBT people. But others – such as the claim that “homosexuals are born that way” or that “hate crime laws prevent violence against LGBT people” – are embraced and circulated by many LGBT communities and their allies. At this book salon, Michael Bronski (Harvard), Ann Pellegrini (NYU), and Michael Amico (Yale), the authors of this just-published book, discuss the ongoing force of these myths and the contemporary challenges of developing a more nuanced — and messy — understanding of sexual identities and sexual politics, in the plural.

Michael Amico is a PhD candidate in American Studies at Yale University and is writing a history of the love between two men in the Civil War. He has written for LGBT youth publications, such as Young Gay America, and provided political analysis for the Boston Phoenix and other venues.

Ann Pellegrini is professor of performance studies and religious studies at New York University, where she also directs NYU’s Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality. She has written extensively about religion, sexuality, and U.S. public life. Her publications include Performance Anxieties and the coauthored book Love the Sin.

Michael Bronski is senior lecturer in the Women’s and Gender Studies Program and in the Jewish Studies Program at Dartmouth College. He has written extensively on LGBT issues for four decades, in both mainstream and queer publications. His book Pulp Friction: Uncovering the Golden Age of Gay Male Pulps won a Lambda Literary Award in 2003.

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