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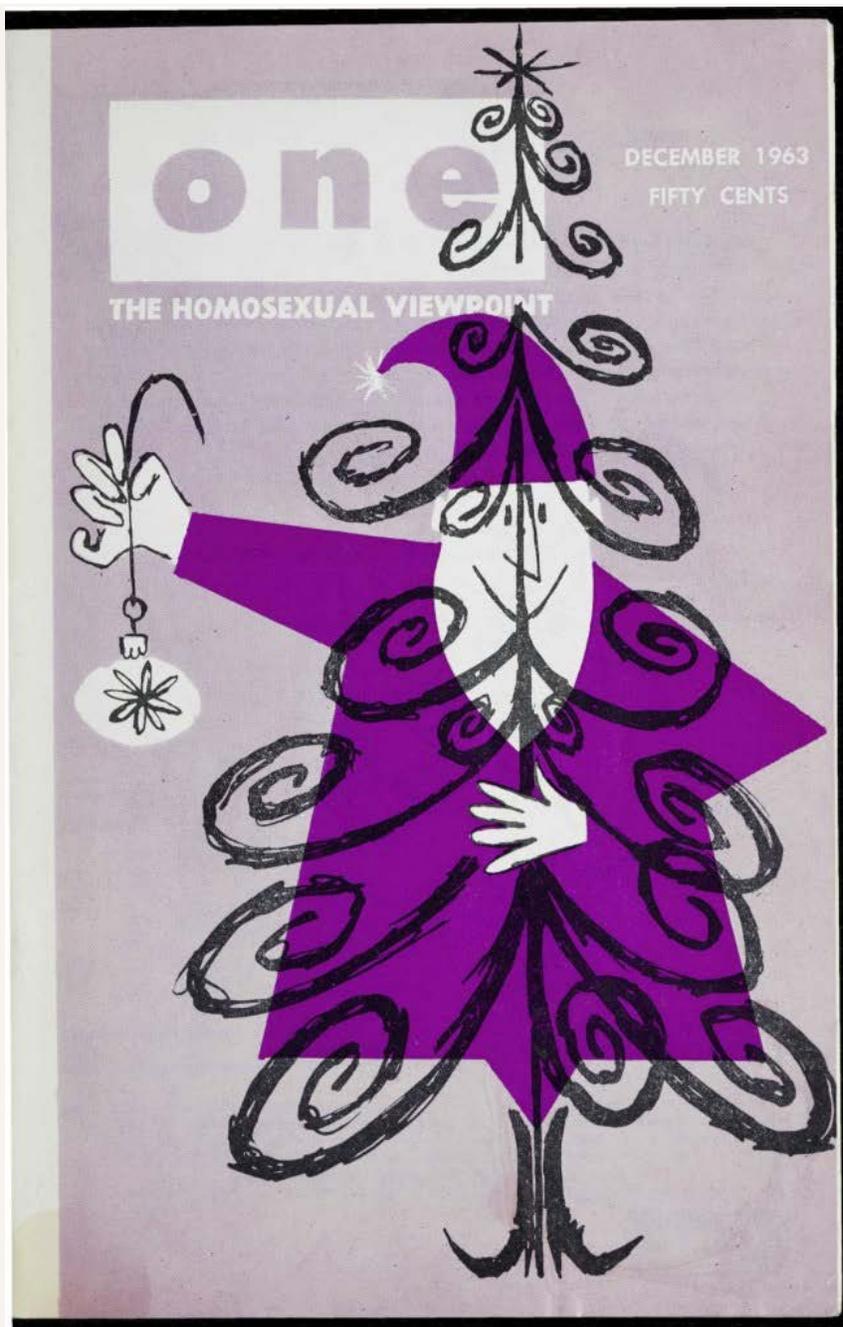
Faculty Research: Dr. Lauren Gutterman writes on Christmas and queerness

by Carrie

Andersen

AMS :: ATX is a blog dedicated to representing the many activities and interests of the department of American Studies at The University of Texas at Austin. Together with the department's Twitter feed, this blog exists to serve the AMS and Austin communities by acting as a hub for up-to-date information on events and opportunities at UT and beyond.





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With Christmas a mere 11 days away, we’re very pleased to bring you such a timely piece from **Dr. Lauren Gutterman**. Dr. Gutterman has penned a thoughtful, fascinating discussion for *Notches* about how historic periodicals conveyed how “Christmas felt *different* for queers,” drawing upon publications like *ONE*, *The Mattachine Review*, and *The Ladder*.

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The whole piece can be found [here](#); we've printed an excerpt below:

As many scholars have pointed out, with the emergence of gay liberation such expressions of sadness and loss faded from view, replaced, at least publicly, with more politically "useful" feelings of righteous anger and pride. But the queer holiday blues have persisted, and they have even been a source of theorizing about sexuality. Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick wrote in Tendencies, "The depressing thing about the Christmas season—isn't it?—is that it's the time when all the institutions are speaking with one voice...They all—religion, state, capital, ideology, domesticity, the discourses of power and legitimacy—line up with each other so neatly once a year." During the holidays "Christmas" and "the family" become one and the same; they are constituted in and through each other. Writing from the margins as queer identified and as Jewish, Sedgwick held that the fascinating—and exciting—thing about sexuality is the extent to which individuals' bodies, appearances, identities, experiences, and fantasies fail to align so easily. It is precisely

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this messiness, this inconsistency, Sedgwick argues, that the concept “queer” aims to bring into focus. In other words, Christmas is queerness’s opposite.

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This entry was posted in Faculty Research and tagged Christmas, depression, domesticity, emotion, holiday, LGBTQ, queer, sexuality.

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