



UNIVERSITÀ  
di VERONA

Dipartimento  
di SCIENZE UMANE

**POLITESSE**  
Centro di ricerca  
Politiche e Teorie della Sessualità  
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# ARTS, ANTHROPOLOGY AND QUEER RESEARCH AND ACTIVISM IN THE U.S.

A dialogue with  
**Esther Newton, Holly Hughes and Jean Carlomusto**

Esther Newton, Holly Hughes and Jean Carlomusto are influential scholars and LGBTQ activists from the US. We will discuss their work in anthropology and arts as related to the history of feminist and LGBTQ activism in the United States: we will explore the history of "lesbian feminism", "cultural wars" and "lesbian sex wars" and address issues such as freedom of speech for sexual minorities and the relationship between feminism and gender identity issues through the lens of butch identity.

During the seminar, we will watch some scenes from Carlomusto's latest movie *Esther Newton Made Me Gay* and listen to some excerpts from Newton's memoir *My Butch Career*.

**Tuesday 27th September 2022, 4.30-7.00 pm, room 1.4**  
**Zoom Meeting ID: 890 1567 5246 Passcode: 249265**



Esther Newton is a founder of and leading scholar in LGBTQ studies. She has taught at Purchase College of the State University of New York, the University of Paris VII and the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor). She was active in Second Wave Feminism, Gay Liberation and the Lesbian/Feminist movements. Her pioneering works, such as *Mother Camp* (1972) and *The Mythic Mannish Lesbian* (1984), inspired many queer scholars. She has just published a memoir entitled *My Butch Career* (2018).



Holly Hughes is an internationally acclaimed performance artist whose work maps the troubled fault lines of identity. Her combination of poetic imagery and political satire has earned her wide attention and placed her work at the center of America's culture wars. She has published two books, *Clit Notes. A Sapphic Sampler* and *O Solo Homo. The New Queer Performance*, co-edited with Dr. David Roman.



Jean Carlomusto is a filmmaker, activist, and interactive media artist whose work explores the complex nature of unique individuals and marginalized populations. Her films are often unorthodox investigations of LGBT history and HIV/AIDS. Her work has been exhibited internationally in festivals, museums and on television. Her last work is *Esther Newton Made Me Gay* (2022).