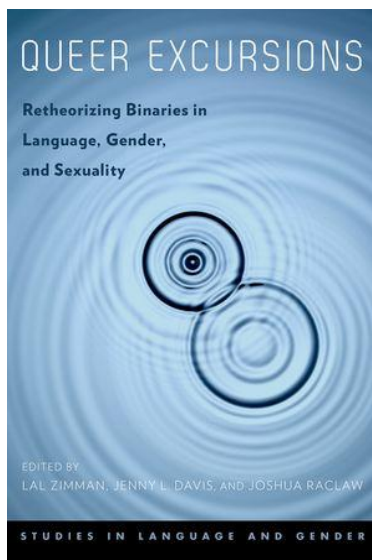


## **Congratulations to Lal Zimman, Jenny L. Davis, and Joshua Raclaw, winners of the 2014 Ruth Benedict Book Prize for *Queer Excursions***

The American Anthropological Association's Association for Queer Anthropology (AQA) is very pleased to announce that Lal Zimman, Jenny L. Davis, and Joshua Raclaw have been awarded the 2014 Ruth Benedict Book Prize in the category "Outstanding Edited Volume" for *Queer Excursions: Rethorizing Binaries in Language, Gender, and Sexuality* (Oxford University Press, 2014). The Ruth Benedict Prize is presented each year at the American Anthropological Association's national meeting to acknowledge excellence in a scholarly book written from an anthropological perspective that engages theoretical perspectives relevant to LGBTQ studies.

The contributors to *Queer Excursions* explore and challenge gender and sexuality binaries in language in a diverse range of ethnographic sites and contexts. The volume's original linguistic analysis of queer speech communities retheorizes both particular binaries and the larger social logic of the binary central to queer and feminist theory.



In their incisive introductory chapter, the editors make a compelling argument for retheorizing essentialized dichotomies like female and male, homosexuality and heterosexuality, and femininity and masculinity, noting the impact of recent scholarship in queer theory and poststructuralism on studies of language, gender, and sexuality. Each chapter of *Queer Excursions* offers a distinct perspective on the binaries that structure the gendered and sexual lives of speakers in contexts ranging from genderqueer language in Israel to Two-Spirits in the US to *tombois* and their girlfriends in Indonesia to *'yan daudu* (feminine men) in northern Nigeria. The volume's particular attention to genderqueer and trans communities in various sociocultural contexts illuminates the complicated power dynamics of gender and sexual binaries. Each contributor draws on ethnographic approaches to provide highly contextualized analyses of linguistic phenomena, including the deployment of phonetic styles, morphological gender markers, community-specific speech acts and the resignification of lexical terms. The Book Prize committee was impressed with the theoretical originality and ethnographic vitality of this volume, and the ways in which it reanimates debates about the production of and relationships between gender, sexuality, language, and speech—alongside possibilities for new approaches for thinking through them.

The Ruth Benedict Book Prize will be presented during the AQA Business meeting on Friday, December 5 at the American Anthropological Association annual meeting. AQA would like to thank the Ruth Benedict Book Prize Committee for their thoughtful work, including former Benedict Prize winners Naisargi Dave, David A. B. Murray, and Margot Weiss, and Graduate Student Representative, Timothy Gitzen. For additional information, please contact the Committee Chair, Margot Weiss, at [mdweiss@wesleyan.edu](mailto:mdweiss@wesleyan.edu).