

Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies monthly meeting
featuring guest speaker Samantha Botz

CURIOS LIVES: Victorian Mushroom Hunters and Queer Possibility

The study of fungi emerged as a distinct branch of study in the mid-19th century in no small part due to the efforts of a number of female botanical illustrators fascinated by the humble, often-ignored mushroom. This talk will draw upon the fruitfulness of fungi as a metaphor in literary studies to consider how early mycologists like Beatrix Potter and Anna Maria Hussey disrupted conceptions around notions of the so-called "feminine" art of botanical illustration by celebrating lifeforms that upend conventional notions of beauty and value. How does the work of these Victorian women invite us to queer our understanding of scientific knowledge--specifically, the lines often drawn between the amateur and the specialist, the technical and the artistic?



PIZZA, DRINKS AND BROWNIES PROVIDED!

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2025

1:00pm-2:30pm

Gruening 503H (or join us via Zoom!)



RSVPs are encouraged but not required. Contact Dr. Carol Gray at cjgray5@alaska.edu.



Samantha Botz is an Assistant Professor of 18th & 19th Century British Literature and Women & Gender Studies faculty at UAF. Her research spans Victorian hauntologies, folklore, surrealism, and contemporary queer ecologies.



**WOMEN, GENDER,
AND SEXUALITY
STUDIES**

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