

Dissertation Colloquium
American Studies, Harvard University
December 6, 2023
Thompson Room, Barker Center

9:00 a.m. **Welcome and introductions**

9:15 a.m. **Mattlyn Cordova**

Chapter Title: *Brujos: A Sacred Web Series*
Chair: David Joselit

10:00 a.m. **E.T. Stone**

Chapter Title: The Sexual Commons
Chair: Kenneth Mack

10:45 a.m. Coffee break

11:00 a.m. **Karen Kramer**

Presenting: Dissertation prospectus
Committee member: Philip Deloria

11:45 a.m. Final questions, closing remarks

12:00 p.m. Lunch

Student Biographies

Mattlyn Cordova studies brownness and affect in visual culture. Broadly her research interests include Latinx Studies, affect theory, queer theory, performance studies, film theory and history, and comparative ethnic studies. Her dissertation project currently focuses on popular Latinx visual productions and affect, especially the emotional transmission that occurs between image and spectator. Mattlyn completed her undergraduate studies at Northwestern University where she was a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow and received a B.A. in Gender and Sexuality Studies.

E.T. Stone works in American legal theory and history. Her research explores how private law—law that governs conflicts between individuals, rather than conflicts between an individual and the state—plays a surprisingly powerful role in creating the conditions of possibility for injury, care, and freedom in the United States. Topics of perennial focus in her work include sexuality, property, environmental protection and degradation, race, violence, and political economy. She holds a BA in Anthropology and Gender & Sexuality Studies from the University of Chicago, a JD from Yale Law School, and an AM in History from Harvard.

Karen Kramer is a curator of Indigenous art and culture whose projects underscore Indigenous agency, creativity, and dynamism, and invite and incite change in the perception of and engagement with Indigenous art, cultures, and histories. She is interested in building a more expansive, inclusive canon of American art and history. Her research will explore arts-based critiques of settler-colonialism, Indigenous arts and methodologies, contemporary Native art and activism, and approaches to decentering whiteness in the public sector. Karen studied anthropology at the University of Denver (B.A.) and George Washington University (M.A.). She works as a curator at the Peabody Essex Museum and also directs the internationally recognized, Andrew W. Mellon funded Native American Fellowship Program.