

booking Julia Serano for your college or conference!



Julia Serano is a writer, performer, activist, and biologist. She is best known as the author of *Whipping Girl: A Transsexual Woman on Sexism and the Scapegoating of Femininity*, a collection of personal essays that debunk many of the myths and misconceptions people have about trans women, femininity, and the subjects of gender and sexism more generally. Now in its second edition, *Whipping Girl* has garnered rave reviews—*The Advocate* placed it on their list of the best non-fiction transgender books, and readers of *Ms. Magazine* ranked it #16 on their list of the 100 Best Non-Fiction Books of All Time.

Julia's second book, *Excluded: Making Feminist and Queer Movements More Inclusive*, was a finalist for the Judy Grahn Award for Lesbian Nonfiction, and her most recent book, *Outspoken: A Decade of Transgender Activism and Trans Feminism*, was a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award for Transgender Nonfiction. Julia's other writings have appeared in news and media outlets such as *TIME*, *The Guardian*, *The Daily Beast*, *Salon*, *AlterNet*, *Out*, *Bitch*, and *Ms.*, and have been used as teaching materials in college courses across North America. You can find out more about her writings and other creative endeavors on her website: juliaserano.com

Hello, and thanks for your interest in bringing me out to your campus, conference, or event!

Over the last fifteen years, I have given performances, presentations, workshops, and readings at a wide variety of colleges and universities, and have been a keynote or featured speaker at numerous academic and activist conferences (a selected list of these can be found on the second page of this pamphlet).

I can speak to a broad range of topics related to feminism, LGBTQIA+ and transgender issues, and social justice activism more generally. While I am always happy to tailor my presentations to fit your needs and/or the theme of your event, this pamphlet provides brief descriptions of some of my most frequently requested talks.

I typically follow my presentations with an extended Q&A session, so that audience members can share their thoughts and questions. Additionally, I am always open to informal meetings or discussions with students and organizers while I am in town. If you decide that you want to bring me out to your conference or campus, just email me at hi@juliaserano.com.

Best wishes, -julia

Julia's most requested talk:

“Making Feminist and Queer Movements More Inclusive”

Exclusivity is a daunting problem within feminism and queer (i.e., LGBTQIA+) activism. Some feminists condemn other feminists because of their manner of dress, interests, or for the sexual partners or practices they take up. There is a long history of gay and lesbian activists who outright dismiss bisexuals, trans people, and other gender and sexual minorities. And a failure to recognize intersectionality often results in the erasure of people of color; people with disabilities, and other multiply marginalized constituents. In other words, exclusion stems from prioritizing certain forms of sexism and marginalization over others, thus resulting in far smaller movements with far more narrow and distorted agendas.

In this talk, Julia discusses numerous strategies that she forwards in her recent book, *Excluded: Making Feminist and Queer Movements More Inclusive*, that empower us to challenge all forms of sexism and marginalization, even those that we may be unfamiliar with. These strategies include recognizing natural variation in gender and sexuality, and that people are fundamentally heterogeneous; moving beyond fixed views of sexism and marginalization that deny many individual's unique situations, experiences, and perspectives; and learning to more generally recognize double standards, double-binds, and methods of invalidation that are routinely used to undermine minorities and marginalized groups.



other frequently requested presentations

more potential talks, plus a comprehensive list of Julia's past workshops, classes, and presentations, can be found on the "booking" page of Julia's website (juliaserano.com/booking.html)

I'll See It When I Believe It: On Perception and Gender Entitlement

Julia's most accessible talk, perfect for more general audiences. As human beings, we tend to be focused on (and sometimes fascinated or concerned by) how other people "do" their genders. Yet we hardly ever take a moment to consider how we see and interpret other people's genders. With thoughtfulness, sharp wit, and a sense of humor, Julia draws on her own personal experiences having been viewed as both female and male at different points in her life, to highlight how unconscious expectations and assumptions shape how we view other people. She also makes the case that *gender entitlement* (when we project our own value judgments, meanings, and assumptions about gender onto other people) lies at the root of all forms of sexism.

A Social Justice Activist's Perspective on Call-Out Culture, Identity Politics, and Political Correctness

Social justice activism has played a crucial role in challenging prejudice and promoting equity for women, people of color, people with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ people, and other marginalized groups. While most of us profess support for these past accomplishments, we may nevertheless resist newer expressions of social justice activism, or dismiss them as mere examples of "call-out culture," "identity politics," or "political correctness" run amok. While such claims are often off the mark, it is also true that activist movements can sometimes become too exclusive, inflexible, or counterproductive—problems that Julia has offered potential solutions for in her books *Excluded* and *Outspoken*. Striving to generate more light than heat, and to remain accessible to activists and non-activists alike, Julia will discuss the purpose of social justice activism and its limitations.

Anti-Transgender Prejudice: Past and Present

Despite many important gains toward acceptance over the last couple decades, transgender people now face significant backlash, not only from social conservatives who more generally oppose LGBTQIA+ identities, but also from trans-exclusionary feminists and others on the political left. In this talk, Julia will discuss the history of anti-trans prejudice and its various manifestations, and counter some of the more commonly cited myths and tropes used to undermine or demonize trans people. Since contemporary trans-antagonistic and trans-skeptical arguments often stoke fears that children are somehow being "turned transgender," Julia will also clear up common misunderstandings and disinformation regarding gender-diverse children and the gender-affirming healthcare model.

Putting the Feminine Back Into Feminism

As a feminist, biologist, and femme-identified trans woman, Julia has a unique perspective on feminine gender expression. In this talk, she moves beyond questions of "nature versus nurture," and challenges the popular tendency in our culture to denigrate and sexualize feminine gender expression. In addition to critiquing both sexist and certain feminist interpretations of femininity, Julia offers new potential directions for femme politics and activism.

Sexuality, Sexualization, and Self-Examining Desire

Sexuality is a highly diverse phenomenon—we all differ greatly with regards to our sexual interests, orientations, preferences, expressions, and histories. While our sexualities can be positive and life-affirming, they are often complicated by sexualization—that is, when sexuality is nonconsensually imposed upon us, or when we are reduced to our sexual body or behaviors to the exclusion of other characteristics. Feminists have long discussed how women are often sexualized by heterosexual men in our culture. Less attention has been paid to the frequent sexualization of minorities and marginalized groups, who are often stereotyped as sexually promiscuous (and therefore supposedly "asking for it"), as sexual deviants or predators, and/or as the objects of "fetishes" or "paraphilias." In this talk, Julia will discuss these various forms of sexualization, and offer strategies for how we can challenge them. She will also share her thoughts on how we can navigate being ethically sexual human beings in a world where certain hierarchies and stereotypes will likely influence our sexuality.

selected list of colleges that Julia has performed or presented at over the last decade:

American University • Amherst College • Boston College • Brown University • Bryn Mawr College • Butler University • Carleton College
Clark University • Centre College • Concordia University • Cornell University • Dalhousie University • DePaul University
Franklin & Marshall College • Furman University • Grinnell College • Johns Hopkins University • Lawrence University • Lewis & Clark College
Marquette University • Mayo Clinic • Nazareth College • New York University • Northern Illinois University • Northwestern University
Oberlin College • Pacific University • Queen's University • Reed College • Smith College • Southern Illinois University • Stanford University
Stetson University • Stony Brook University • Swarthmore College • Syracuse University • UCLA • University of British Columbia
University of Cincinnati • University of Georgia, Athens • University of Kansas • University of Missouri, St. Louis
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill • University of Ottawa • University of Texas, San Antonio • University of Vermont
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee • USC • Vanderbilt University • Vassar College • Wright State University • Yale University