

ABSTRACT

Queering Cartographies of Caribbean Sexuality and Citizenship: Mapping Female
Same-Sex Desire, Identities and Belonging in Trinidad

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Using subjective mapping exercises, semi-structured interviews and participant observation, this dissertation mapped the “safe spaces” of same-sex loving women, interrogating their relationships to state, societal apparatuses and institutions that police sexual behaviours and limit their experiences of citizenship. This study interrogated heteronormativity in Trinidad, as it is experienced by same-sex loving women, seeking to unveil the operations of heteronormative power and discourse that make the experiences of same-sex loving women invisible. By mapping these discourses, this thesis re-charts the existence of same-sex loving women within Caribbean terrains, focusing on the influence of social class, ethnicity, and identity politics on the formation of queer safe spaces, political consciousness, activism and resistance. Although specifically addressing female same-sex desire, this project highlights the ways citizenship is coded in Trinidad and Tobago, and reveals the plurality of identities, subject positions and experiences of same-sex loving women in Trinidad.

Keywords: Krystal Ghisyawan; subjective mapping; sexual citizenship; queer cartographies; queer geographies; sexual identity.