**Beans Velocci**

they/them

*Department of History and Sociology of Science*

*Claudia Cohen Hall 303*

*Philadelphia, PA 19104*

**Academic Appointments**

**University of Pennsylvania**

Department of History and Sociology of Science

Assistant Professor (2022–present)

Lecturer (2021–2022)

Program in Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies

Core Faculty (2021–present)

Eidos LGBTQ+ Health Initiative (2023­­–present)

Faculty Affiliate

**Education**

**Yale University**

Ph.D., History (2021)

M.A.,History (2019)

M.Phil., History (2019)

Graduate Certificate in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (2017)

**University of Utah**

M.A., History, *with distinction* (2015)

**Smith College**

A.B., History, *cum laude* (2011)

**Book**

*Sex Isn’t Real: The Invention of an Incoherent Binary* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2026)

**Peer-Reviewed Publications**

“Is ‘Sex’ A Useful Category of Analysis?” *Cell* 187, no. 6 (March 14, 2024): 1343-1346,

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2024.02.001>.

Shana D. Stites and **Beans Velocci**, “Sex, Gender, Sexual Orientation, and More: Sexual

Diversity in Alzheimer’s Research Needs a New Lens to Achieve Inclusive Research and Generalizable Results,” *Alzheimer's & Dementia: Translational Research & Clinical Interventions* 10, no. 2 (2024), <https://doi.org/10.1002/trc2.12476>. 10pp.

“Denaturing Cisness, or, Toward Trans History as Method,” in *Feminism Against Cisness*, ed.

Emma Heaney (Durham: Duke University Press, May 2024), 108–131.

“Wrenching Torque: On Being Professionally Nonbinary,” *Historical Studies in the Natural*

*Sciences* 52, no. 3 (2022): 476–484.

Ambika Kamath [co-first author], **Beans Velocci** [co-first author], Ashton Wesner, Nancy Chen,

Vince Formica, María Rebolleda-Gómez, and Banu Subramaniam, “How Hegemonies Shaped this Special Section,” *Nature, Data, Power* Special Section, *The American Naturalist* 200, no. 1(July 2022): 81–88.

“Standards of Care: Uncertainty and Risk in Harry Benjamin’s Transsexual Classifications,”

The Transsexual/Transvestite Issue, *Transgender Studies Quarterly* 8, no. 4 (November 2021): 462–480.

"Modern Sexuality in Modern Times (1880s-1930s)," Elizabeth Alice Clement and **Beans**

**Velocci**, in *The Routledge History of Queer America,* ed. Don Romesburg (New York:

Routledge, 2018): 52–66.

**Works Edited**

Ambika Kamath [co-first author], **Beans Velocci** [co-first author], Ashton Wesner, Nancy Chen,

Vince Formica, María Rebolleda-Gómez, and Banu Subramaniam, “Nature, Data, Power: How Hegemonies Shape Biological Knowledge”Special Section, *The American Naturalist* 200, no. 1(July 2022).

**Public Scholarship**

Research consultant for script and project development, *The Woman Question*, People’s Light

Theatre (Malvern, PA; Spring 2024–present).

“Standards of Care w/ Beans Velocci,” [*Death Panel*](https://soundcloud.com/deathpanel/standards-of-care-w-beans-velocci-080422?utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing) podcast (August 4, 2022).

Q&A featured in Eliot Schrefer, *Queer Ducks (And Other Animals): The Natural World of*

*Animal Sexuality* (New York: Katherine Tegen Books, 2022).

“Method and Pedagogy in Trans Studies, Trans History, and the History of Science:

An Interview with Beans Velocci by Yingchen Kwok,” [Penn Program in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies](https://gsws.sas.upenn.edu/publications/2022/method-and-pedagogy-trans-studies-trans-history-and-history-science-interview) (2022).

“Classification and Contradiction: Interrogating Sex as a Category with Beans

Velocci,” [*The Order of Multitudes*](https://orderofm.com/conversation/classification-and-contradiction/) (2022).

“Changes Over Time: Making Sense of Trans Categories in the Archive,” *Adam Matthew Digital*

*Sex & Sexuality Collection* (2020).

Co-curator, “Community in a Time of Crisis: Yale, New Haven, and HIV/AIDS,

1981-1996,” Yale School of Medicine Program for Art in Public Spaces (2020).

Co-curator, “Accolades: Researchers, Networks, and Prizewinning Science at Yale

School of Medicine,” Yale School of Medicine Program for Art in Public Spaces (2020).

“These Uncertain Times,” *Avidly: A Channel of the Los Angeles Review of Books* (June 4, 2020).

“Perspective: The battle over trans rights is about power, not science,” *Washington Post*

(October 29, 2018).

**Book Reviews**

Review of Jess Whatcott, *Menace to the Future: A Disability and Queer History of Carceral*

*Eugenics* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2024), *Catalyst: Feminism, Theory, Technoscience* (in progress, expected publication early 2025).

Review of Sandra Eder, *How the Clinic Made Gender: The Medical History of a*

*Transformative Idea* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2022), *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science* (accepted, forthcoming 2024).

Review of Alison Li, *Wondrous Transformations: A Maverick Physician, the Science of*

*Hormones, and the Birth of the Transgender Revolution* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2023), *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences* 60, no. 3 (2024).

“The Care Praxis Within,” review of Hil Malatino, *Trans Care* (Minneapolis: University of

Minnesota Press, 2020), *GLQ* 29, no. 1 (2023): 150­–152.

Review of Greta LaFleur, *The Natural History of Sexuality in Early America* (Baltimore: Johns

Hopkins University Press, 2020), *Isis* 113, no. 3 (2022): 659­–660.

Review of Emily Skidmore, *True Sex: The Lives of Trans Men at the Turn of the 20th Century*

(New York: NYU Press, 2017), *The Historian* 80, no. 3 (September 2018): 571–573.

**Invited Talks and Workshop Presentations**

*2025* Invited workshop presentation title TBD, “New Histories of Gender” symposium, Yale Research Initiative on the History of Sexualities (Yale University; New Haven, CT)

“The Invention of Trans Regret in Medicine,” Trans and Gender Health Elective guest lecture, UCSF School of Medicine (Virtual)

*2024* “Birds and Breeds: Sex Science, Eugenics, and Cross-Species Expertise,” Animal Studies Program, Department of Environmental Studies (NYU; New York, NY)

“Sex Science Beyond Sex Science, *Scientia Sexualis* exhibit, University of California Riverside (Virtual)

“The Normal Woman: On the Irrelevance of the Body to Sex in Early Twentieth Century

Gynecology,” Duke Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies (Duke University; Durham, NC)

Invited panelist, *Feminism Against Cisness* Book Launch, Lesbian Herstory Archives (New York, NY)

Invited panelist for “New Directions in Gender and Sexuality Studies,” GSWS/FQT/PWC 50th Anniversary Symposium (University of Pennsylvania: Philadelphia, PA)

“The Straight People Are Not Okay, or, (Re)population at the End of the World,” invited workshop participant, *Science Studies After Historical Epistemology* (University of Michigan; Ann Arbor, MI)

Invited panelist for “Trans History” session, *Trans Disruptions: The Future of Change* (Columbia University; New York, NY)

“Emphasis on Variable: A History of Sex in Biological Science,” *Exploring the Many Dimensions of Sex and Gender in the Genomics Era*, National Institutes of Health/National Human Genome Research Institute (Virtual)

*2023 “*‘Impossible to Distinguish’: A Trans History of Zoology, Race, and Sexual Dimorphism,” USC Center for Feminist Research (University of Southern California; Los Angeles, CA)

“Eugenic Research and the Invention of Many Sexes,” *Confronting the Legacy of Eugenics in EEB*, American Society of Naturalists Asilomar Conference (Pacific Grove, CA)

“Be Gay, Do Crimes Against Nature: A Historical Approach to Queer Life Without Science,” Rice University Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality (Rice University; Houston, TX)

“Sexual Behavior in Statistical Research: Enacting Variable Sex in the Kinsey Reports,” JHU History of Science, Medicine, and Technology Colloquium (Johns Hopkins University; Baltimore, MD)

*2022* Roundtable panelist, *Historians and Political Advocacy Post-Dobbs*, HSS Women’s Caucus, History of Science Society Annual Meeting (Chicago, IL)

“Complete Transformability: The Incoherence of Sex at Two Eugenics Laboratories,” Princeton History of Science Colloquium (Princeton University; Princeton, NJ)

“Art at Noon: Harriet Hosmer and the Cis-tems She Defied,” in conversation with Lori Waselchuk, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (Virtual)

“Peculiar Characteristics: Trans Methods for the History of Sex Classification,” fSTS@Yale (Yale University; New Haven, CT)

“Science Studies in the Gender Studies Classroom,” Penn GSWS Pedagogy Seminar (University of Pennsylvania; Philadelphia, PA)

Discussant for Patricio Simonetto, “The Body Where I Was Born In: Embodiment Repertoires During the Sex Change Transition,” CHSTM Medicine and Health Working Group (Virtual)

*2021* “Repurposing Life Sciences for Queer Survival,” Science on Tap(Philadelphia, PA)

Roundtable panelist, *Intersectional Futures of the History of the Body*, Virtual HistSTM (Virtual)

“Sex and the Species: Making Human Meaning of Animal Bodies at Cold Spring Harbor Eugenics Laboratories,” *Life/Sciences: Biology and Human Lives* Lecture Series, Science History Institute (Philadelphia, PA)

*2020* “Unsolved Problems of Anomalous Sex,” *Sex in the Literature* Workshop, Queer Ecologies/Feminist Biologies Collective (UC Berkeley; Berkeley, CA)

*2019* “Sex Science and the Problem of Relevance, or, If Eugenicists Care So Much About Sex, Why is it Hard to Find Them Talking About it in the Archive?” *Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series*, American Philosophical Society (Philadelphia, PA)

**Panels and Symposia Organized**

*2023* “Sex, Medicine, and Racial Normality,” American Association for the History of Medicine Annual Meeting (Ann Arbor, MI)

“New Genealogies of Eugenics,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting (Portland, OR)

*2022*  “Naming Stakes: Critical Histories of Classification and Categorization,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting (Chicago, IL)

*2021* “Publishing Interdisciplinarity: Emergent Questions from a Collaborative Experiment,” Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Annual Meeting (Virtual/Toronto, ON)

*2019* “Trans as a (Historical) Category,” CLGBTH Queer History Conference (San Francisco State University; San Francisco, CA)

*2018* “Queer Science,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting (Seattle, WA)

*Bye Bye Binary: Writing Histories of Non-Normative Gender*, Yale Research Initiative on the History of Sexualities Symposium (Yale University; New Haven, CT)

**Conference Presentations**

*2025* Panelist, “Life and Legacy of Robert Latou Dickinson” roundtable, American Association for the History of Medicine Annual Meeting (Boston, MA)

*2023* “Sex Without Bodies: Making Womanhood Out of White Sexual Aberrance,” American Association for the History of Medicine Annual Meeting (Ann Arbor, MI)

“Structural Entanglements of American Sexology and Eugenics,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting (Portland, OR)

*2022* “‘A 2-Way Breakdown’: Statistical Methods and Sex Categories in the Kinsey Studies,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting (Chicago, IL)

*“*‘Rarely has the law been used in such a ridiculous and unscientific fashion’: Mayhem and the Making of Trans Medicine,” CLGBTH Queer History Conference (San Francisco State University; San Francisco, CA)

*2021* Moderator and panelist, “Publishing Interdisciplinarity: Emergent Questions from a Collaborative Experiment,” Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Annual Meeting (Virtual/Toronto, ON)

“‘A Damned Nuisance Most of the Time’: Constructing the Bad Transsexual Patient in the Mid-Twentieth Century,” American Association for the History of Medicine Annual Meeting (Virtual)

*2019* “Wild Animal Sex: How the Study of Non-Humans Broke the Binary,” Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Annual Meeting (New Orleans, LA)

“De-minoritizing Trans History: A Manifesto with Primary Sources,” CLGBTH Queer History Conference (San Francisco State University; San Francisco, CA)

Roundtable panelist, “40 Years of LGBT History: The Routledge History of Queer America,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting (Philadelphia, PA)

*2018* “Of Course, it was Really a Male: Unknowing Sexual Multiplicity in Nineteenth-Century Animal Studies,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting (Seattle, WA)

“Sex, Race, Birds: R.W. Shufeldt and Human Health’s Animal Heart,” Joint Atlantic Seminar for the History of Medicine (Yale University; New Haven, CT)

Discussant, “Sexology & Colonial Technologies,” New Histories of Sexology: Genealogies of Race, Sex, and Colonialism (Yale University; New Haven, CT)

*2017* “That Man-Woman: Bridging Trans and African-American Women’s History with Frances Thompson,” Yale Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Colloquium (Yale University; New Haven, CT)

“An Abominable Hoax: Transgender History Meets Denial of Black Womanhood,” #QueerAF: (Re)presenting Gender & Sexuality in History & Cultural Studies (Drew University; Madison, NJ)

*2016 “*A Temptation to Children: Sex, Money, and the Meaning of Morality in Turn-of-the-Century New York,” Gay American History @ 40 (CLAGS: Center for LGBTQ Studies; New York, NY)

“The Fatal Brink: Death and the End of Childhood in Nineteenth-Century Britain,” DC Queer Studies Symposium (University of Maryland; College Park, MD)

*2015* “Likely to Be Impaired: Legislating Working-Class Children’s Morality in Turn-of-the-Century New York,” Practicing History Conference (University of Utah; Salt Lake City, UT)

*2014* “Explicit Implications: Reading Colonized Bodies in the Andaman Islands,” Practicing History Conference (University of Utah; Salt Lake City, UT)

**Fellowships and Grants**

**Research Opportunity Grant**, University of Pennsylvania (2024; $5,000)

**Wolf Humanities Center Manuscript Development Grant,** University of Pennsylvania (2023)

**Sachs Program for Arts Innovation First Year Seminar Grant**, University of Pennsylvania (2023)

**University of Pennsylvania Excellence Through Diversity Grant**, “Trans Inclusive Pedagogy:

Reaching One of Penn’s Fastest Growing Student Demographics,” with Melissa E. Sanchez and Cam Smith (2022–2023; $10,000)

**William T. Golden Fellow**,American Philosophical Society (2019–2020)

**John Money Fellow for Scholarship of Sexology**, Kinsey Institute (2019–2020)

**Junior Fellow**, Center for Black, Brown, and Queer Studies **(**2019–2020)

**Kingsley Trust Association Fellow**, Yale University(2019–2020)

**Conference Travel Grant**, Organization of American Historians (2019)

**Fund for Lesbian and Gay Studies Award**, Yale University (2018)

**NSF Travel Grant**, History of Science Society (2018)

**Ralph H. Gabriel Fellow in US History**,Yale University (2018–2019)

**Julie ’88 B.A. and Greg ’92 M.A. Flynn Fellow**, Yale University (2017–2018)

**Burton Scholar**, University of Utah (2014–2015)

**Dean L. May Graduate Fellow**, University of Utah(2013–2014)

**Honors and Awards**

**Lynda S. Hart Faculty Teaching Award**, University of Pennsylvania Program in Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies(2023)

**DHST Dissertation Prize Honorable Mention**, International Union of History and Philosophy of Science/Division of History of Science and Technology **(**2023)

**Margaret W. Rossiter History of Women in Science Prize**, History of Science Society (2023)

**George Washington Egleston Historical Prize**, Yale University (2022)

**John D’Emilio LGBTQ History Dissertation Award,** Organization of American Historians (2022)

**Gregory Sprague Prize** **for an Outstanding Paper on LGBTQ History by a Graduate Student**, Committee on LGBT History (2020)

**University of Utah Nominee**, Western Association of Graduate Schools Distinguished Master’s Thesis Award (2015)

**Best M.A. Thesis Award**, University of Utah Department of History (2015)

**Departmental Honors in History**, Smith College (2011)

**Mary Maples Dunn Prize in East Asian Studies**, Smith College (2011)

**German Department Prize for Distinguished Performance**, Smith College (2009)

**First Group Scholar**, Smith College (2009)

**Dean’s List** (2008­–2011)

**Service to the Department**

Executive Board, Program in Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies, University of Pennsylvania (2023–present)

Program Committee (2023–2024)

Curriculum Committee (2024–2025)

Workshop Coordinator, Department of History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania (2022–2024)

**Service to the University**

SAS Dean’s Council on Diversity, University of Pennsylvania (2023–present)

Workshop Leader, Trans-Affirming Pedagogy in the Humanities and Social Sciences, CETLI, University of Pennsylvania (2023)

Panel Moderator, Trans-Affirming Pedagogies Symposium, FQT Center, University of Pennsylvania (2023)

Pre-Major Advisor, College of Arts & Sciences, University of Pennsylvania (2022–2023)

Diversity Committee, Yale History Department (2018–2019)

Yale History Department Graduate Student Advisory Committee (2018–2019)

**Service to the Field**

Manuscript reviewer: *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing*, *Gender & History*, MIT Press, *Isis*, *Area*

Advisory Editor and Editorial Board Member, *Isis* (2023–present)

Convener, Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine Working Group on Women, Gender, and Sexuality (2022–2023)

Referee for Gregory Sprague Prize, Committee on LGBT History (2021)

**Community Outreach and Consulting**

Consultant on faculty insurance coverage for gender-affirming care, University of Pennsylvania Human Resources (2023)

Panelist, “Connecting Conversations: LGBTQ+ Academics at Penn,” Eidos, University of Pennsylvania (2023)

Panelist, “Queer in the Academy,” Classics Department, University of Pennsylvania (2023)

Consultant on gendered gowned waiting areas, Penn Medicine Radiology (2022)

Invited speaker on transness in the academy, Penn Non-Cis, Philadelphia, PA (2021)

Invited speaker on restroom access in academic buildings, University Council Committee for Diversity & Equity, University of Pennsylvania (2021)

Invited speaker on trans health disparities, Clinical Grand Rounds, Yale-New Haven Hospital Department of Neurology (2020)

Consultant on sex designations in patient documentation, Yale Student Health (2020)

Invited speaker on queer and trans history, Prism Youth Community, Bloomington, IN (2019)

Invited speaker on LGBT health experiences, Yale School of Medicine (2015)

**Teaching**

**University of Pennsylvania**

*Undergraduate Courses*

GSWS 3136/STSC 3136: Queer Science

GSWS 3500/HSOC 3889/STSC 3889: Trans Method

STSC 0228/HSOC 0228/GSWS 0228: Studying Sex (First Year Seminar)

GSWS 2320/HIST 0819: Queer Life in US History

STSC 4000: Capstone Seminar in STSC

GSWS 0002/ENGL 0159: Gender & Society

*Graduate Courses*

HSSC 6097: Queer and Feminist STS

HSSC 5050: Seminar in the History and Sociology of Science

*Dissertation Supervision*

Yingchen Kwok

*Graduate Exams*

Yingchen Kwok (HSS), “Feminist Science Studies”

Austin Svedjan (English), “Queer and Trans Revisions of Racial and Sexual Sciences”

Elspeth Gow (HSS), “Queer and Feminist Cultural Studies of Technoscience”

*Graduate Independent Study Supervision*

Austin Svedjan (English), “Thinking Trans/Sexuality”

Ankita Reddy (Anthropology), “Deconstructing AI: Social Studies of Data &

Algorithms”

**Yale University**

*Instructor of Record*

Queer Science

*Teaching Fellow*

Historical Perspectives on Global Health

American Environmental History

Extraterrestrials in History

Women in Modern America

**University of Utah**

*Teaching Assistant*

American Civilization: US History Survey for Non-Majors