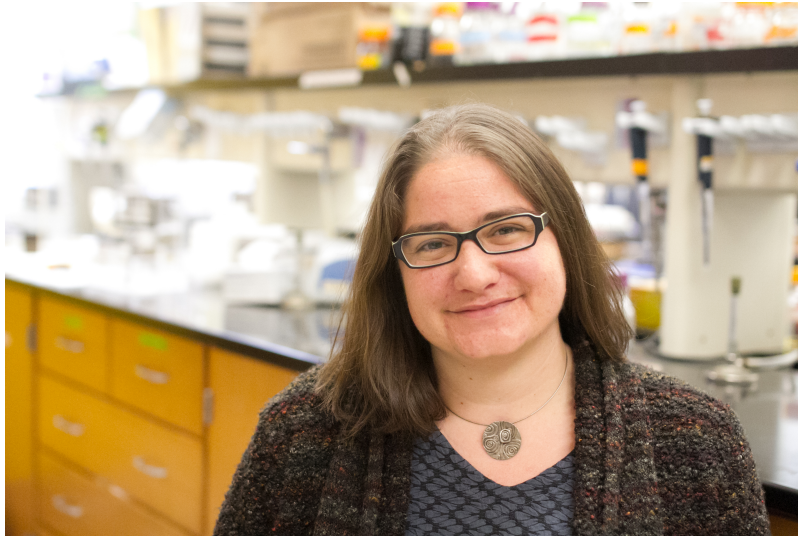


“It’s completely erasure”: Exploration of experiences of transgender, nonbinary, gender nonconforming, and questioning students in biology courses



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***Friday, April 21st, 2023, 10:00 – 11:00 AM,
NSB 1205 Auditorium***

Zoom link: <https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/95515257089>

A roundtable discussion with Dr. Eddy will take place immediately following (11-11:30)

Abstract: Biology is the study of the diversity of life, which includes diversity in sex, gender, and sexual and romantic orientations. However, there are beginning to be hints that some undergraduate biology courses focus on only a narrow representation of this diversity (binary sexes, heterosexual orientations, etc.). We interviewed students whose genders do not align with the sex they were assigned at birth (trans, non-binary, gender non-conforming, and questioning) to understand the messages about sex, gender, and orientation they encounter in undergraduate biology courses and the impact of these messages on them. We found five overarching themes in these interviews. Students describe two dominate narratives about sex, gender, and orientation in their biology classes that make biology implicitly exclusionary. These narratives harm students by impacting their sense of belonging, career preparation, and interest in biology content. However, students employ a range of resilience strategies to resist these harms. Finally, students describe the currently unrealized potential for biology courses to validate queer identities by representing the diversity in sex and orientation in nature. I will discuss teaching suggestions to make biology more queer-inclusive derived from student interviews.

Hosted by: Katie Petrie (kpetrie@ucsd.edu)