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THE
SOUTHEASTERN
WOMEN'S
STUDIES
ASSOCIATION

Karolyn Burns has been selected to present a paper at this year's SEWSA conference, March 11th - March 14th. This year's theme is *Precarious Times : Embodying Disobedience, Crafting Affinities*.

ABOUT THE PAPER

The Southeastern Women's Studies Association is hosting a conference with the theme of *Embodying Disobedience, Crafting Affinities*. My paper covers the topic of Self-preservation as a form of resistance. The paper argues that in a non-ideal gendered world, self preservation in the vein of conformity to gender markers can be a site of crucial tensions between public and private life. By applying various gleanings from case studies dealing with immigration both directly and indirectly, the focus of the paper is primarily on the rhetoric and signaling that surround individuals who may not fit within hegemonic society in terms of gender; of particular importance is a narrowing of scope to the everyday lived experiences of these folk. The paper resists the skeptical or dreary view that charges self-preservation through conformity with being anti-liberatory or even a failure to accept oneself. Building off of Karma Chavez's concepts of differential vision, the paper explores how genderqueer folk embody disobedience in their everyday lives through the critical crafting of tactical conformity.