

13. November 2024

Zeit: 18.30–20.00 Uhr

ISEK – Populäre Kulturen

Affolternstrasse 56, 8050 Zürich

Raum: AFL-E-015

Todd Sekuler

## Queer Kinship Objects

This presentation brings queer kinship into the archive. Building on a growing body of research that casts relatedness as an open question, it outlines an emerging project that investigates the potential of archives to generate forms of kinship that transcend biological or heteronormative modes of relating, while extending beyond the framework of chosen families. It focuses on the example of AIDS archives, a vast landscape of personal, community and institutional collections that continues to expand across the European region. Drawing from a variety of literatures, it suggests that the objects of such archives, as material and affective agents, can foster varied and unpredictable modes of relating, and contribute to further rethinking heritage as an open-ended, dynamic, non-linear process shaped by affect, absence, and imagination.

Todd Sekuler is Oberassistent in Popular Cultures in the Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies at the University of Zurich. He holds an MPH from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health and a PhD in European Ethnology from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. His research focuses broadly on the intersections of memory, health, and politics, with postdoctoral work on criminalization and AIDS activism. Sekuler has co-curated several cultural events, including the "archIV" and "HIVstories" exhibitions at the Schwules Museum in Berlin, and is co-founder of the European HIV/AIDS Archive.

