

Title: Who speaks for Earth?

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Collection/Series: EDI Colloquium

Subject: Other

Date: November 13, 2024 - 2:00 PM

URL: <https://pirsa.org/24110056>

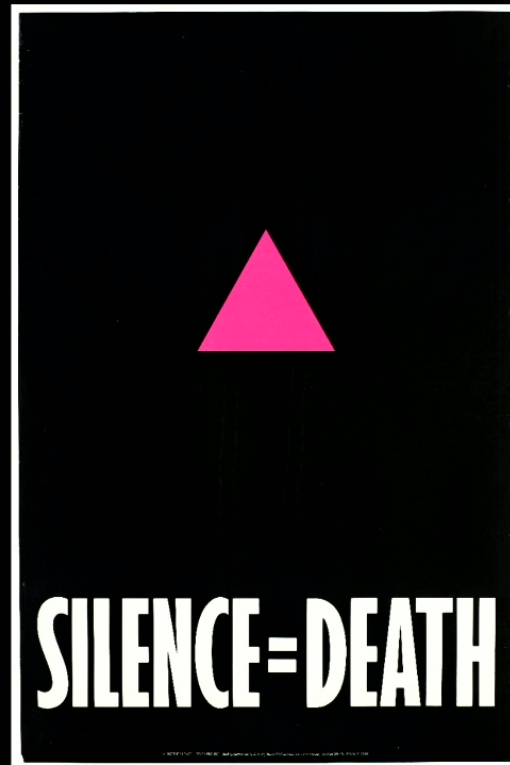
Who Speaks for Earth?

Anthony Bonato

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Whose voices are heard?

Your voice is your power.





BATTLE ON CHURCH STREET. On Jun 20, 1981, police attacked a crowd of several hundred gay men and lesbians ...



The current landscape

- life in prison for saying you are gay in Uganda
- marriage equality legal in 37 countries out of 195
- homosexuality is illegal in 35% of UN member states
- same-sex acts carry the death penalty in at least a dozen countries
- only 5% of UN member states have provisions in their constitutions barring discrimination based on sexual orientation
- only 39 countries allow queer couples to adopt
- 100 regions in Poland have declared themselves “LGBT-free zones”
- anti-LGBTQ+ law in Russia in 2022
- Florida passes “License to Discriminate in Healthcare” bill
- Tennessee anti-drag, anti-trans bill
- anti-LGTBQ+ laws in Hungary, Ghana, Italy...

What role do queer people have in the advancement of knowledge?

“In a 2019 survey of more than 1,000 UK-based physical scientists, nearly 30% of LGBT+ scientists and half of transgender scientists said that they had considered leaving their workplace because of an unfriendly or hostile climate or because of discrimination.

Nearly 20% of LGBT+ chemists and 32% of transgender and non-binary scientists across all disciplines had experienced exclusionary, offensive or harassing behavior at work in the previous year.

A 2016 study found that LGBT+ undergraduate students are 7% less likely to be retained in STEM fields than are their non-LGBT+ counterparts.”

K. Powell, R. Terry, and S. Chen, How LGBT+ scientists would like to be included and welcomed in STEM workplaces, *Nature* **586** (2020) 813–816.

Queerness is a part of humanity, part of the heritage of our species.

A word often missing when
discussing queer progress: kindness.

“For mathematics and STEM to flourish, they must be accessible to everyone, regardless of their identity. The next generation of LGBTQ+ mathematicians is poised to make significant scientific strides and move the needle towards greater acceptance and visibility. We must do everything we can to help them achieve those goals. Living as their authentic selves will enhance mathematicians’ lives, and mathematics will be richer for it.”

A. Bonato, Queer inclusion equals better mathematics, *Nature*, August 2022.

We have always been there.



You can be a scientist or mathematician, and
be transgender, lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-
spirited, queer, non-binary, intersex, asexual,
...

Our voices and stories are missing.

What will those voices say?

We are a part of Earth's collective voice.

Get involved



lgbt+physicists



Dedicated to all the queer
mathematicians and scientists, past,
present and especially future.

Follow me on X

@Anthony_Bonato