

# QUEER BARRIERS:

## SAFER SEX TECHNOLOGIES AND THE POLITICS OF RISK



**Chris Barcelos**, University of  
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This talk combines archival and interview-based research with the lens of feminist science studies to interrogate the politics of queer safer sex technologies. Focusing on the use of gloves and dental dams, I argue that rather than merely preventing the transmission of microbes, these technologies mobilize a particular set of politics surrounding risk and identity. In addition to claiming a space for the legitimacy of queer sex and nonnormative bodies, gloves and dams constitute a queer community ethics of care. Nevertheless, their use reifies the containment of queer bodies and the governmentality of safer sex promotion.

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**Chris Barcelos** is Assistant Professor of Gender and Women's Studies at the University of Wisconsin Madison who teaches and researches about the politics of race and sexuality in community health.



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