

# Michelle Gonzalez

**Hometown:**  
Miami, Florida

**Thesis Advisor:**  
Jennifer Browdy

**Concentration:**  
Gender Studies  
and Cross-Cultural Relations

**Thesis in Ten Words or Less:**  
The internet as a queer space  
for community and resistance

Through its creation of a “third space,” one that is neither private nor public, the internet has completely revolutionized traditional notions of resistance, activism, and organizing. As a result, boundaries of space and traditional identity politics have been challenged, while new paradigms for understanding activism and cultural studies have been born. In my thesis, I will focus specifically on the ways in which this cultural transformation has affected queer women. Academic theory and literature is often dominated by male narratives, resulting in the silencing and marginalization of women’s experiences. Therefore, I want to use my thesis as a platform to begin a feminist, female-centered discussion on queer resistance and the internet, incorporating my own perspective and the contributions of other bloggers, activists, and online journalists.

Following an introduction to issues relating to LGBTQ identity, I will discuss the development of online queer communities, the opportunity to challenge dominant narratives on gender and sexuality, and the platform for marginalized individuals to share their voice in a simultaneously public and private space. I will also devote a large portion of my text to a theoretical analysis of the body in online space, specifically the way in which the lack of body shifts contemporary discourse on queer identity.

The Internet as a [Web]Site of  
Queer Resistance for Women:  
Body Politics, Counter-Hegemony,  
and LGBTQ Identity in  
Contemporary Society



Lesbian Dad, Queer Blogger

Although the internet is able to transcend the limits of social and political hierarchies, it remains under the control of corporations and governments, which are generally resistant to any sign of queer, anti-hegemonic activism. In looking at how and why these entities are so strongly opposed to the establishment of queer spaces, I will explore the relationship between space and power, grounding my analysis in theory by Judith Butler and Michel Foucault.

Ultimately, I want my thesis to be written by, for, and about the queer community, as this thesis is about collective experiences and identity. Rather, I hope that my thesis will act as the foundation for an ongoing discussion on sexuality, identity, space, and social change.

For the purposes of my thesis, I will use queer as a word to refer to all individuals whose gender identity, sexual identity, sexual orientation, and/or gender expression do not align with the gender binary, gender essentialism, and heteronormativity. When I refer to women, I am speaking about all those that identify as female.