

## Queering Creole Spiritual Traditions: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Participation in African-Inspired Traditions in the Americas (Haworth Gay & Lesbian Studies)

*By Randy P Lunschien Conner, David Sparks*

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**Queering Creole Spiritual Traditions: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Participation in African-Inspired Traditions in the Americas (Haworth Gay & Lesbian Studies)** By Randy P Lunschien Conner, David Sparks

What roles do queer and transgender people play in the African diasporic religions? *Queering Creole Spiritual Traditions: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Participation in African-Inspired Traditions in the Americas* is a groundbreaking scholarly exploration of this long-neglected subject. It offers clear insight into the complex dynamics of gender and sexual orientation, humans and deities, and race and ethnicity, within these richly nuanced spiritual practices.


*Queering Creole Spiritual Traditions* explores the ways in which gender complexity and same-sex intimacy are integral to the primary beliefs and practices of these faiths. It begins with a comprehensive overview of Vodou, Santeria, and other African-based religions. The second section includes extensive, revealing interviews with practitioners who offer insight into the intersection of their beliefs, their sexual orientation, and their gender identity. Finally, it provides a powerful analysis of the ways these traditions have inspired artists, musicians, and writers such as Audre Lorde, as well as informative interviews with the artists themselves.

In *Queering Creole Spiritual Traditions*, you will discover:

- how the presence of androgynous divinities affects both faith and practice in Vodou, Candomble, Santeria, and other Creole religions
- how the phenomenon of possession or embodiment by a god or goddess may validate queer identity and nurture gender complexity
- who practices the African-derived spiritual traditions, what they believe, and who their deities are
- how these faiths have influenced the art and aesthetic traditions of the West

This landmark book opens a fascinating new world of thought and belief. The authors provide rigorous documentation and faultless scholarly method as well as personal experience and the testimony of believers. *Queering Creole Spiritual Traditions* sheds new light on two widely different fields: LGBT studies and the theology of the African diaspora. A thorough bibliography points the way to

further study, and an extensive photograph gallery provides a unique look at the believers and their practices. Every library with holdings in queer theory, African mythology, or sociology of religion should have this landmark volume.

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### **From the Author**

Finalist for the 2005 Ashe Journal Book award. See [ashejournal.com/index.php?id=18](http://ashejournal.com/index.php?id=18) for additional information

### **About the Author**

Connor is a writer and educator.

David Sparks was educated theologically in England and Canada and has served for 30 years with The United Church of Canada. David's previous three-book lectionary series, *Prayers to Share*, has been welcomed and widely used in North America and Europe and further afield in India and Australia.

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