

# QUEERING INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

---

A SHORT PROJECT GLOSSARY

---



This glossary is meant to serve as a form of insurance – that viewers of this site understand (1) the terms used in the research project and (2) what those terms mean within the context of the research project.

For additional resources on LGBTQ+ related terminology, check out the "Resources" tab on our [website](#).

## Cisgender

Someone whose gender identity or gender expression matches the sex assigned at birth. Cited from Gregoire and Jungers (2007).

## Cisheteronormative

An ideology that treats being cisgender and heterosexual as identities that are normal, resulting in the assumption that every person should or is supposed to be cisgender and heterosexual. This also results in queer identities being viewed as abnormal, improper, unnatural, and unfamiliar. Cited in part from Francis (2021) and Kay (2022).

## Comfort

Period of time where feelings of freedom, security, or safety were experienced.

## Conflict

Period of time where perspectives, beliefs, or behaviors from individuals or groups resulted in individual discrimination, negative feelings, or negative consequences.

## Heterosexual

A person who experiences sexual and/or romantic attraction only or primarily to persons of a different sex or gender; usually refers to women who are attracted to men and men who are attracted to women (only or primarily). Cited from ORAM (2016).

## Human right

A justified, ethical claim that individuals—and sometimes groups—can make on others. Regarding the research project, we maintain the argument that higher education is a human right that should be afforded to all groups of students—including queer international students—in both access and quality. Cited from McCowan (2012) and Sen (2004).

## Identity

Sense of self as determined by one's social categories, experiences, personality traits, and physical characteristics.

An acronym for International Students and Scholars.  
Another related, and often used, acronym is ISSS –  
International Students and Scholars Services.

## Majoritized

The act of becoming a majority as a result of particular situations or institutional environments maintaining structures, systems, or practices that privilege majoritized groups and oppress minoritized groups. This form of the definition (majoritized vs. majority) is meant to emphasize the power that majoritized groups can exercise over minoritized groups, that majority statuses are not static, and that there are social contexts where majoritized individuals can become minoritized. Cited from Patton, Renn, Guido-DiBrito, and Quaye (2016).

## Minoritized

The act of becoming a minority as a result of particular situations or institutional environments maintaining oppressive structures, systems, or practices. This form of the definition (minoritized vs. minority) is meant to emphasize that minority statuses are not static and that there are social contexts where minoritized groups can become majoritized. Cited from Patton, Renn, Guido-DiBrito, and Quaye (2016).

## Motivation

An individual's reasons for leaving their home country, studying in the United States, and then returning home or remaining abroad. This may also be understood and referred to as push and pull factors.

## Power

The capacity to and act of exerting influence and control over systems, structures, policy, practices, social perceptions, discourses, and bodies.

## Queer

An individual who identifies as any non-heterosexual sexual orientation or non-cisgender gender identity.

## Queer communities

Organized in-person or online groups and spaces made up of queer individuals and allies. These can include your family, friends, romantic relationships, queer role models, faith community, or professional communities. They may also be formal (e.g., Fulbright Prism) or informal (online chat).

## Queering

The act of engaging in a "radical process of disruption" that seeks to destabilize the heterosexual/homosexual binary and challenge heteronormativity. Cited from Gunn (2013) and Ruffolo (2009).

## Queer international student

A student enrolled at a college or university outside of their home country who self-identifies as both an international student at their institution and as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, or another minoritized sexual or gender identity.

# Trajectory

Cited from Grenier and Sakdapolrak's (2013) translocality, a phenomena involving mobility, migration, circulation and spatial interconnectedness not necessarily limited to national boundaries. This is referred to as trajectories within the context of the project.

# Citations: Papers

Gregoire, J., & Jungers, C. M. (2007). *The counselor's companion: What every beginning counselor needs to know*. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Greiner, Clemens, and Patrick Sakdapolrak. 2013. "Translocality: Concepts, Applications and Emerging Research Perspectives." *Geography Compass* 7, 5:373–384.

Gunn, V. and McAllister, C. (2013), "Methods on the Margins? Queer Theory as Method in Higher Education Research", *Theory and Method in Higher Education Research (International Perspectives on Higher Education Research, Vol. 9)*, Emerald Group Publishing Limited, Bingley, pp. 155–174.  
[https://doi.org/10.1108/S1479-3628\(2013\)0000009012](https://doi.org/10.1108/S1479-3628(2013)0000009012)

Kay, C. M. (2022). *Challenges of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA) students in higher education* (Order No. 28967045). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global. (2638757546). Retrieved from <http://proxy.miis.edu/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/dissertations-theses/challenges-lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-queer/docview/2638757546/se-2?accountid=12457>

McCowan, T. (2012), "Is There A Universal Right To Higher Education?", *British Journal of Educational Studies*, 60:2, 111–128, DOI: 10.1080/00071005.2011.648605

Patton, L. D., Renn, K. A., Guido–DiBrito, F., & Quaye, S. J. (2016). In *Student development in college: Theory, research, and Practice* (pp. 20–21). essay, Jossey–Bass & Pfeiffer.

## Citations: Papers (Continued)

Ruffolo, D. (2009) *Post-Queer Politics (Queer Interventions)*. Farnham: Ashgate.

Sen, A. (2004) Elements of a theory of human rights, *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, 32 (4), 315–356.

## Citations: Images

Brin, Dinah Wisenberg. “Report: Employers Try to Support LGBT Rights around the Globe.” SHRM, SHRM, 7 July 2021,

<https://www.shrm.org/resourcesandtools/legal-and-compliance/employment-law/pages/global-report-lgbt-rights.aspx>.

Chauhan, Jitesh. “Premium Vector: Hand Gesture Silhouette Friendship Day Vector Illustration on White Background.” Freepik, Freepik Company, 29 June 2022, [https://www.freepik.com/premium-vector/hand-gesture-silhouette-friendship-day-vector-illustration-white-background\\_28908644.htm#page=2&query=people%20holding%20hands%20silhouette&position=27&from\\_view=keyword](https://www.freepik.com/premium-vector/hand-gesture-silhouette-friendship-day-vector-illustration-white-background_28908644.htm#page=2&query=people%20holding%20hands%20silhouette&position=27&from_view=keyword).



