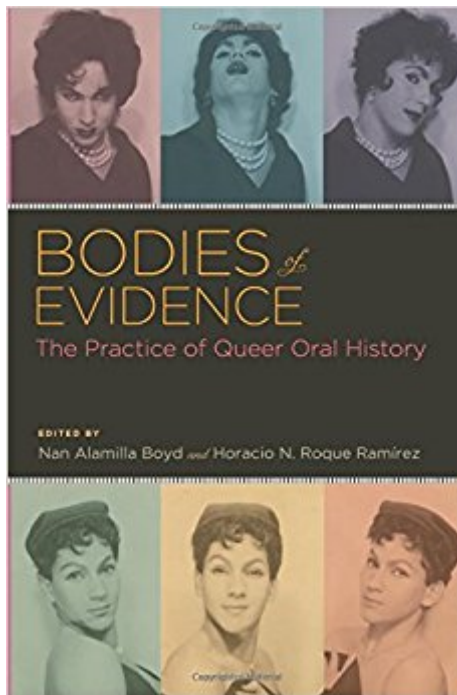




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# Bodies Of Evidence: The Practice Of Queer Oral History (Oxford Oral History Series)



## Synopsis

*Bodies of Evidence: The Practice of Queer Oral History* is the first book to provide serious scholarly insight into the methodological practices that shape lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer oral histories. Each chapter pairs an oral history excerpt with an essay in which the oral historian addresses his or her methods and practices. With an afterword by John D'Emilio, this collection enables readers to examine the role memory, desire, sexuality, and gender play in documenting LGBTQ communities and cultures. The historical themes addressed include 1950s and '60s lesbian bar culture; social life after the Cuban revolution; the organization of transvestite social clubs in the U.S. midwest in the 1960s; Australian gay liberation activism in the 1970s; San Francisco electoral politics and the career of Harvey Milk; Asian American community organizing in pre-AIDS Los Angeles; lesbian feminist "sex war" cultural politics; 1980s and '90s Latina/o transgender community memory and activism in San Francisco; and the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. The methodological themes include questions of silence, sexual self-disclosure and voyeurism, the intimacy between researcher and narrator, and the social and political commitments negotiated through multiple oral history interviews. The book also examines the production of comparative racial and sexual identities and the relative strengths of same-sexuality, cross-sexuality, and cross-ideology interviewing.

## Book Information

Series: Oxford Oral History Series

Paperback: 312 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1 edition (February 17, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0199742731

ISBN-13: 978-0199742738

Product Dimensions: 9.1 x 0.9 x 6.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #280,147 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #106 in [Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Gay & Lesbian Studies](#) #114 in [Books > Gay & Lesbian > Nonfiction > Bisexuality](#) #123 in [Books > Gay & Lesbian > History](#)

## Customer Reviews

"Students of the LGBTQ movement will find the excerpts thought provoking. Oral historians and

researchers who use oral history will profit from reading the excellent commentaries...Highly recommended." --CHOICE "This exciting, well-conceived collection examines the centrality of oral history to the development of LGBTQ history over the last four decades. Vitally important, this ground-breaking book will prove significant to any number of students and scholars of history, ethnography, and American studies."--John Howard, King's College London "With its innovative format-oral history transcripts combined with comments about the interview process-Bodies of Evidence powerfully demonstrates the methodological value of queer oral history. As documents of intimacy, sexuality, and the everyday, both the interviews and the behind-the-scenes stories make for compelling reading." --Ann Cvetkovich, University of Texas at Austin

Nan Alamilla Boyd is professor of women and gender studies, San Francisco State University and author of *Wide Open Town: A History of Queer San Francisco to 1965*. Horacio N. Roque Ramirez is associate professor of Chicana and Chicano Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara and author of the forthcoming *Queer Latino San Francisco: An Oral History, 1960s-1990s*.

Powerfully written. Offers a theoretical conceptualization for writing/researching Queer or Subaltern oral history. Made me think of history in a whole new way. A pity one of its brilliant authors is gone:(

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