

## Lowens Fellowship Project Proposal: Retro and Modern Transmasculine Communities in *FTM*

The project I want to complete as a Lowens Fellow uses materials from *FTM* in Special Collections. I want to explore contemporary impacts this periodical had on transmasculine communities from the late 1980s until the mid 2000s. I expect to consult both internal research from UVic Libraries and external research on transgender periodicals. I want to display my research as an exhibit on a web page designed with Omeka, which I have already been working on creating with the Digital Scholarship Commons.

I will not publish personal information found within *FTM* issues to ensure this project adheres to archival ethics standards. Although I identify as trans non-binary, I am not a transgender man, so I will be conscious about telling other people's stories, or overwriting existing stories. I will combat this by going over my conclusions with archivists in the Trans Archives, members of the transmasculine community, and other scholars to ensure I am not missing important perspectives.

This past semester, I expected to research *FTM* and transmasculine community building to fulfill course components, but was unable to complete the project as I had to drop the course. The Lowens Fellowship presents an opportunity for me to not only finish my research and display my findings online to connect with local transmasculine communities, but also to contribute to a growing field of scholarship on queer masculinities. I expect to succeed as a Lowens Fellow with the additional faculty support and workshop series awarded to Fellows; resources I did not have access to when attempting this project for the first time. Within these workshops, I am excited to learn about best practices within archival research, delve deeper into Omeka exhibit creation, and explore the role of Digital Humanities within the archives. Additionally, I expect to succeed in this program as I have succeeded in a past research experience with a faculty mentor for the Valerie Kuehne Undergraduate Research Award (VKURA). Through this experience, I built a foundation of research skills that I have been expanding on through later coursework. Becoming a Lowens Fellow would provide me with an extensive understanding of research methods and outputs within the library and archive sphere to build on my VKURA experience, as well as hands-on skills I cannot acquire outside of this program.

The skills I will learn as a Lowens Fellow will provide library and archive experience for me to draw on when applying for and completing a Co-Op this upcoming summer in a library or archive-holding institution. My experience within this upcoming Co-Op term will then assist me in securing a second Co-Op experience in the library or archive field before applying for graduate studies. Ultimately, becoming a Lowens Fellow will be immensely helpful in my application to the dual Masters of Archival studies and Library Information Studies (MAS/LIS) program at UBC to begin in 2026.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sky Dragushan