

Do you ever wonder to yourself...
is the apocalypse heteronormative?
does my hair look queer enough?
what can I do to end this pandemic
of loneliness?

Queer Apocalypse Solutions presents....

Anti-Racist

New Year's Resolution

Teach-In

Teachable Moment

Stove Works, 1250 E 13th Street, Chattanooga, TN

www.queerapocalypsesolutions.com

IG: @queerapocalypsesolutions

queerapocalypsesolutions@gmail.com

Queer Apocalypse Solutions (Q.A.S.) is...

An interactive art-life project by and for queer folks that seeks to provide tools for survival through many apocalypse scenarios. This project was started in the spring of 2019, long before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, under the philosophy that some of us are already living in apocalypses due to the violence inflicted against various identities and life circumstances pertaining to: race, ethnicity, gender, class, geographical location, nationality, immigration status, dis/ability, etc. We do not intend to make light of the apocalypses happening in our present moment, even beyond coronavirus, such as the Syrian refugee crisis, the political and aid crisis in Venezuela, the detentions at the U.S.-Mexico border, individuals targeted by the prison industrial-complex, Black people killed by police and many more. Nor do we intend to dismiss historical and on-going apocalypses like the extinction of dinosaurs and other species, the genocides of indigenous peoples, or the HIV/AIDS crisis.

Some tools provided by Q.A.S. may be directly useful; some are creatively constructed; some are for developing alternative narratives about how we live our lives; some may provide comic relief if nothing else. Do not forget that queer people are often more well-equipped to face ends of the world than other members of the cis-hetero-patriarchy. Throughout generations and across the world, we have faced colonization, legal persecution, cultural death, and various forms of mis-/dis-identifications. Furthermore, as translators who live between cultures, we are also the targets of a number of apocalypses.

In queer communities near and far, we are all different in unique and dazzling ways. The goal of Q.A.S. is to embrace our many degrees of difference and develop plans of survival specific to your needs by aggregating tools that we develop with already existing resources across virtual and physical worlds. We identify your particular realms of vulnerability in order to develop individualized solutions to implement in your daily life—no matter what apocalypse rests on your shoulders or surrounds you.



Lindsay

I am a nomadic, socially-engaged, feminist artist who works in performance, video, social practice, poetry, and scholarly intervention. I came out in my mid-twenties amidst a landscape of queer embrace in Portland, Maine. Honestly, it was uneventful. Since that time, I have lived in many less progressive states in the South and Midwest, and my paranoia



has increased (and even exacerbated under a fascist pandemic State). I have learned that being able to pass as hetero (if not a little bit weird), something I never thought much about, is for many, a safety mechanism of invisibility. My number one tool for survival is being able to ground myself in the moment I am in. As someone who is reliant on medication for hourly survival (insulin and blood glucose test strips and juice boxes), the biggest apocalypse for me would be if the health system completely collapsed, and I was unable to acquire these medications. If it was coupled with a shortage of food, I would be in real trouble. The last 6 months have taught me resilience and resourcefulness with regards to planning for the future without any knowledge of what is possible.

Helis

I'm an Estonian expat and queer theory enthusiast. I came to the United States ten years ago for grad school. I have lived in Wyoming, in the South, and in the Midwest. Early on, I realized that, for my survival as a queer person without any family in the United States, I needed to connect with people in my community and figure out who is a supporter and who is not. I still believe one of the most important ways to prepare for any apocalypse is by talking to people in your community: at the grocery store line, at your workplace, the local coffee shop. You want to know where people stand (who is on your team and who is not) because you share a space with them. My individual version of apocalypse has many versions: The federal immigration law stops covering family-based immigrant visas; Russia occupies my motherland and transports tens of thousands of people to Siberia where most of them die. The majority of people targeted are intellectuals, artists, and dissidents of all kinds (a large number of them are queer). The second part of this apocalypse (Russian occupation) is something that already happened in the 1940s and possibly can happen again. I lost several of my family members in that genocide.

Privilege/Oppression Checklist

- Race:
- Gender:
- {cis}Gender Identity:
- Sexuality:
- Class:
- Dis/ability:
- Citizenship:
- Nationality:
- Language:
- Education:
- Religion:
- Size:
- Age:
- Employment:
- Access to healthcare:
- Other:

“There is no thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives.”
~Audre Lorde

“This idea that we all have the same life is false. Race, class, gender come together to shape the life changes of people in very different ways.”
~Kimberlé Crenshaw

“If we aren’t intersectional, some of us, the most vulnerable, are going to fall through the cracks.”
~Kimberlé Crenshaw

Figure 1: Jim Chuchu, *All Oppression is Connected*, 2013, Poster



Draw your anti-racist vision for 2021

“I’m no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I’m changing the things I cannot accept.”

~Angela Davis

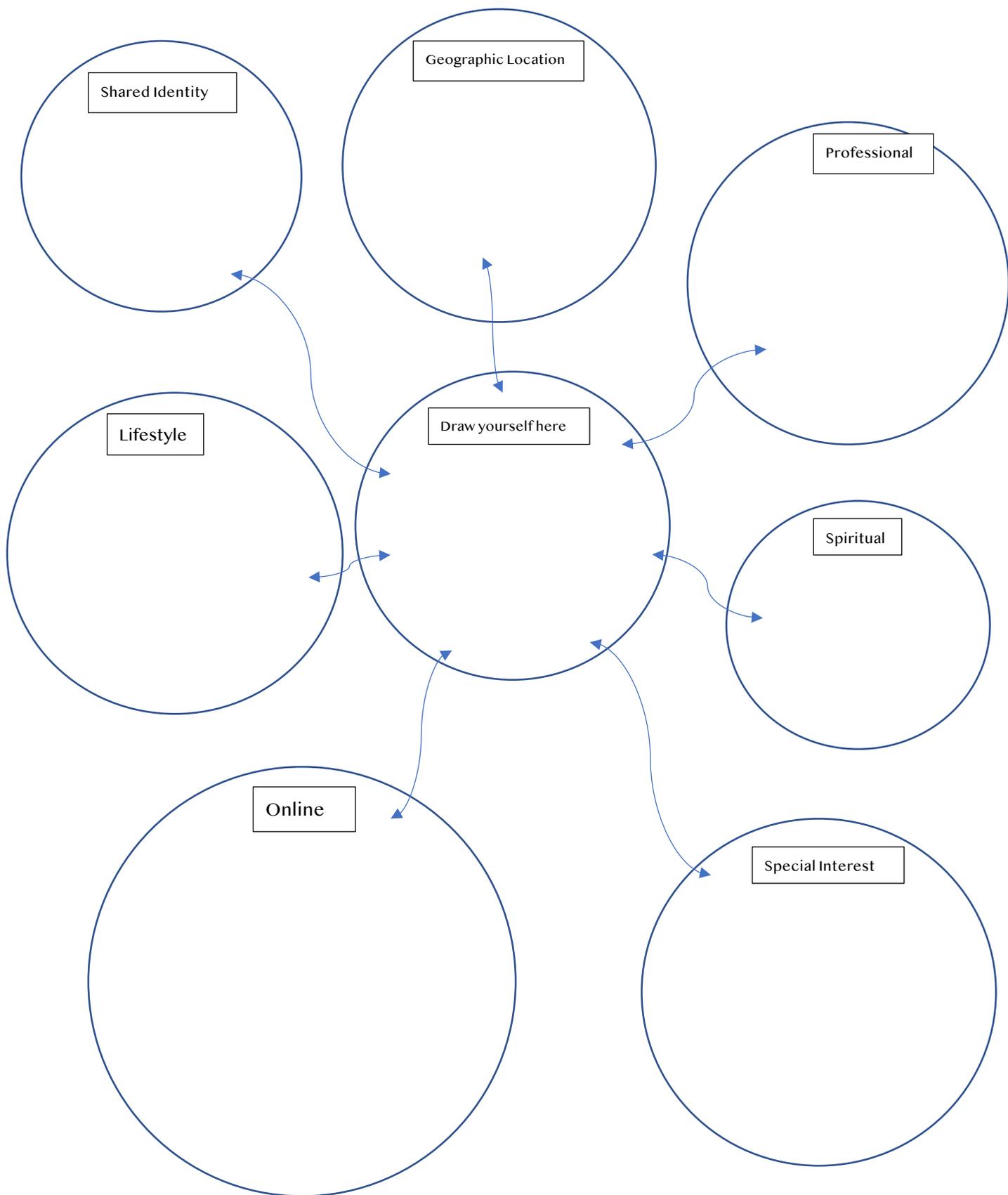
“Activism is my rent for living on this planet.”

~Alice Walker

“Make a difference about something else than yourselves.”

~Toni Morrison

List the communities that you already engage:



Consider your position and engagement with those communities:

- Shared Identity

- 1
- 2
- 3

- Geographic Location

- 1
- 2
- 3

- Professional

- 1
- 2
- 3

- Spiritual

- 1
- 2
- 3

- Special Interest

- 1
- 2
- 3

- Online

- 1
- 2
- 3

- Lifestyle

- 1
- 2
- 3

- Do you have a leadership role in that community?
- Are you a mentor?
- Do you serve on a committee?
- Are you a newcomer?
- Have you been within that space for many years?
- Do you donate money to that organization?
- Do you volunteer your time to that organization?
- Are you a patron of that business where, to some extent, your dollar serves as a vote for or against something?
- Is this a space where everyone holds an equal voice and your newly empowered voice can be heard?
- Do you have a national or international network of individuals, friends, family, or businesses within that community?
- Do you create art or write or engage in another kind of public or semi-public facing activity?
- Do you have a lot of social media followers who look up to you?
- What kind of membership level do you subscribe to?
- What kind of knowledge base or expertise do you have within your field/discipline/hobby space?
- Are you mobile, in terms of walk/run/bike/drive to-and-from your locations?

Anti-racist Community Research Guide

Consider one of your communities.

- 1). Who has authority or is in charge? Who has been in charge in the past? Why?
- 2). How are power and privilege operating in this setting?
- 3). What are the policies and rules, both written and unwritten? Who made them? Who enforces them?
- 4). Perform an internet search on this community by entering its name and typing one of the following terms: race, racism, slavery, controversy, person of color
 - Look for first-person narratives written by a diverse range of voices: reviews, blogs, personal stories, quotes within newspaper articles
 - If you find news sources that are unfamiliar to you, ensure you do a little research to find out what their hidden biases are. Here's a link to a good media bias chart: <https://www.adfontesmedia.com/>
 - Look for long histories and connections to racist organizations or individuals.
 - Follow the money.

How to create an anti-racist action plan for 2021

1. Maybe you already have an idea about what you should do.
2. Or maybe you need to poke a bit deeper.
3. If not, return to your communities list and choose another one to investigate.
4. Do some online research to see if anyone else has identified the same situation in a similar way and had results.
5. If so, it is easier to join a movement than re-create your own. Contact others. See what they have done tactically that can be applied to your own situation.
6. Turning to your list of skills, what creative skills could be employed to help garner this result?
7. If no one else has intervened in this way, brainstorm, either just yourself or collectively with others on a suitable intervention.
8. Think outside the box. Think queerly. Think about how harmful norms or subtle/invisible injustices can be disrupted and made visible. How can you amplify an issue in the public sphere visually, textually, etc.?
9. Based on your precise positionality and skill set, identify precisely what needs to be accomplished.
10. Check yourself for accidental racism by talking with a friend who knows stuff. Ask for feedback from multiple sources. Incorporate the feedback. Re-work your ideas.
11. Make a list. Be as specific as possible. Break each task down into a smaller list of tasks. Assign them. Delegate. Ask others to use their skill sets if need be. Sometimes the best way to do activism is in a men's

business suit. Sometimes it's in a bunny costume. Match your tasks with the appropriate amount of force. Build bridges and acquire additional allies instead of demolishing relationships. Teach. Learn.

12. Decide what you need to maintain accountability. Put each task on the calendar. Block out the time it will take and prioritize it. Do it first thing in the morning. 5am is a great time to destroy the white supremacist cis-heteropatriarchy. Wake up 15 minutes earlier if it means you can spend 15 minutes a day on anti-racist action.
13. Execute your plan. If it doesn't work, re-work the plan, and start again. There is no graduation. There is just learning and taking action; disrupting more; deconstructing your own mind; detangling the web of white supremacy around you.



ANTI-RACIST
NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

COMMITMENT

I, _____, commit to performing anti-racist action to the best of my ability during the year 2021. The first step of my plan is, as follows:

I will carry on, adapting where necessary, to help build an anti-racist world around me.

Signature | Date