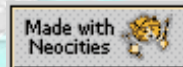


**THE**

**(DIS) CONNECTING**

...

**CLUB!**



- 1. Introductions**
2. Description of the club
3. Queer Communities Online
  - a. History
  - b. Today
4. Workshop



Time to  
introduce yourself!

1. Name + pronouns
2. Motivation for coming today

Nayla  
(she/they)

Hanna  
(she/her),  
a 29-year-old  
dog mom.

Software Development and  
(Future) Computer Science (?)

Software Development and  
Digital Innovation and Management

Got especially into alternatives to  
big tech during COVID-19.

1. Introductions
- 2. Description of the club**
3. Queer Communities Online
  - a. History
  - b. Today
4. Workshop

# What is ETHOS LAB ?

ETHOS Lab is a **collective space for creative methods, critical computing and feminist inquiry**

Fields include: **“STS, Anthropology, and Human Computer Interaction”**

“ETHOS Lab is a **place of collaboration - a network of researchers, students, practitioners and artists at and beyond ITU.**”

<https://ethos.itu.dk/about-us/>

Open hours every Friday!

## Lab Staff

The Lab Staff are the main drivers of activities, workshops and events in the lab. They provide support for students and researchers affiliated with the lab, maintain the physical lab space and provide community care.



Marisa Cohn

Associate Professor, Co-founder & Head (on sabbatical from Feb 2026)



Vasiliki Tsaknaki

Associate Professor & Co-director



Luis Landa

Lab Technologist



Maya Acharya

Lab Manager



Réka Sára Mezel

Lab Assistant



Hanna Dana Stokes

Lab Assistant



Simona Mancusi

Workshop Coordinator

Subscribe to our newsletter or our blog to follow along w/o the need for big tech platforms!



What is (dis)connecting?

We are **disconnecting**, from big tech, and, more in general, unethical, unhealthy, unsustainable ways of using and understanding technologies

And **connecting** with people through building local and digital community and a part of that is by learning webcrafting

Previously...

This academic year we have gotten into

- The indie web movement,
- Net.art
- Permacomputing
- Leaving music platforms
- “AI” harm reduction
- Alternatives to Google’s services etc.
- Gathered a list of local groups with similar interests

**All of this and an events calendar, go to [disconnecting.neocities.org](http://disconnecting.neocities.org)**

1. Introductions
2. Description of the club
- 3. Queer Communities Online**
  - a. History
  - b. Today
4. Workshop

## Why talk about queer communities online?

In her book, *Glitch Feminism*, Legacy Russell says that

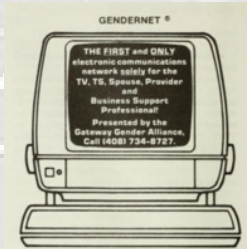
- online spaces have been essential for marginalized people to explore their identity and find community

- queer online spaces or “glitch spaces” help us everyone challenge binaries

- help us challenge what social media could look like, instead of simply banning all social media



## History



Advertisement for the first BBS for the "gender community" called GenderNet from TV-TS Tapestry #42 when the board was first announced in 1983.



Steve Dyer (left) the founder of "soc.motss" and participants (right) at the first motss.con in 1988.



- Bulletin Board System (BBS) was used 1978 → mid-1990's
- Usenet was used 1979 → mid-2000's
- Both provided queer people with anonymity, socialisation and support

## The Backroom BBS (1985 - 1997)

- New York-based
- Notable forum: SURVIVORS
  - Safe space for People With Aids
  - Shared resources, built community
- Backroom Bash
  - Semi-regular in-person gatherings



• Private Mail • AIDS & Health News •  
• On-Line Games • Hi-Res Graphics •  
• On-Line Chat (24 phone lines) •  
• On-Line Travel Agency •

### The **BACKROOM**

**America's Largest Gay/Lesbian Computer  
Information Service**

**CALL US WITH YOUR COMPUTER!**

**(718) 849-1614 (modem)**

Communications Parameters: 8 Data Bits, No Parity, 1 Stop Bit, Full Duplex



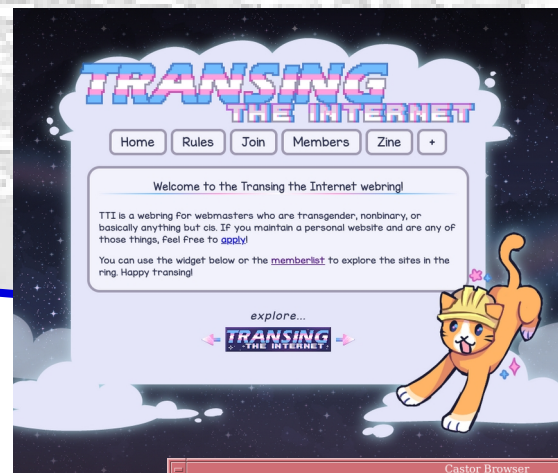
• On-Line Bookshop • XXX Stories •  
• Overnight Mail to 15 Cities •  
• General Interest Articles •  
• "Lesbians On-Line" •

**Founder of GayCom**  
National Gay/Lesbian Communications Network

**Our 7th Year**  
Serving the Lesbian and Gay Community

Today

- BBS and Usenet show us how people were doing a lot with a little.
- Today , a notable example of this is the indie web, which was revitalized by Yesterweb,<sup>3</sup> a mainly queer community<sup>4</sup>
- Yesterweb was interested in using old ways of being online to create a better digital future



A webbing for trans people with 800+ websites.



A browser displaying a white using the gemini protocol

[3] yesterweb [MelonLand Wiki]. (2023, June 28). Melonland.net. <https://wiki.melonland.net/yesterweb>

[4] The Yesterweb - Reclaiming the Internet. (2021). Yesterweb.org. <https://yesterweb.org/#socially-marginalized-diasporas>

1. Introductions
2. Description of the club
3. Queer Communities Online
  - a. History
  - b. Today
- 4. Workshop**

BBS → go to [telnetbbsguide.com](http://telnetbbsguide.com)

Webcraft →

“No technical stuff plz” →  
go to [wwwobble.org](http://wwwobble.org) or [hotglue.me/manual](http://hotglue.me/manual) read chapter 1 and 2 and then start collaging!

“Some technical stuff plz” →  
install Hugo and an IDE to get started on a site that can the solar server! Then learn some Markdown.

“Hardcoding only for me” →  
To learn html go to [neocities.org/tutorial/html/1](http://neocities.org/tutorial/html/1)

Or to get off big tech platforms →  
go to [switching.software](http://switching.software) or [disconnecting.neocities.org](http://disconnecting.neocities.org)

# References

[0] Russell, L. (2020). GLITCH FEMINISM: a manifesto. Verso.

[1] Early LGBTQ Digital Communities · Queer Digital History Project. (2016). Queerdigital.com. <https://queerdigital.com/earlycomms>

[2] Bulletin Board Systems · Early Platforms · Queer Digital History Project. (2016). Queerdigital.com. <https://queerdigital.com/exhibits/show/platforms/bulletin-board-systems>

[3] yesterweb [MelonLand Wiki]. (2023, June 28). Melonland.net. <https://wiki.melonland.net/yesterweb>

[4] The Yesterweb - Reclaiming the Internet. (2021). Yesterweb.org. <https://yesterweb.org/#socially-marginalized-diasporas>