

# Gary L. Atkins

Professor of Communication  
Human Rights Writer



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Blog: <http://garyatkins.net/blog-rainbow-rights-review/>

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## Employment

**Professor of Communication, associate appointment in Gender Studies**

Seattle University 2006-present

**Associate Professor, 1985-2006; Assistant Professor, 1978-1985**

Specialties: Communication Law; Non-Fiction Narrative Writing; Gender and Communication

**Chair, Department of Communication, Seattle University,**  
1981-88, 1991-1999, 2005-2011

**Investigative Reporter and Narrative Journalist, The Riverside Press-Enterprise**  
(Ca.) 1972-1978

## Books

***Imagining Gay Paradise: Bali, Bangkok and Cyber-Singapore***

Hong Kong University Press, 2012. Website at: <http://imagininggayparadise.com/>

***Gay Seattle: Stories of Exile and Belonging.***

University of Washington Press, 2003. Website at: <http://gayseattlehistory.com/>

*2004 Washington State Book Award*

*2004 Alpha Sigma Nu National Jesuit Book Award*

***Reporting with Understanding.*** Iowa State University Press, 1987

## Education

**Master of Arts, Communication, Stanford University, Stanford (Ca.) 1972**

**Bachelor of Arts, Journalism, Loyola University, New Orleans, (La.) 1971**

## Current Courses

### **Communication Justice, Rights and Law (CMJR 494)**

Engages students in arguments about global freedom of speech controversies in order to promote reflection, advocacy and leadership on issues of communication equality and justice. Course website at: <http://communicationjustice.com/>

### **Sex, God and Free Speech (UCOR 3430)**

Enhances an in-depth awareness of global human rights issues pertaining to blasphemy, sexuality and freedom of expression so that students can advocate more effectively for individual dignity and human rights. Course website at: <http://sexualjustice.org>

### **Non-Fiction Narrative Writing (CMJR 315)**

Teaches creation of “literary journalism” stories using techniques of characterization, plotting and “thick description” of contexts, such as historical, political or natural environment. Course website at: <http://narrativewrite.org>

### **Sexual Storytelling (CMJR 391)**

Examines the promotion of sexual/gender justice by reshaping details within stories that influence erotic and gender imaginations – whether in fiction, non-fiction, real-life or online. New course for 2015. Website under construction.

## Major Programs Catalyzed

### **International Communication & Politics: China/Tibet, (1998-2001)**

This summer abroad program, which I helped create in 1998, introduced students to political and cross-cultural challenges facing the United States and China.

### **Department of Communication, Seattle University (1981-present)**

As chair, I helped transform a small print journalism program (35 majors) into an expanded Communication Department (200+ majors) offering three Bachelor of Arts degrees in Communication Studies, Journalism and Strategic Communications.

### **American Friends Service Committee Regional Executive Board and LGBT Program (1984-1990)**

I served on the Executive Board of this Quaker organization's Pacific Northwest Region, overseeing ten social justice programs aimed at either international peace issues or minority community concerns. During my term, I helped create the first LGBT social justice program in this international human rights organization, establishing community organizer positions in Seattle and in Portland. I also served as chair of the LGBT-Seattle program, which in turn created a new AIDS education organization and a LGBT youth program (below).

### **People of Color Against AIDS Network, Seattle (1985-88)**

As chair of the AFSC LGBT-Seattle program, I worked with organizers and volunteers to prepare grant proposals and organizational structures to involve people of color in Seattle in AIDS education and prevention. Eventually the People of Color Against AIDS Network (POCAAN) became an independent organization, securing government and private funding to hire additional organizers of ethnic and racial minorities. POCAAN continues its successful HIV/AIDS and LGBT work today.

### **LGBT Youth Program, Seattle (1988-1990)**

As chair of the AFSC LGBT-Seattle program, I worked with community organizers and volunteers to establish a citywide LGBT youth program, including a new LGBT youth center and non-profit organization, Lambert House. Lambert House continues its successful work today, offering LGBT youth 25 different programs and services, including mentoring, safe space, and youth-led social and educational activities.