



**YOU AIN'T 'SCARED' OF ME...YOU HATE ME:
AN ACADEMIC DRAG QUEEN'S CRT-
INFORMED RESPONSE TO TODAY'S
DRAGPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA**

Dr. Tommy Mayberry might be one of the biggest fears of our contemporary cis het, Conservative, white, Western world: a drag queen doing critical race theory (CRT). More specifically, Dr. Tommy is a raced-white academic drag queen doing critical race counterstory and teaching queer via their research, pedagogy, practice, and leadership; and more specifically, "fears" and "phobias" might not be so much what is happening across these lands now known as North America. While the word transphobia isn't overly new (first used three decades ago in 1993), the word dragphobia appears to be an entirely new term and concept drawing open hate publicly to the fore in our global pandemic era. But none of this hate is actually new, is it? ...it's just dragged up in new clothes for a new stage and a new runway, if you will: 1978, California state senator John Brigg's referendum in opposition to gay rights; 1988-2000, Margaret Thatcher's Section 28 that stopped the promotion of homosexuality; 2022 and today, Florida's "Don't Say Gay" bill. So, why do people choose to hate? And even more so, to uphold hate, protect hate, legislate hate? Fear might have something to do with it, but it runs so much deeper and so much more sinisterly than that.



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Bio:

Tommy Mayberry, PhD (he/she/they) is a scholar, professional, and academic drag queen and is the Executive Director of the Centre for Teaching and Learning at the University of Alberta. As a sought-after speaker on the topics of “Gender Pronouns and Cultures of Respect” as well as well as visual pedagogies, LGBTQIA+ inclusivity, and most recently the figure of the “EDI” Killjoy and/in academic justice, Tommy has presented their work nationally as well as internationally and with corporate industry and business partners such as SurveyMonkey, LinkedIn, and Liberty Mutual Insurance. If you're a fan of reality TV and especially of the drag queen competition series RuPaul's Drag Race, you might also be interested to know that Tommy has co-edited an award-winning book, RuPedagogies of Realness: Essays on Teaching and Learning with RuPaul's Drag Race (McFarland 2022) and currently has a follow-up “she-quel” edition in the works, too!

My lived pronouns:

He/she/they – any of these three series of pronouns, when used with respect, are how folks can address Tommy.