

ALMS Bursary Report

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The ALMS Berlin Conference marked several “firsts” for me. This was my first time attending an ALMS Conference, and my first visit (ever!) to Europe. And to be given the opportunity to present at this ALMS Conference which also marked the 100th anniversary of Magnus Hirschfeld’s *Institute of Sexual Research* that was founded on the very grounds of the present-day Haus der Kulturen der Welt made this event doubly historic for me.

My presentation focused on salvaging memories after a devastating fire destroyed three shipping containers of cultural artifacts that belonged to a gay naturist group. In echoing Cvetkovich in *The Archive of Feeling* (2003), I argued that the history and memory of the LGBTQ community is intertwined with trauma. To stand in the shadow of Hirschfeld’s historic legacy – one marked by destruction, struggle, and survival – has deepened my reflection on our community’s past.

Throughout the conference, I was able to serve as a volunteer, as a presenter, and as an audience member. I heard presentations that enlarged my field of vision in terms of the work of the archives across diverse communities and localities. Most importantly, I felt encouraged by the ALMS community of scholars, activists, and researchers – you have inspired me to be as diligently committed to the important work we do together.