



# Unsafe Words

Queering Consent in the #MeToo Era

Edited by Shantel Gabriel Buggs and Trevor Hoppe

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## DESCRIPTION

Queer people may not have invented sex, but queers have long been pioneers in imagining new ways to have it. Yet their voices have been largely absent from the #MeToo conversation. What can queer people learn from the #MeToo conversation? And what can queer communities teach the rest of the world about ethical sex? This provocative book brings together academics, activists, artists, and sex workers to tackle challenging questions about sex, power, consent, and harm. While responding to the need for sex to be consensual and mutually pleasurable, these chapter authors resist the heteronormative assumptions, class norms, and racial privilege underlying much #MeToo discourse. The essays reveal the tools that queer communities themselves have developed to practice ethical sex—from the sex worker negotiating with her client to the gay man having anonymous sex in the back room. At the same time, they explore how queer communities might better prevent and respond to sexual violence without recourse to a police force that is frequently racist, homophobic, and transphobic.

Telling a queerer side of the #MeToo story, *Unsafe Words* dares to challenge dogmatic assumptions about sex and consent while developing tools and language to promote more ethical and more pleasurable sex for everyone.

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## AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

SHANTEL GABRIEL BUGGS is an assistant professor of sociology and African American studies at Florida State University. Her research on how race, gender, and technology shape romantic and sexual relationships has appeared in such journals as *Sociological Inquiry*, *Identities*, and the *Journal of Marriage and Family*.

TREVOR HOPPE is an assistant professor of sociology at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. His research analyzes the social control of sex by institutions of medicine, law, and public health. He is the author of *Punishing Disease: HIV and the Criminalization of Sickness* and co-editor of *The War on Sex*.

### Paperback

9781978825406, \$22.95

### Hardback

9781978825413, \$67.95

### eBook

9781978825420, \$22.95

### PDF

9781978825444, \$22.95

**Date:** February 2023

**Pages:** 216



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