

# The Wolfe Institute

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*The Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities,  
in cooperation with the Daniel M. Lyons Chair of American History,  
the Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Departments of English and History,  
the American Studies Program, the Women's and Gender Studies Program,  
the LGBTQ Resource Center, and the History Program at the Graduate Center, CUNY,  
presents*

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## Narratives of the Revolution

A Series about Scholarly and Storytelling Approaches to History

### Part III: Alex Myers



The goal of the “Narratives of the Revolution” series is to see what comes of a dialogue between historians of the American Revolution and historical fiction authors who have done extensive research and tackled the “narrative” of the Revolution in imaginative ways. The interview with **Alex Myers**, which will be conducted by history professor **Elizabeth Reis** of the Macaulay Honors College, will emphasize the ways we tell stories about the past to future generations.

**Alex Myers** is a writer, teacher, speaker, and activist. Since high school, Alex has campaigned for transgender rights. As a female-to-male transgender person, Alex began his transition at Phillips Exeter Academy (returning his senior year as a man after attending for three years as a woman) and was the first transgender student in that Academy’s history. Alex was also the first openly transgender student at Harvard and worked to change the University’s nondiscrimination clause to include gender identity. In his debut historical novel *Revolutionary*, Myers tells the true story of Deborah Sampson Gannett, who, feeling suffocated in her puritanical Massachusetts society, ran away from home, successfully disguised herself as a man, and fought valiantly in the Revolutionary War under the guise of “Robert Shurtliff.” As an advocate for the transgender community, Myers was inspired by his actual ancestral relationship to Deborah Sampson Gannett to tell her story.

**Elizabeth Reis** recently joined the Macaulay Honors College at CUNY as a visiting professor, teaching classes on transgender issues, reproductive technologies, and medical humanities. Prior to that she was professor and department head of women’s and gender studies at the University of Oregon. She is the author of *Bodies in Doubt: An American History of Intersex* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009); *Damned Women: Sinners and Witches in Puritan New England* (Cornell University Press, 1997); and the editor of *American Sexual Histories* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2012). Reis is interested in both the history and contemporary analysis of medical ethics, gender, sexuality, and religion, and has published essays in a number of journals and periodicals, including the *Hastings Center Report*, *Bioethics Forum*, *Journal of American History*, *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine*, and the *New York Times*.

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**Monday, October 24, 2016**

**2:15 to 3:30 p.m.**

**Woody Tanger Auditorium  
Brooklyn College Library**

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