

Theme: **Cybersex**

Title: **Embodying Gay Men's Erotic Desires in Chat Room Cyberspace**

Abstract

This project is about how the Internet is currently being used by gay men to transform their erotic desires into the cyberspace of personal websites and chat rooms. The Internet is increasingly determining how gay men socially construct their sexual selves as it becomes positioned into the flow of their everyday lives. This project specifically examines how gay men use the personal website *gaydar* to realize their sexual and social needs. *Gaydar* is currently the most widely used personal website in Australia. The socio-cultural influence of personal websites is growing increasingly important. The project will provide further insights into the social and cultural situations that precipitate the use of *gaydar* as a sexual aid for gay men and to explore how offline social cues of attraction are positioned within *gaydar* cyberspace. This project is a virtual ethnography that synthesizes offline sexual scripting with online cybersexual embodiment theory. This will assist in the design of gay men's online sexual experiences and reveal how their offline sexual lives symbiotically shape their online activities.

Biography

Warren Losberg is a Kurtjar man who currently teaches research design and analysis, program planning and implementation, community development and alcohol and other drugs at the Discipline of Indigenous Health Studies, University of Sydney. Warren is currently researching gay identity in cyberspace, sister girl emancipation, gay men's social construction of fun and the traditional healer's role in the Anangu people.