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Northern Commons Brings Jennifer Luciani to Its *Diverse Futures* Series for a Talk on Expansive Kinship

A conversation on reimagining care, community, and connection — September 16 in Saint Paul

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Northern Commons is continuing its *Diverse Futures: Visions of Care in a Complex World* speaker series with a presentation by Jennifer Luciani (she/they), a relational trauma-informed coach and facilitator whose work centers expansive kinship—a vision of care, community, and connection that reaches far beyond conventional relational structures. The event takes place on September 16, 2026, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Northern Commons, 308 E Prince St, Suite 246, St. Paul, and is open to the public.

The session is titled *Expansive Kinship*. Luciani will offer a short introduction to her work on the topic and then open the floor for discussion, inviting participants into a shared exploration rather than a one-way lecture.

Expansive Kinship is an umbrella term for varieties of relational diversity—forms of relating that extend far beyond our current cultural notions of nuclear family, marriage, single-family households, and caregiving. In Luciani's vision, it is the cornerstone of a thriving, interdependent future: one that reshapes relational landscapes into networks of intimacy, care, and mutual aid rather than atomized units built on competition and scarcity. Her framework draws on a wide tradition of feminist, LGBTQIA+, polyamorous, and intentional-community thought and practice.

"I have seen Jennifer present on this topic before and have read some of their related writings. I have also been a part of many discussions she has facilitated. I am thrilled to have her leading a discussion on her visionary Expansive Kinship work for the Diverse Futures series."

— **Patrick Stein, Northern Commons**

Luciani is a facilitator of discussions on polyamory and relationship anarchy, and has spent years as an educator and mentor for unschoolers. She has been a co-creator and resident of an intentional community, and holds multiple long-term radical identities:

queer/pansexual, polyamorous, relationship anarchist, and feminist. Her writings can be found at JenniferLuciani.com and jenniferluciani.substack.com.

“The future I’m reaching toward isn’t just more tolerant—it’s more intimate. It’s about weaving networks of care and mutual support that can actually hold us, especially those of us who were never meant to fit inside the nuclear family model. That’s what expansive kinship points toward.”

— **Jennifer Luciani**

Diverse Futures launched in July with Afrofuturist author T. Aaron Cisco and continues on the third Wednesday of each month through November. All presentations begin at 7:00 p.m. at Northern Commons.

- **Sep 16, 2026** — Jennifer Luciani, *Expansive Kinship*
- **Oct 21, 2026** — Scott Keever, *Folk Music As Catalyst To A Diverse Future*
- **Nov 18, 2026** — Patrick Stein, *Life Before JumpNet*

To reserve a spot, RSVP at luma.com/qrbpfrts. For more about the series, visit northerncommons.space/projects/diverse-futures.html.

About Northern Commons

Northern Commons is a community gathering space in Lowertown, downtown Saint Paul, dedicated to relational and peer-led programming. Through events, workshops, and speaker series, Northern Commons cultivates connection, curiosity, and collaborative inquiry across disciplines and communities. Learn more at northerncommons.space.
