

## Social Change Symposium

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**Title:** Power in Digital Queer Space: An Exploration of the Lived Experiences of Emergent Identities in Australia

**Abstract:** Emergent identities is a term that describes the contemporary ways people define their diverse genders, sexes, and sexualities. As a response to global events closing spaces and advances in digital technologies, people with emergent identities may be creating new social worlds in digital queer space. There is a paucity of research on the effects of power on the development of these social worlds in Australia. This research aims to address this gap by exploring the influence of power on how people with emergent identities construct their worlds online through everyday activities and routines. To fulfill this aim, this research will use mixed qualitative methods to explore: 1) the modalities of power in digital queer space, 2) the lived experiences of emergent identities with creating online social worlds, and 3) the distribution of power among users online. This mixed methods design will deploy a survey, a digital ethnography, and an online focus group in three sequential phases. The findings from this research may offer insights into power in digital queer space and ways to improve social wellbeing outcomes for emergent identities.