Kat Rands* (krands@elon.edu). Queering Mathematical History: A Queer Genealogy of the Mathematical Community, Bourbaki.

This paper suggests a queer history approach to mathematical history and uses it to analyze one mathematical community, Bourbaki. Firestone critiques the way history is often told as a series of “snapshots.” Examples of both mathematics and LGBT history from the snapshot perspective abound—for example, sidebar boxes in mathematics textbooks that snapshot a famous mathematician and timelines of significant LGBT events. Mendick critiques the snapshot/progressive view of history of mathematics education as defining a linear and teleological relationship between the past, present, and future in a way that contrains the questions asked and actions taken. In contrast, Mendick proposes Foucauldian genealogical approaches, which look for dissonance rather than continuity, difference rather than identity, and contingency rather than inevitability. Bronski makes the surprising claim that LGBT history does not exist. This signifies on the one hand that the queer is central to history itself, so there is no “separate” LGBT history, and at the same time that the queer has been so suppressed as to be erased in the past. This paper examines the mathematical community Bourbaki through a queer genealogical lens. (Received September 18, 2013)