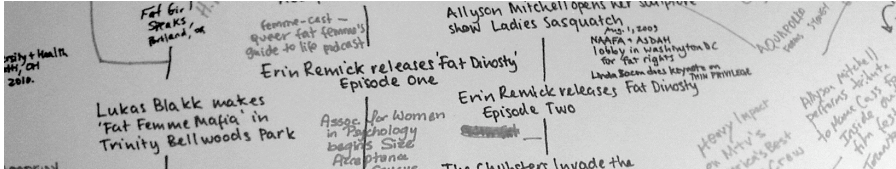
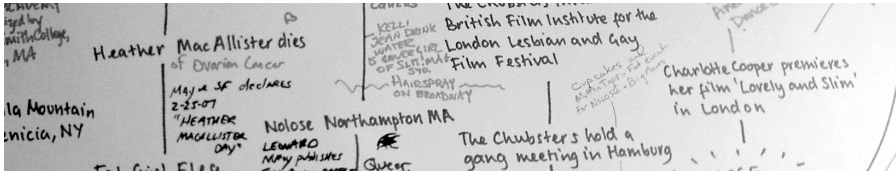


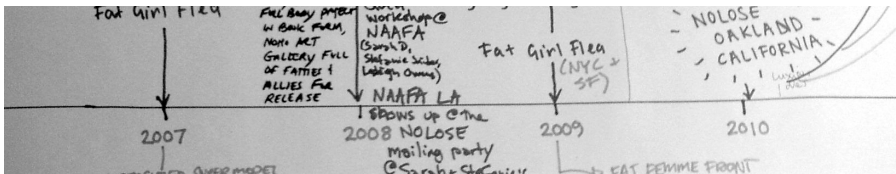
# A Queer and Trans



# Fat Activist



# Timeline



# Charlotte Cooper

# **A Queer and Trans Fat Activist Timeline**

In 2010 I proposed and facilitated a workshop at the NOLOSE gathering in Oakland, California, where a timeline was collectively produced. This zine is a product of that workshop, although I hope that it has a life far beyond that particular time and place.

This is a zine about a movement, ideas, experiences, a workshop, a conference, zines, histories, places, collective memory, community, critical reflection, cultural imperialism, dialogue, texts, feminism, archives, many things, and stuff I haven't considered too. It's also about fat people, queer people, and trans

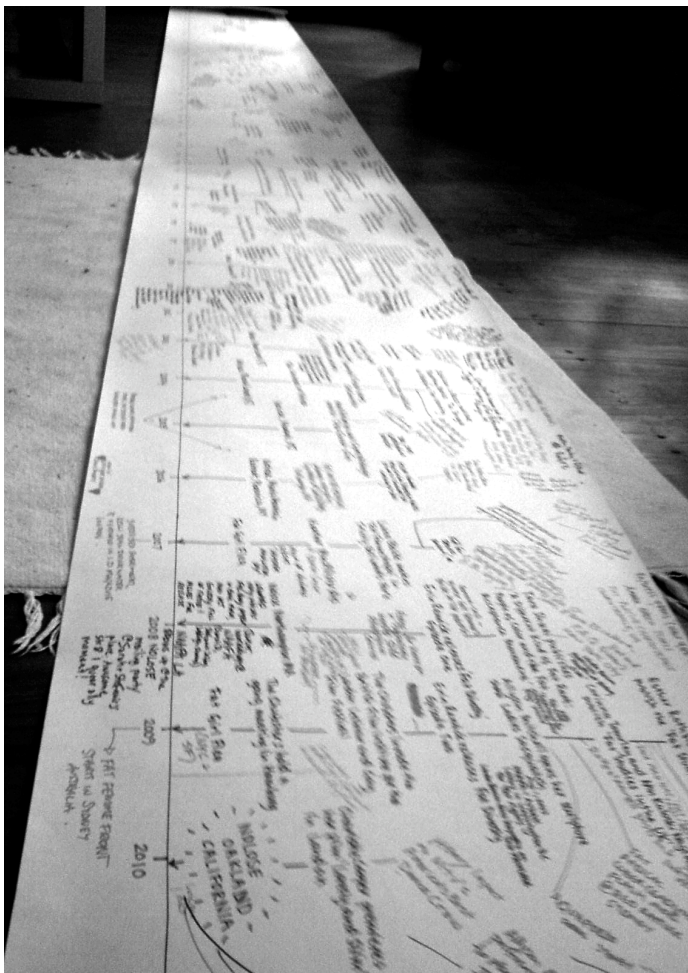
people. And it's about me and the things I do.

Many thanks to: all the workshop participants, Bildwechsel, Deb Burgard, ESRC Fat Studies and Health At Every Size Seminar participants, Kay Hyatt, Simon Murphy, NOLOSE, Rebel Bellies, Bill Savage, Villa Magdalena K, Cookie Woolner, Alexis Yalon, people who encouraged me, and queer trans fat activists everywhere, past present and future.

*Charlotte Cooper  
April 2011  
Hamburg and East London*

# What's in this zine?

1. An explanation.
2. A zine version of a timeline that was made at a workshop. The original timeline was drawn by many people in coloured pens on a roll of wallpaper, it is very long when unfurled, and looks like this:



# Who made this zine?

My name is Charlotte Cooper, I live in London, in the UK, and am British though don't feel much attachment to that nationality. I am queer, from a working class background, white, middle-aged, and have a load of higher education. I have poly relationships and am sort-of femme.

I have been a fat activist for over twenty years and consider myself a DIY cultural producer in terms of zine- and film-making, being in bands, other activities typical of

the genre, and a few that aren't, such as my gang, The Chubsters.

In 2012 I hope to graduate with a PhD in Sociology, having produced a thesis about fat activism.

I've written a couple of books, the most relevant one for this project is called *Fat and Proud: The Politics of Size*. I also blog about fat at [obesitytimebomb.blogspot.com](http://obesitytimebomb.blogspot.com).



# Why did I make this zine?

## ***1. I like fat activist histories***

One of the things that interests me very much about fat activism as a social movement is that it stretches back at least four decades. It may have deeper historical roots from different places, but I'm talking about the documented stuff that is accessible to me as a Western Anglophone.

Not many people know about fat activism, and fewer still know about the movement's various histories. This means that as new generations of people get involved with fat activism, they are cut off from what went before, and don't have the advantage of learning from that past. It also means that people who did fat activism in the early days of the movement are overlooked when, in my opinion, they should be celebrated and remembered.

I see part of my fat activism as making what are often hidden historical fat activists explicit and known, and acknowledging the work that came before me, which inspires me greatly. I also see my work as encouraging people to document and archive their fat activism; to make their private worlds public. Despite rich

histories in different countries, there is currently very little documented material available on fat activism. My hope is that the more fat activists document what we do, and share that documentation, the more people engage with it, the more there is to engage with, and the richer and more diverse the movement becomes.

## ***2. I wanted to document fat activist history in a specific time and place***

I had the pleasure and privilege of attending NOLOSE in 2010. This is a "vibrant community of fat dykes, bisexual women, transgendered folks and our allies, seeking to end the oppression of fat people!" NOLOSE manifests mostly as a sort of annual conference that takes place in various locations in the US, and the 2010 gathering happened in Oakland, California.

I knew that some older fat activists would be going and I thought it would be a good opportunity to get people talking about history and herstory (look it up if you don't know what it means). I also thought it would be interesting and fun for people of all ages at the conference to

co-construct a historical document together.

I wanted to be clear that we would not be producing a definitive fat activist history. I know that some fat activists have tried to do this and I consider it an impossible task because no-one can create things without a context, histories are always bound by the time and place in which they were recorded, the person or people who do the recording, and the people who have access to those histories, or interpret them. I think history has a lot in common with fiction. There's never going to be a single, neutral, comprehensive, factual version of events. Some people will disagree with me, but this is where I'm coming from.

I am also troubled by the way that some fat activist historians, particularly in the US, presume to speak for people everywhere, even though they ignore or are ignorant of fat activism that happens in other parts of the world. It bothers me that different cultural relationships to fat and activism are unacknowledged, or repeated uncritically, such as the truism that "fat is okay in other cultures" where that Other is rarely articulated and often permeated with racism. I see this as a form of cultural imperialism, where diverse perspectives are

misrepresented by people who do not understand their nuances, and then reissued and handed back to the originators as fact. This is a misuse of power. Fat activists in the US should create their own histories and engage with histories outside their own experience, but their position in relation to those histories should be acknowledged, and no one's perspective should be presumed to be universal, least of all those coming out of the US.

In co-constructing the timeline I was very careful to reiterate that this is a document produced by a group of about 50 mostly fat lesbians/dykes/bi women and trans people who attended a workshop at NOLOSE 2010. It also reflects my historical and present-day interests in fat activism. It is not *The History of Fat Activism*, or an attempt to represent facts; it's more about sometimes fuzzy memory, collaboration and community.

***3. I wanted to create cross-cultural critical dialogue about what it is to document fat activism and what it means to construct and interpret fat activist histories***

I don't know much about historiography, the study of how histories are put together, but I think the timeline that the group

at NOLOSE co-constructed is a useful object to generate discussions about fat activism amongst people of different backgrounds, and to invite thoughts and comments about who makes history, and how it can be interpreted. I talk more about this in the section about Bildwechsel below.

As well as the truism "In some cultures fat is okay," I've also come across "Fat was acceptable in the past". I think this is a duff historical reading, and generally relates to a moment in standard Western art history where a few painters produced pictures of fleshy women. A full discussion of what that means will have to be played out elsewhere, my point is that the past is as multiple and contingent as the present and I really want to talk about this in relation to how people might look at historical fat activism.

#### ***4. I wanted to document the indispensable and undeniable contributions by fat queer and trans people to fat activism***

From the very earliest fat activism, fat queer and trans people have been an important presence in the movement. When I say queer I really mean it as an umbrella for lesbians and dykes and questioning and

transgressive women rather than Bears, who have a different political trajectory. I also mean feminists, by and large.

A significant part of fat activism has been and continues to be concerned with assimilation, showing just how normal fat people are. Given this trend, I don't want any of the movement's queerness or gender non-conformity to be erased, as I have seen happen to some work made by fat dykes in the UK. The timeline was constructed by queer and trans fat people, and everything it documents is about or affects this group too.

#### ***5. I wanted to make a zine***

I have published work in many different ways, but self-publishing zines is still one of my favourite means of making my ideas public, not least because it gives me full creative control of what I produce. I've made physically small zines in the past and now I want to have a go at something chunkier, and experiment with making accessible zines, which is why this one is available in audio format too, and as a download.

I also wanted to make a zine out of the timeline in order to make it more than just one object, to make it multiple objects that people could have and reflect on

and read and share in their own ways. A zine is something that can be archived in many places too; it will never replace the timeline, which has a particular look and feel, but it makes a version of it more accessible to people.

Zines are mentioned in the timeline itself as ways in which fat queer and trans people do activism, which makes it feel like an appropriate medium. Maybe this zine will be mentioned in future timelines!

I like the way that zines are ephemeral, it's kind of playing with the idea of history as something permanent. Zines (and DIY culture) can be elitist but for me they are the most immediate, cheap and desirable way of putting this project out in the world and reaching people who will most likely understand it. I want to support the practice of autonomous cultural production.

It's fun too.





# What did I do?

How did the timeline and zine come together? Here's an explanation of my process.

## **1. I wrote a workshop proposal and sent it to NOLOSE**

Here is the proposal.

*The Time of Our Lives: Fighting Fat Panic through Fat History, Memory and Culture*

*Fat activism pioneered by fat dykes/lesbians, bisexual women and transgendered folks has a history that predates fat panic by at least two decades. But the current war on obesity means that many of us are disconnected from this amazing body of powerful work. Such histories can transform self-hatred and isolation; encourage activists of today by providing precedents for disrupting fatphobia; and offer clues for creating fat culture.*

*There are currently few published queer and trans fat activist historical accounts, partly because there is little documentation. Sometimes accounts surface but offer tiny fragments without context, which means that diverse histories are unacknowledged and become invisible.*

*In this informal workshop we want to:*

- *Define what we mean when we talk about fat activist history and memory, especially that made by fat dykes/lesbians, bisexual women and transgendered folks.*
- *Think about how to record histories, how to make sure the past is not forgotten, how to acknowledge other people when we are doing this.*
- *Share some of our historical and cross-cultural community knowledge, bearing in mind that the Bay Area is home to a lot of really rad older fat people who were there right at the beginnings of the movement.*

*During the workshop we will construct a queer and trans fat activist community timeline, and encourage workshop participants, and people at NOLOSE in general, to add their histories and memories to it. People can do this by writing directly on the timeline, attaching paper notes to it, emailing the workshop facilitators, or recording stories on a digital voice recorder, which will be available. We welcome all*

*participants and will endeavour to make this activity as inclusive and accessible as possible. Please let us know if you have specific access needs.*

*This timeline will form the basis of a paper zine, which will be distributed free after the event to everyone who attends the workshop, and anyone else who lets us know that they would like a copy. An audio and large-print version of the zine will be made available. We will also lodge copies of the zine with global archives supporting queer and trans fat activist history. After we have finished making the zine, we will donate the original workshop materials to an archive that we will nominate at the workshop.*

NOLOSE accepted it. I tied it in with Fat Panic because that was the theme of the 2010 conference. I wrote the proposal and conceived the workshop but I didn't want to facilitate it alone, so I asked my girlfriend Kay Hyatt to co-facilitate with me, she agreed.

## **2. I co-facilitated the workshop at NOLOSE**

I didn't count how many people came to the workshop. Some people came and went. Kay and I introduced the workshop themes and then invited people to take a

pen and write their memories of fat activist events on the timeline. By 'timeline' I'm talking about a long strip of plain wallpaper paper that has a line drawn at the bottom of it and dates along that line. We stuck the paper on a long wall at a low enough height so that people using wheelchairs and scooters could reach it to write. The timeline was already populated with a few things I thought were important, that Kay wrote on the paper (her handwriting is neat, mine is not), and which I hoped might jog people's memories and give an idea of the kinds of things I was looking for. I was deliberately vague with my definition of fat activism and encouraged people to write what they thought was significant.

It was a beautiful sight seeing people write on the timeline. It was something that lots of people could participate in and create at the same time. Older people were down one end, younger up the other end. It was wonderful to see the sparse early fat queer activist events become greater in number as time went on, to see the involvement of trans people, and to see activists with long-standing involvement with the movement go wild with their pens, writing, sharing and remembering as fast as they could get it down. People talked

and remembered at the same time, visiting one spot and then another, asking for clarification. It was like a dialogue between the past and the present, it was a statement of memory, of things that matter to people, and it had diverse contributors. It was very moving.

At the workshop I also made two recordings of people sharing their stories. I wanted to include them in this zine but I am ashamed to say that I think I may have accidentally erased them from my digital recorder because, one year on, I cannot find the files on my computer. I am very sorry about this.

### ***3. I took the timeline to other groups for discussion***

Whilst I was in the Bay Area, I took the timeline to a meeting of Think Tank, a Health At Every Size group. This was the only time that I invited people outside the workshop to add their thoughts to the timeline. Few did and I wondered if they fully understood the project or thought it was worthwhile. Some of the people at the Think Tank also had connections to NOLOSE.

I showed the timeline to a group of interdisciplinary Fat Studies scholars in London in November 2010. This was part of a seminar

series funded by the UK government called Fat Studies and Health At Every Size. People talked about the timeline format, and about how different formats and overlays could be used to reconceptualise the content.

Later in November 2010 I took the timeline to a gathering called Rebel Bellies, in Berlin. This was a community event looking at queer and trans fat activism. There were films and performances, and I showed the timeline and encouraged a discussion about it.

### ***4. I submitted a proposal to be an Artist In Residence***

I have a busy life and I didn't know when I would have time to make the zine of the timeline. My friend Coral Short told me about an Artist's Residency in Hamburg, at a place called Villa Magdalena K, a peaceful feminist live-work space, where you can stay very cheaply. I thought a short residency could give me a bit of time and space to make the zine and reflect on the process of making the timeline. I also thought it would be good to do this work outside a US or British context, and in a city where I knew some people and which has already been supportive of my fat activism.

In April 2011 I stayed at the Villa for just under three weeks and put this zine together.

### ***5. I donated the original timeline to Bildwechsel in Hamburg***

Bildwechsel is a fantastic queer, trans and feminist multimedia archive that has its headquarters in Hamburg. In 2009 Bildwechsel sponsored a film show for my fat activist project *The Chubsters* as part of Hamburg's Queer Film Festival. Both Bildwechsel and the festival looked after me and the other *Chubsters* so generously that I vowed I would return some day with a present. This turned out to be the timeline.

There were other reasons for choosing to donate the original timeline to Bildwechsel: It was important to me to give the timeline to an archive and not to maintain private ownership of it, I wanted more people to have access to it, and by donating the material make some comment about the public and private in activist lives. I wanted to lodge the timeline in a place where English was spoken but where it is not people's first language, and in a specific kind of archive where people might understand or appreciate it, and where queer, trans and feminist politics were a given.

Part of taking the timeline from the Bay Area to Hamburg was about encouraging people in communities outside the Anglophone US, Canada, Australia and the UK to engage critically with fat activism generated in those places, and to encourage dialogue about cultural imperialism within the ways that fat activist knowledge travels around the world. I wanted to critique my own role as a fat activist who moves between countries and who may be an agent of that cultural imperialism. I wanted to show that it isn't enough just to export US/Canadian/UK identity politics, that they don't always fit different contexts, and to encourage people within those other contexts to speak back. I wanted to critique colonial attitudes, particularly within the US.

Will this happen? I don't know, maybe, maybe the timeline will be used or not used in other ways. I look forwards to whatever may come.

Luckily Bildwechsel thought all this was a good idea. They are now the owners of the timeline and you can go and see it there in Hamburg. They may make a website out of the timeline and the zine. It's going to have another life now.

**6. I made copies of the zine and sent them to archives, zine libraries, timeline contributors, zine distributors**

I spread this thing as far and wide as I could. I sold some copies to pay for printing and posting costs, which I paid for upfront by myself and with some donations from friends.

I made an audio version of the zine for visually impaired people and for anyone else who wanted it. I recorded myself reading the

content and describing the images.

I made a .pdf of the zine that people could download and share.

I looked for help distributing the zine.

I made myself available to talk to individuals and groups about the timeline, and about the zine, and I wrote a paper about it for an academic journal.



# What next?

The timeline turned into a big piece of work, a multidimensional project, something expansive, but it has many limitations. It names things but doesn't tell you much beyond that; many important things have been omitted for reasons including forgetfulness, arrogance, ignorance, just not being there to tell the story, or other factors; the layout implies a linear progression between events, but reality is more complicated; it is extremely sketchy, muddled, inconsistent. You will probably spot other problems and shortcomings too. Oh well.

Nevertheless, here it is, with all its flaws, ready for other people to develop. How could other people use this idea? Maybe make their own timelines? Find other ways of documenting queer and trans fat activist histories and cultures? Develop different models of showing these stories? Do oral histories? Make more work about this particular timeline and zine? Paint a picture of it? Sing a song about it? Make a zine about what it was like to read this zine or visit the timeline at Bildwechsel? There are countless ways in which the timeline could be used creatively and politically.

It's strange to be letting go of the timeline now – it's been part of my life for almost a year and I feel a close attachment to the text and people's handwriting; many of its contributors are my friends. It represents to me an enthusiastic collective voice and evidence of diverse memory. I enjoy reading into the texts, wondering why one person put a trademark symbol on one of the initiatives, spotting the egos, thinking about who did and didn't contribute at the workshop, what was missed, what was recorded 'incorrectly', loving it where people have clarified original statements. Someone took it on themselves to scrawl an odd little poem about Fatlandia/NOLOSE at the end of the timeline, which irritated me at first, but I've come to appreciate its lunacy. It's included at the back of this zine.

I hope that people don't hold back, that folks engage with the ideas I have presented here, own, modify and expand them, mix them up. I want to see many many accounts of queer and trans fat activism, stories that are full of inspiring beauty, politics, power. I think they deserve to be known and shared.

# Contact

If you want to talk about any of this stuff, have ideas for projects based on the timeline, want to send a donation, want a copy in audio format, want to read things I've written, or just want to speak to a real live fat activist, you can contact me, Charlotte Cooper, at [mail@charlottecooper.net](mailto:mail@charlottecooper.net) for the foreseeable future. Beyond that, just search, hopefully you will find me.

Get in touch with Bildwechsel if you want to visit and look at and play with the timeline. Get in touch with them anyway, especially if you can donate some cash, they're a great resource.

Bildwechsel  
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[bildwechsel.org](http://bildwechsel.org)

## See also:

[charlottecooper.net](http://charlottecooper.net) – my ancient website

[chubstergang.com](http://chubstergang.com) – The Chubsters online home

<http://tinyurl.com/esrcfat> – website for the Economic and Social Research Council's Fat Studies and Health At Every Size seminar series in the UK, where the timeline was shown and discussed in November 2010

[kinkzine.blogspot.com](http://kinkzine.blogspot.com) – my other blog

[nolose.org](http://nolose.org) – the organisation where the original timeline was co-constructed

[obesitytimebomb.blogspot.com](http://obesitytimebomb.blogspot.com) – my fat activist blog

[villamagdalenak.de](http://villamagdalenak.de) – the place where I made this zine

# Some other related things I've written

Cooper, C. (2011) 'Fat Lib: How Activism Expands The Obesity Debate', in: Rich, E., Monaghan, L. & Aphramor, L. (eds.) *Debating 'Obesity'*. Basingstoke: Palgrave.

Cooper, C. (2010) 'Fat Studies: Mapping The Field', *Sociology Compass*, 4: 12, 1020-1034.

Cooper, C. (2010) 'Olympics/Uhlympics: Living in the Shadow of the Beast' [online], *thirdspace*, 9:2. Available: <http://www.thirdspace.ca/journal/article/view/cooper>

Cooper, C. (2010) 'Fat is a feminist issue, but whose feminism?' [Online]. *The Scavenger*. Available: <http://www.thescavenger.net/feminism-a-pop-culture/fat-is-a-feminist-issue-but-whose-feminism-90645.html>

Cooper, C. (2009) 'Maybe it should be called Fat American Studies?', in: Rothblum, E. & Solovay, S. (eds.) *The Fat Studies Reader*. New York: New York University Press, 327-333.

Cooper, C. (2009) 'Fat Activism in Ten Astonishing, Beguiling, Inspiring and Beautiful Episodes', in: Tomrley, C. & Kaloski Naylor, A. (eds.) *Fat Studies In The UK*. York: Raw Nerve Books, 19-31.

Cooper, C., Hyatt, K., Murphy, S., Savage, B. (2008) *Big Bums* [zine]

Cooper, C. (1998) *Fat and Proud: The Politics of Size*. London: The Women's Press.

Cooper, C. (1998) 'Charlotte Cooper, aged 18', in Cole, C. (ed.), *Between You and Me: Real-Life Diaries and Letters by Women Writers*. London: the Women's Press.

Cooper, C. (1997) 'Can a Fat Woman Call Herself Disabled?', *Disability & Society*, 12: 1, 31-41. (available in translation as 'Darf sich einer übergewichtige Frau «behindert» nennen?' in Weisser, J. a. R., C. (2004), ed. *Disability Studies: Ein Iesebuch* Switzerland: SZH CSPS Edition).

Cooper, C. (1996) 'Fitting', in: Bernstein, R. & Clark Silberman, S. (eds.) *Generation Q*. Los Angeles: Alyson.

*Email me if you need help accessing this stuff.*



# PS

The rest of this zine is made up of the timeline, which I have typed up as it is in the order in which it was written, and edited only to clarify acronyms, to protect privacy, and to anglicise US-centric spelling and grammar.



# A Queer and Trans Fat Activist Timeline

**1967**

The Fat-In takes place in Central Park, New York

**1969**

NAAFA's Constitution and Bylaws are signed. NAAFA: The National Association to Aid Fat Americans, later renamed the National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance

Girth and Mirth San Francisco formed

Rolling Quads at Berkeley leads to birth of Independent Living Movement

**1970**

Llewellyn Louderback publishes *Fat Power*, cited by The Fat Underground as an influence

**1972**

The Fat Underground begins as a group at the Radical Psychiatry Center in Berkeley

**1973**

The Fat Underground establishes a chapter, or a local group, of NAAFA in Los Angeles. Later they leave and strike out as an independent organisation.

**1974**

The Fat Underground eulogise Mama Cass Elliott at a Women's Equality Day in Los Angeles

**1976-1979**

Fat activists from Minneapolis bring teepee to Michigan Womyn's Music Festival for fat outreach, was in disability area. Judith Stein, Boston, brought Fat Underground info. Included Iowa City Dykes, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin (1977) Fat activists in Midwest getting

together for meeting (1979)

## **1978**

Judy Freespirit moves to Sonoma County and starts new movement

## **1978-1979**

Small anti-dieting group of dykes in the Castro of San Francisco, California became a landing place for Fat Underground ideology

## **1978 or 9 - 1982**

Fat Chance

## **1979**

Radio show on Fat, WORT Madison

## **Early 80s**

Cynthia?? Starts making big pants for Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, becomes Making It Big

## **80s - 2000??**

Fat swim, Richmond Plunge. Jan Moreno makes swimsuits for everyone

## **1980**

Maxi Mermaids, fat swim at Richmond Plunge

Fat activists working meetings with Judith Stein and others in Boston

Fativity(?) fat women on low-flying trapeze

## **1981**

Fat Lip forms

## **1982**

Fat Lip performs first Reader Theatre

Seattle Fat Woman's Calendar

## **1983**

Lisa Schoenfelder and Barb Wieser publish the anthology *Shadow On A Tightrope: Writings By Women on Fat Oppression*

Reanne Fagan, a core member of The Fat Underground, dies of breast cancer

The New Haven Fat Liberation Front begin

Fat Lip on Phil Donahue

## **1983-1989**

We Dance, Deb Burgard's dance class in Oakland "exclusively for women over 200lbs", which will become the basis for some of the Great Shape book. I had to overcome my hesitation to do the class out of fear that I was not fat enough.

## **1984**

*Common Lives/Lesbian Lives* #12, photo album published includes Fat Frolics photos by Leslie Baker

Radiance magazine

Radiance Retreat, Deb teaches We Dance workshop

Fat health and liberation discussed in new edition of *Our Bodies Ourselves* thanks in part to Judith Stein

## **1985**

Nancy Barron PhD, Portland, Ample Opportunity publishes *Ample Information*

## **1986**

C.M. Donald publishes a book of poems: *The fat woman measures up*

## **1986-1987**

Robust and Rowdy potluck dances in Oakland, California

## **1987**

Cathy Cade publishes *A Lesbian Photo Album*, includes photos and text about Judy Freespirit, Fat Chance and Fat Lip Reader's Theatre

Elana Dykewomon publishes *The Real Fat Woman Poems* in *Sinister Wisdom* #33

*Heresies*, a publication of art and feminism, publishes issue *Food Is A Feminist Issue*

*Nothing to Lose*, Fat Lip video done

## **1988**

Pat Lyons and Deb Burgard publish *Great Shape: The First Fitness Guide for Large Women* in hardback

## **1989**

Heather Smith publishes an account of the Fat Women's Conference in London, *Creating a Politics of Appearance* in the journal *Trouble + Strife*, which also includes the Fat Dykes Statement

Let It All Hang Out (LIAHO) #1, fat dyke rally/dance party at Harvey Milk Plaza, Castro, San Francisco, California

## **1990**

Pat Lyons and Deb Burgard publish *Great Shape: The First Fitness Guide for Large Women* in paperback

LIAHO #2

## **1991**

LIAHO #3

PODs bulletin board creates online community (migrates to USENET)

*Now You See Me...* performance about lack of fat

actors as form of censorship (Rhode Island)

## **1992**

Fat Dyke Float #1 in San Francisco Gay Day Parade

## **1992-1994**

Fat Women's Group meets in London

## **1993**

Susan Stinson publishes a chapbook of poems: *Belly Songs: In Celebration of Fat Women*

Hot Lip (Fat Lip sex script)

*Fat?So!* zine started by Marilyn Wann

Fat Feminist Caucus of NAAFA held annual conferences in Connecticut in this period, early 90s

## **1993-1996**

Nomy Lamm publishes her zine *i'm so fucking beautiful*

Fat Is A Lesbian Issue, precursor to NOLOSE

## **1994**

Laurie Toby Edison and Debbie Notkin publish: *Women En Large: images of fat nudes*

Susan Stinson publishes *Fat Girl Dances with Rocks*

## **1994-1997**

*FaT GiRL* is published (FaT GiRL online garners interviews/panels/TV coverage)

## **1995**

Fat Dyke Float #2

## **1996**

Dirty Bird queercore festival in San Francisco hosts a fat activist workshop

Pretty, Porky and Pissed Off stage their first activist

event in Toronto

Susan Stinson publishes a novel: *Martha Moody*

The Callen-Lorde Centre (LGBT Health Clinic in New York City) gets armless chairs in all waiting areas after letter of complaint by Geleni Fontaine

Deb Burgard starts BodyPositive.com

## **1997**

Fat photo of Harvest Brown on cover of *Lesbian Connection* causes huge (+,-) response

Venus Group formed, Ypsilanti, Michigan

Lisa Tealer and Dana Schuster open Women of Substance Health Spa® in Redwood City, California

?when exact dates? AHELP, Association for the Health Enrichment of Large People holds three conferences before imploding. First organised national gathering of what will become Health At Every Size practitioners. At one of these conferences Marilyn Wann's famous challenge to Hirschman and Munter describing 'mouth hunger' vs 'stomach hunger' comparing this to Freud deciding vaginal orgasms were legitimate but clitoral orgasms were not.

## **1998**

Charlotte Cooper publishes *Fat & Proud: The Politics of Size*

Deb Burgard starts Health At Any Size webring

Marilyn Wann publishes *Fat?So!* (the book)

Diesel Femme Wear founded

## **1998-1999**

Discussions about Health At ANY Size vs Health At EVERY Size

## 1999

National Organisation Of Lesbians Of Size Everywhere

Sarah Doherty makes protest posters in response to a New Years Resolutions bulletin board in a dorm at Cornell University that has a resolution: "I resolve to lose weight". On the poster Sarah writes "rolls are beautiful" and "I resolve to take up space" and plasters the campus with them.

Millennium Fat Dyke Dinner Dance, Oakland, California

Heather MacAllister gives a fat and queer 101 workshop at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Creating Change to a largely hostile queer audience, and she and Sarah Doherty exchange emails

?what was first year? Pat Lyons hosts San Francisco Bay Area meetings of therapists, activists, artists etc, STILL HAPPENING 3-4 times per year as The Think Tank in 2010!

## 2000

Hanne Blank publishes *Big Big Love: A Sourcebook on Sex for People of Size*

NOLOSE, Kingston NY

Sondra Solovay publishes *Tipping the Scales of Justice: fighting weight-based discrimination*

Susan Stinson publishes Speakout Against Fat Hatred in *Healthy Weight Journal*, an account of her community's response to fat hatred. This was also a 100+ person rally in Northampton, Massachusetts

Marina Wolf, Big Moves offer first size-inclusive dance contest in Oakland, California. Phat Fly Girls fat hip hop



troupe comes out of class Marina Wolf offered

Cheryl Hayworth featured women's guerrilla history project, San Francisco

Lesbian Avengers of Boston have 'fat dykes eat out' picnics in public and half-naked swims. Then they publish a zine about fat-queer stuff (especially Sarah Doherty and Amy Mendosa)

## **2001**

Good Vibes releases *Voluptuous Vixens*

NOLOSE, Parsippany NJ

Fat Bottom Revue forms in San Francisco, California

Jana Evans Braziel and Katie LeBesco publish *Bodies Out of Bounds: Fatness and Transgression*

Phat Camp, youth support and fat positivity

?which year? 24 Hour Fitness (Billboard: "When the aliens come they'll eat the fat ones first", Marilyn responds with "Eat me") Demo leads to Tom Ammiano initiating adding height and weight to San Francisco's anti-discrimination policy

Deb Burgard starts Show Me The Data listserv to connect people all over the world who want to dissect the research, also to allow people who met through AHELP to continue communicating

## **2002**

Love Your Body Now Brooklyn demonstration when borough president "Put Brooklyn on a Diet" dancing and Yay station. 'Becca Widom

*Phat Follies*, play written by Judy Freespirit and performed in Oakland, California

Performance art, Amanda Piasecki, published San Francisco Chronicle

First fat positive discrimination (Jazzercise) case demo International No Diet Day Jennifer Portnick – you don't need to look leaner than the public to teach. Sondra Solovay attorney

Planned and executed targeted diet centre vandalism and art, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Chainsaw Chubettes formed

## **2003**

NOLOSE, Mount Laurel NJ

The Chubsters are born

Julie Wyman makes Buoyant film for Master of Fine Arts project about Padded Lillies

Glenn performance open mic at NOLOSE

Fat Girl Frock Swap

Chunky Dunk fat swim

First Fat Girl Speaks, Portland, Oregon

Cupcake dance party, Portland, Oregon

Iron Maidens fat installation, Mills College, Amanda Piasecki

Fat Feminist Conference in San Francisco hosted by the Feminist Caucus of NAAFA

Deb Burgard and Ellen Shuman start Health At Every Size Special Interest Group within the Academy for Eating Disorders, leads to guidelines in 2009

## **2004**

Amanda Piasecki starts Fatshionista

Kathleen LeBesco publishes *Revolting Bodies: The Struggle to Redefine Fat Identity*

NOLOSE, Mount Laurel NJ

Susan Stinson publishes a novel: *Venus of Chalk*

The Chubsters at NOLOSE

(fat, transgender, disabled) Queer Bodies event (May)  
Philadelphia

Glenn Marla comes out at Jiggle-O evening of Fat  
Performance, Brooklyn, New York

Philadelphia Drag Kings perform all fat, fat-positive  
number at the great big international drag show,  
Washington DC

Big Moves Boston begins

## **?2004?**

## **2005?**

Popular Culture Association starts Fat Studies area  
somewhere around now

## **2005**

Max Airborne and Cherry Midnight publish *Size Queen*  
zine

NOLOSE, Newark NJ

Pretty Porky and Pissed Off retire

Heather MacAllister at Cornell University ♥

Fat Femme Mafia is founded

December, Supergalore Benefit

## **2006**

NOLOSE, Menla Mountain Retreat, Phoenicia NY

Fat Femme Mafia Chubb Rubb: A Fat Cabaret, Toronto

Scarlett O'Claire becomes first fat centrefold in *SLIT*, Sydney

Association for Size Diversity and Health, first conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, continuing to 2010

Fat and the Academy conference organised by Size Matters at Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts

♥ Menla: Stefanie Snider Sarah Doherty ♥

## **2007**

Fat Girl Flea

Heather MacAllister dies ♥ of ovarian cancer

Lukas Blakk makes Fat Femme Mafia in Trinity Bellwoods Park

Chunky Dunk Toronto (Fat Femme Mafia)

Plus sized clothing sale, Toronto (can't remember name)

Bodies of Evidence conference at Cambridge University, UK, organised by Shirlene Badger

Oakland Fat Medical Advocacy Group, Amanda Piasecki. Speakers included Matilda St John, Elena Escalera (response to Heather MacAllister dying)

## 2008

Fat Girl Speaks, Portland Oregon

Mayor of San Francisco declares 25 February 2007  
Heather MacAllister Day

Supersized Supermodel Kelli Jean Drinkwater is  
featured in ID magazine, London

Erin Remick releases *Fat Dinosty Episode One*

NOLOSE, Northampton MA

Tara Shuai publishes A Different Kind of Fat Rant:  
People of Color and the Fat Acceptance Movement

Re/Dress opens, New York City

Amanda Green starts Fat Positive Charlottesville,  
Charlottesville, Virginia

F.A.Q. (Fat And Queer), New York City

Linda Bacon publishes *Health At Every Size*

Femme-Cast, Queer Fat Femme's Guide To Life  
podcast

Association for Women in Psychology begins Size  
Acceptance Caucus

*Hairspray* on Broadway

Kelli Jean Drinkwater is covergirl of SLIT magazine,  
Sydney

Leonard Nimoy publishes *Full Body Project* in book  
form, NoHo art gallery full of fatties and allies for release

Queer workshop at NAAFA (Sarah Doherty, Stefanie  
Snider, Lesleigh Owens)

## 2009

NAAFA Los Angeles shows up at the NOLOSE mailing party at Sarah and Stefanie's place. Awesome straight and queer ally moment!

Allyson Mitchell opens her sculpture show Ladies Sasquatch

Corinna Tomrley and Ann Kaloski *Naylor* publish *Fat Studies In The UK*

Erin Remick releases *Fat Dinosty Episode Two*

The Chubsters invade the British Film Institute for the London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival

The Chubsters host a gang meeting in Hamburg

Esther Rothblum and Sondra Solovay publish *The Fat Studies Reader*

Fat Girl Flea, New York City and San Francisco

Fat Fancy open storefront from garage event, Portland, Oregon

Fat Femme Front starts meeting, Sydney, Australia

*DIVA* magazine has Fat Issue, Kelli Jean Drinkwater and Bea Sweet on cover

Academy for Eating Disorders Guidelines for Childhood Obesity Prevention Programme passed

Rosie O'Donnell posts link to Lukas Blakk's Fat Femme Mafia film

Fat Radical Cheerleading Flashmob at Red Rattler, Sydney

1 August, NAAFA and ASDAH lobby in Washington DC for fat rights

Cupcakes and Muffintops fat event for NOLOSE and Big Moves

Linda Bacon does keynote on Thin Privilege

Flesh mob on the steps of Philadelphia Museum of Art

Eileen Rosensteel performs The Amazing Fat Lady Show in Madison, Wisconsin

Aquaporko forms, Sydney, the fat femme synchronised swim team

The Fat of the Land: A Queer Chub Harvest Festival takes place in London

## **2010**

Charlotte Cooper premieres her film *Lovely and Slim* in London

NOLOSE, Oakland CA

Fat Femme Mafia changes name to Byg Appetyte

Bertha Pearl and Stefanie Snider, BIGGER art show at Q Centre, Portland, Oregon

Allyson Mitchell performs tribute to Mama Cass for Inside Out Film Festival, Toronto

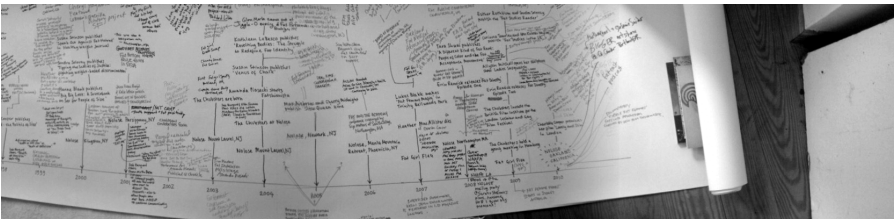
Heavy Impact on MTV's America's Best Dance Crew

Fatcast podcast

Documentary *Fierce Fat Femmes* goes into production, directed by Kelli Jean Drinkwater

# A few days after the workshop

Luscious dies suddenly. This zine is dedicated to her.





This timeline was constructed at a workshop called The Time of Our Lives: Fighting Fat Panic Through Fat History, Memory, and Culture.

The workshop was facilitated by Charlotte Cooper and Kay Hyatt at NOLOSE, Oakland, California, on Friday 4 June 2010.

The following people contributed to the workshop and timeline:

Lillian Behrendt	Zöe Meleo-Erwin
Stacy Bias	Miasia
Deb Burgard	Elizabeth Miller
Miriam Cantor	Nikolena Moysich
Charlotte Cooper	Kristina Nygaard
Goldie Dartmouth	Scarlett O'Claire
Sarah Doherty	Amanda Piasecki
Kelli Jean Drinkwater	Devra Polack
Elana Dykewomon	Nat Pyle
Geleni Fontaine	Eileen Rosensteel
Lynne Gerber	Esther Rothblum
Susan Goldberg	Stefanie Snider
Kay Hyatt	Carol Squires
Maura Kelly	Nancy Thomas
Katie LeBesco	Tracy Tidgwell
Chelsey Lichtawoman	...and many more who did not
Simi Litvak	give their names

**Further copies and an audio version can be downloaded from:**  
**<http://obesitytimebomb.blogspot.com/p/queer-and-trans-fat-activist-timeline.html>**



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## **Fatlandia**

**A place, a space for face to face**

**Belonging for people of all sizes**

**Big-diverse**

**Chairs**

**No stairs/stares**

**Everyone cares**