

HI 31Y: SEXUALITY AND THE BODY IN THE MODERN WORLD

AY 2013-14

Department of History, University of Warwick

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Seminar Hours: Wednesdays 11am-1pm

Module Description:

This final-year Advanced Option undergraduate module is a critical introduction to the history of sexuality and the modern body in global and regional terms. Special attention will be paid to the relation of the production of knowledge to the constructions of sexuality and the body as sites of meaning-making, grounds for political struggle, loci of cultural identity, and guarantors of human difference. This seminar surveys a broad range of secondary literature, thereby exploring not only the various historical interactions of sexuality and the modernising body, but also their intricate historiography—the history of their histories emerging from diverse national and comparative inquiries.

Students will assess the ways in which theoretical paradigms, disciplinary orientations, methodological styles, data contents, and genres of scholarly writing on the sexual body have evolved over time, and compare them against one another, while never losing sight of the global framing that unify them. This module is divided into four units: ‘frames’, ‘periods’, ‘debris’, and ‘trans’. The readings move through selected regions of Africa, Asia, Australia, the Middle East, Europe, and North and Latin Americas, focusing primarily on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Students should be prepared to familiarise themselves with general world history beyond the scope of the assigned readings.

Weekly Seminar Topics and Readings:

Unit I: Frames

1. Introduction (Oct. 2)

- Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1: An Introduction*, trans. Robert Hurley (Random House, 1978, originally 1976).

2. Historicism (Oct. 9)

- Arnold Davidson, “Sex and the Emergence of Sexuality,” *Critical Inquiry* 14, no. 1 (1987): 16-48.
- Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, “Introduction: Axiomatic,” in *Epistemology of the Closet* (University of California Press, 1990), 1-65.
- David Halperin, “Forgetting Foucault: Acts, Identities, and the History of Sexuality,” *Representations* 63 (1998): 93-120.
- Jonathan Goldberg and Medhavi Menon, “Queering History,” *PMLA* 120, no. 5 (2005): 1608-1617.
- Valerie Traub, “The New Unhistoricism in Queer Studies,” *PMLA* 128, no. 1 (2013): 21-39.

3. Modernity (Oct. 16)
 - Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, "The Female World of Love and Ritual: Relations Between Women in Nineteenth-Century America," *Signs* 1, no. 1 (1975): 1-29.
 - John D'Emilio, "Capitalism and Gay Identity," in *Powers of Desire: The Politics of Sexuality*, ed. Ann Snitow, Christine Stansell, and Sharan Thompson (Monthly Review Press, 1983), 100-113.
 - Afsaneh Najmabadi, *Women with Mustaches and Men without Beards: Gender and Sexual Anxieties of Iranian Modernity* (University of California Press, 2005), chaps. 1, 2, 3, and 5.
4. Gender (Oct. 23)
 - George Chauncey, "Christian Brotherhood or Sexual Perversion? Homosexual Identities and the Construction of Sexual Boundaries in the World War One Era," *Journal of Social History* 19, no. 2 (1985): 189-211.
 - Judith Halberstam, "Perverse Presentism: The Androgyne, the Tribade, the Female Husband, and Other Pre-Twentieth-Century Genders," in *Female Masculinity* (Duke University Press, 1998), 45-73.
 - Matt Houlbrook, "'Lady Austin's Camp Boys': Constituting the Queer Subject in 1930s London," *Gender and History* 14, no. 1 (2002): 31-61.
 - Joanne Meyerowitz, "Sex Change" and "From Sex to Gender," in *How Sex Changed: A History of Transsexuality in the United States* (Harvard University Press, 2002), 14-50 and 98-129.
5. Nation (Oct. 30)
 - Gregory M. Pflugfelder, *Cartographies of Desire: Male-Male Sexuality in Japanese Discourse, 1600-1950* (University of California Press, 1999), 1-22.
 - Dan Healey, *Homosexual Desire in Revolutionary Russia: The Regulation of Sexual and Gender Dissent* (University of Chicago Press, 2001), 1-18
 - Jens Rydstrom, *Sinners and Citizens: Bestiality and Homosexuality in Sweden, 1880-1950* (University of Chicago Press, 2003), 1-25.
 - Tze-lan D. Sang, *The Emerging Lesbian: Female Same-Sex Desire in Modern China* (University of Chicago Press, 2003), 1-34.
 - Margot Canaday, *The Straight State: Sexuality and Citizenship in Twentieth-Century America* (Princeton University Press, 2009), 1-16.
 - Laura Doan, *Disturbing Practices: History, Sexuality, and Women's Experience of Modern War* (University of Chicago Press, 2013), 1-24.
6. Reading Week: No Seminar (Nov. 6)

Unit II: Periods

7. The Roaring Twenties (Nov. 13)
 - George Chauncey, "The Forging of Queer Identities and the Emergence of Heterosexuality in Middle-Class Culture," in *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940* (Basic Books, 1994), 99-127.
 - Modern Girl Around the World Research Group, "The Modern Girl Around the World: A Research Agenda and Preliminary Findings," *Gender & History* 17, no. 2 (2005): 245-294.
 - Priti Ramamurthy, "The Modern Girl in India in the Interwar Years: Interracial Intimacies,

International Competition, and Historical Eclipsing,” *Women's Studies Quarterly* 34, nos. 1/2 (2006): 197-223.

- Lynn Thomas, “The Modern Girl and Racial Respectability in 1930s South Africa,” *Journal of African History* 47 (2006): 461-490.
 - Matt Houlbrook, “The Man with the Powder Puff in Interwar London,” *Historical Journal* 50, no. 1 (2007): 145-171.
8. Sexual Revolutions (Nov. 20)
- John D’Emilio, “Cycles of Change, Questions of Strategy: The Gay and Lesbian Movement After 50 Years,” in *The World Turned: Essays on Gay History, Politics, and Culture* (Duke University Press, 2002), 78-98.
 - Lynn Chancer, “From Pornography to Sadomasochism: Reconciling Feminist Differences,” *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 571, no. 1 (2000): 77-88.
 - Carrie Pitzulo, “The Battle in Every Man’s Bed: *Playboy* and the Fiery Feminists,” *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 17, no. 2 (May 2008): 259-289.
 - Travis S. K. Kong, “Queer Diaspora: Hong Kong Migrant Gay Men in London” and “Sex and Work in a Queer Time and Place,” in *Chinese Male Homosexualities: Memba, Tongzhi and Golden Boy* (Routledge, 2011), chaps. 5 and 7.
9. AIDS, the Immune Self, and Bodies of Metaphoric Reality (Nov. 27)
- Donna Haraway, “The Biopolitics of Postmodern Bodies: Constitutions of the Self in Immune System Discourse,” in *Simians, Cyborgs, and Women: The Reinvention of Nature* (Routledge, 1991), 203-230.
 - Alfred I. Tauber, “Postmodernism and Immune Selfhood,” *Science in Context* 8 (1995): 579-607.
 - Steven Epstein, *Impure Science: AIDS, Activism, and the Politics of Knowledge* (University of California Press, 1996), 1-41.
 - Vinh-Kim Nguyen, *The Republic of Therapy: Triage and Sovereignty in West Africa’s Time of AIDS* (Duke University Press, 2010), 1-60.
10. Beyond the Body Proper (Dec. 4)
- Thomas Laqueur, “Discovery of the Sexes,” in *Making Sex: Body and Gender from Greeks to Freud* (Harvard University Press, 1990), 149-192.
 - Alison Bashford, “Quarantine: Imagining the Geo-Body of a Nation” and “Foreign Bodies: Immigration, International Hygiene,” in *Imperial Hygiene: A Critical History of Colonialism, Nationalism, and Public Health* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2004), 115-163.
 - Edward Slavishak, “The Working Body as a Civic Image” and “The Pittsburgh Survey and the Body as Evidence,” in *Bodies of Work: Civic Display and Labor in Industrial Pittsburgh* (Duke University Press, 2008), 89-148 and 149-199.

Winter Recess

Unit III: Debris

11. Cultural Embodiments of Colonial Pathology (Jan. 8)

- Richard Keller, “Between Clinical and Useful Knowledge: Race, Ethnicity, and the Conquest

of the ‘Primitive,’” in *Colonial Madness: Psychiatry in French North Africa* (University of Chicago Press, 2007), 121-160.

- Larissa Heinrich, *The Afterlife of Images: Translating the Pathological Body between China and the West* (Duke University Press, 2008), chaps. 2-4.
- Christiane Hartnack, “Colonial Dominions and the Psychoanalytic Couch: Synergies of Freudian Theory with Bengali Hindu Thought and Practices in British India,” in *Unconscious Dominions: Psychoanalysis, Colonial Trauma, and Global Sovereignties*, ed. Warwick Anderson, Richard C. Keller, and Deborah Jenson (Durham: Duke University Press, 2011), 97-112.

12. Nationalism and the Body Politic (Jan. 15)

- Dorothy Ko, *Cinderella’s Sisters: A Revisionist History of Footbinding* (University of California Press, 2005), chaps. 1, 2, and 6.
- Wenqing Kang, *Obsession: Male Same-Sex Relations in China, 1900-1950* (Hong Kong University Press, 2009), chaps. 1 and 5.

13. Biological and Social Reproduction (Jan. 22)

- Nancy Rose Hunt, *A Colonial Lexicon: Of Birth Ritual, Medicalization, and Mobility in the Congo* (Duke University Press, 1999).

14. Tense and Tender Ties (Jan. 29)

- Lisa Lowe, “The Intimacies of Four Continents,” in *Haunted by Empire: Geographies of Intimacy in North American History*, ed. Ann Laura Stoler (Duke University Press, 2006), 191-212.
- Nancy Rose Hunt, “An Acoustic Register, Tenacious Images, and Congolese Scenes of Rape and Repetition,” *Cultural Anthropology* 23, no. 2 (2008): 220-253.
- Peter H. Segal, *The Flower and the Scorpion: Sexuality and Ritual in Early Nahua Culture* (Duke University Press, 2011).

15. (De)Colonisation/(De)Corporealisation (Feb. 5)

- Anjali Arondekar, *For the Record: On Sexuality and the Colonial Archive in India* (Duke University Press, 2009).
- Scott L. Morgensen, “Conversations on Berdache: Anthropology, Counterculturism, Two-Spirit Organizing,” in *Spaces between Us: Queer Settler Colonialism and Indigenous Decolonization* (University of Minnesota Press, 2011), 55-87.

16. Reading Week: No Seminar (Feb. 12)

Unit IV: Trans

17. Transgender Trouble (Feb. 19)

- Gayatri Reddy, “Hijras, Individuality, and Izzat” and “Sacred Legitimization, Corporeal Practice: Hindu Iconography and Hijra Renunciation,” *With Respect to Sex: Negotiating Hijra Identity in South India* (University of Chicago Press, 2005), 17-43 and 78-98.
- David Valentine, “Imagining Transgender” and “The Making of a Field: Anthropology and Transgender Studies,” in *Imagining Transgender: An Ethnography of a Category* (Duke University Press, 2007), 29-65 and 143-72.

- Howard Chiang, ed., *Transgender China* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012), introduction and 1 chapter.
18. Transnational Rhizomes or Asymmetric Worlds (Feb. 26)
- Dennis Altman, "Rupture or Continuity? The Internationalization of Gay Identities," *Social Text* 48 (1996): 77-94.
 - Leila J. Rupp, "Toward a Global History of Same-Sex Sexuality," *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 10, no. 2 (2001): 287-302.
 - Joseph A. Massad, "Re-Orienting Desire: The Gay International and the Arab World," *Public Culture* 14, no. 2 (2002): 361-385.
 - Jasbir Puar, "Mapping US Homonormativities," *Gender, Place, and Culture* 13, no. 1 (2006): 67-88.
 - Mel Chen, "Toxic Animacies, Inanimate Affections," *GLQ* 17, nos. 2-3 (2011): 265-286.
19. Trans Postcoloniality (Mar. 5)
- Howard Chiang, *Sex, Science, and Visions of Transformation in Modern China* (unpublished manuscript).
20. Bodies Lost and Found (Mar. 12)
- Monica J. Casper and Lisa Jean Morre, *Missing Bodies: The Politics of Visibility* (New York University Press, 2009), 1-20.
 - Mel Y. Chen, *Animacies: Biopolitics, Racial Mattering, and Queer Affect* (Duke University Press, 2012).
- or**
 Afsaneh Najmabadi, *Professing Selves: Transsexuality and Same-Sex Desire in Contemporary Iran* (Duke University Press, 2013).