

History of Sexuality in Europe

DIS – Danish Institute for Study Abroad

3-credit elective course

Related Disciplines: Gender Studies, History, Sociology

Course/syllabus created by Andrew DJ Shield, Fall 2013

Contact: Andrew.shield@gmail.com



"I dream of the day when every newborn child is welcome, when men and women are equal, and when sexuality is an expression of intimacy, joy and tenderness."

-Elise Ottesen-Jensen

Cofounder of the Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (1933)

Course description:

The past "century of sex" in Europe has taken us from prudish morals to "sexual liberation" in the 1960s to internet dating and heated debates about sexual norms and rights in a multicultural Europe. While sexuality is often considered a private matter, state regulations, church teachings, mass media, and popular culture regulate and shape our sexuality in various ways. Looking at topics like prostitution, reproductive rights, and sexual liberation, we will learn how sexual norms and behaviors are intimately woven into twentieth century European history, and explore how our own sexualities are shaped by history.

Today, sexual behaviors and attitudes structure public discussions ranging from sex education to parental leave to citizenship examinations. Historically, sexual politics played a prominent role as well. How were racial policies during European imperialism shaped by inter-ethnic sexual relations in the colonies? What type of sexual utopia did Hitler promise in his appeal to German men and women? How did sex work fit into the post-communist economies with the reunification of East and West Europe in the 1990s? The lens of sexuality is a powerful tool for rethinking conventional histories, as well as finding new applications for the theories of Marx, Freud, Marcuse, Foucault, and Butler.

Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian case studies will be central to understanding European changes in sexual behaviors, values, discussions and laws. Scandinavian countries were on the forefront of European discussions of sexuality during the "first" sexual revolution of the 1920s/30s, the decriminalization of homosexuality, the regulation of abortion, and the legalization of pornography.

Throughout the course, students will engage with primary material (police reports, propaganda, personal ads) and learn ethnographic methods (interview, observation, participation) in preparation for their final projects.

Required texts:

- Herzog, Dagmar. *Sexuality in Europe: A Twentieth-century History*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge UP, 2011.
- Additional texts will be available digitally through Blackboard.

Learning objectives of the course:

Upon completing the course, students will be able to...

1. Demonstrate the various ways sexuality was central to the formation of the modern state
2. Apply theories of gender and sexuality to historical moments, geographies, and settings
3. Determine the unique position of Scandinavia in the writing of European sexual histories
4. Historicize current activist movements (e.g. for LGBT rights, reproductive rights, sexual liberation)
5. Identify and analyze primary source material, and conduct ethnographic research
6. Critically explore their own sexual norms and behaviors and understand how they are shaped by history

Course Faculty:

Andrew Shield earned his Ph.D. and M.Phil from the CUNY Graduate Center in History and his B.A. from Brown University in International Relations and Arabic. Andrew is a researcher and PhD student at Roskilde University, where he studies the history of immigration since the 1950s with a focus on gender, sexuality, and media (old and new). He has presented research on at the “Sexual Nationalisms” conference in Amsterdam, the “Homonationalism and Pinkwashing” conference in New York, and the Nordic Migration Network conference in Copenhagen, among other places.

Course Contacts:

Program Director: Helle Rytikønen, 7.38, hry@dis.dk
Program Assistant: Kenzie Zimmer, 7.37, mz@dis.dk

Approach to Teaching:

This course relies heavily on in-class participation. Class time will be largely discussion-based, with some lecture and interactive activities. Students should read all material prior to class. Some assignments will require independent fieldwork.

Expectations of the students:

In order to pass the class, students must:

1. Read all material before the class.
2. Be prepared to sometimes write **short essays** in class, and to discuss the readings.
3. Take good notes in class.
4. Conduct **ethnographic research** (interview, observation, participation) toward the **final paper**.

Evaluation/Grading:

To be eligible for a passing grade in this class you must complete all of the assigned work:

25% *Out-of-class writing: preparatory questions*

- 10% *Out-of-class writing: field study reviews (2)*
- 20% *Mid-Term Essay: archival document analysis*
- 30% *Final Essay: archival & ethnographic analysis*
- 15% *In-Class Participation*

Field Studies and Panels (which might change in the fall):

- Historian Peter Edelberg gives a walking tour of Copenhagen’s gay history, including notable streets, bars, and parks in the inner city
- “Let’s Talk About Sex”: Young Danes from BLUS (a Danish LGBT student group) discuss sexualities
- “Gendered Identities—On Being a Trans Man”: by Warren Kunce
- Gender-Bending End-of-Year Party: Learn the art of burlesque and/or drag performance, and give a show to/with your fellow gender studies students in other classes, at this end-of-year party

Possible Independent Studies (for final paper):

- Kvinfo (Women’s archives and library)
- LGBT Denmark (archives and library)
- Lange Eng, Communal Living
- Sabaah, the Danish organization for LGBT immigrants
- Art exhibit at museum (related to sexuality)
- Other organizations related to sex education, obscenity laws, prostitution, HIV/STI prevention, etc. in Denmark

Disability and resource statement:

Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact Sean Green (sgr@dis.dk) to coordinate this. In order to receive accommodations, students should inform the instructor of approved DIS accommodations within the first two weeks of classes.

DIS Policies:

Attendance – You are expected to attend all DIS classes when scheduled. If you miss multiple classes the Director of Teaching and Learning, and the Director of Student Affairs will be notified and they will follow-up with you to make sure that all is well. Absences will jeopardize your grade and your standing at DIS. Allowances will be made in cases of illness, but in the case of multiple absences you will need to provide a doctor’s note.

Academic Honesty (Plagiarism) – DIS expects that students abide by the highest standards of intellectual honesty in all academic work. DIS assumes that all students do their own work and credit all work or thought taken from others. Academic dishonesty will result in a final course grade of “F” and can result in dismissal. The students’ home universities will be notified. DIS reserves the right to request that written student assignments be turned in electronic form for submission to plagiarism detection software. See the *Academic Handbook* for more information, or ask your instructor if you have questions.

Schedule of classes:

Schedule is subject to change if necessary with as much notice as possible. Do all readings **BEFORE CLASS** unless the readings is in (parentheses).

Introduction

1. Thurs, Aug. 21: **What Does SEX Have To Do with European HISTORY?**
2. Mon, Aug. 25: **What is "Sexuality"?**
 - a. David Halperin, "Active and Passive Sexuality" (1990), in *Sexuality*, ed. Robert Nye, 1990.

PART I: Re-conceiving sexuality, 1900-1914

3. Thurs, Aug. 28: **Prostitution in Turn-of-the-Century Europe**
 - a. Herzog, pages TBA
 - b. Judith Walkowitz, "The Making of an Outcast Group," *A Widening Sphere*, ed. Martha Vicinus, ed., 1977.

Aug. 27-31: **LGBTQ Pride Copenhagen**

Parade Route: <http://www.copenhagenpride.dk/da/content/ruten>

English info: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Copenhagen-Pride-official/87468072466>

4. Mon, Sept. 1: **Case Study Scandinavia: Conceiving "Homosexuality"**
 - a. Herzog, 28-41, 77-81
 - b. (To discuss in class: Jens Rydström, "Introduction: Same-Sex Sexuality and the Law in Scandinavia 1842-1999" in *Criminally Queer: Homosexuality and Criminal Law in Scandinavia, 1842-1999*, ed. Jens Rydström and Kati Mustola.: Aksant, 2007.)
5. Thurs, Sept. 4: **Empire & Sexuality**
 - a. Ann Laura Stoler, "Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power," *Feminism and History*, ed. Joan Scott, 1991.
 - b. (To discuss in class: Robert Aldrich, "The French in North Africa" in *Colonialism and Homosexuality*, 2003.)

(CORE COURSE WEEK: No meetings)

PART II: State Interventions, 1914-1945

6. Mon, Sept. 15: **The "First" Sexual Revolution in Europe**
 - a. Herzog, 50-61
 - b. Primary source: Swedish Association for Sexuality Education**AND Case Study Scandinavia: Abortion and Euthanasia**
 - c. Herzog, 75-83
7. Thurs, Sept. 18:
Archival project work (details to follow): Visit to Kvinno
8. Mon, Sept. 22: **The Rise of Nazism & Sexuality**
 - a. Herzog, 61-63, 67-75
 - b. In preparation for Thursday, also: Herzog, 83-94

Weds, Sept. 24: **FIELD STUDY**, 1:00-5:00pm

Details to follow.

9. Thurs, Sept. 25: **Sex During Wartime: WWII & the Holocaust**

- a. Joan Ringelheim, "Women and the Holocaust: A Reconsideration of Research," in *Different Voices*, ed. Carol Rittner and John Roth, 1985 (revised 1992).

CORE COURSE LONG STUDY TOUR

PART III: Cold War Cultures, 1945-1965

- 10. Mon, Oct. 6: **Sex After Wartime: the Return to Domesticity & Companionate Marriages**
 - a. Herzog, 96-99, 102, 105-106
 - b. (To discuss in class: Dagmar Herzog, "'Pleasure, Sex, and Politics Belong Together': Post-Holocaust Memory and the Sexual revolution in West Germany," *Critical Inquiry* 24:2.)

Evening:

MANDATORY EVENT: "Gendered Identities: On Being Transgender" (by Warren Kunce)
Location and time TBA (evening)

PART IV: Pleasure and Rebellion, 1965-1980

- 11. Thurs, Oct. 9: **The Market of Desire: Porn & the Pill**
 - a. Herzog, 133-146
 - b. Lena Lennerhed, "The Pursuit of Pleasure: Sex Liberalism in Sweden in the 1960's" in *Past and Present of Radical Sexual Politics*, ed. Gert Hekma (ed.), Amsterdam: Mosse Foundation, 2004.
 - c. Film clips: *I Am Curious (Yellow)*, 1968.
- 12. Mon, Oct. 13: **Changing Laws: Abortion, Rape, and Domestic Violence**
 - a. Herzog, 152-161, 165-168
 - b. Julian Bourg, "'Your Sexual Revolution Is Not Ours': French Feminist 'Moralism' and the Limits of Desire" in Lessie Jo Frazier and Deborah Cohen (eds.), *Gender and Sexuality in 1968: Transformative Politics in the Cultural Imagination*, 2009.
- 13. Thurs, Oct. 16: **Ethnographic methods** (in preparation for final project)
MIDTERM DUE by email at 8:00pm

STUDY TOUR

- 14. Mon, Oct. 27: **Gay/Lesbian Liberation Gets Radical**
 - a. Compare: Herzog, 117-126 (1950s/early 1960s) and Herzog, 168-172 (late 1960s/1970s)
 - b. (In class: primary sources: *Vennen, Panblad*)
 - c. (Primary source: Guy de Hocquenghem, *Trois milliards de pervers: grande encyclopédie des homosexualités*, Recherches n°12, March 1973. (Short excerpt from English version, "The Screwball Asses."))

Tues, Oct. 28: **MANDATORY EVENT**

"Let's Talk About Sex": Panel with BLUS
Location and time TBA (evening)

PART V: Partnerships and Practices, 1980-2010

- 15. Thurs, Oct. 30: **Case Study Scandinavia: AIDS & HIV Prevention**
 - a. Herzog, 176-183

Also in class: **Case Study Scandinavia: Sex Education in Scandinavia**

16. Mon, Nov. 3: **The Fall of Communism: Sex & Marriage Across Borders**
- a. Herzog, 183-189
 - b. Julia Woesthoff, "Romancing the Foreigner" in *Sexuality in Austria*, eds. Günter Bischof, Anton Pelinka, and Dagmar Herzog (eds.), 2007.
 - c. Artist exploration: the work of Tanya Ostojic
17. Thurs, Nov. 6: **Case Study Scandinavia: Sex Work in Scandinavia**
- a. Herzog, 205-209
 - b. Don Kulick, "Four Hundred Thousand Swedish Perverts," *GLQ* 11:2, 2005.

TRAVEL BREAK

18. Mon, Nov. 17:
Ethnographic project work (details to follow)

Weds, Nov. 19: **FIELD STUDY, 8.30-12.30**
Details TBA

19. Thurs, Nov. 20: **Islam & the Sexual Borders of Europe**
- a. Herzog, 198-205
 - b. Paul Mepschen, Jan Willem Duyvendak and Evelien H. Tonkens. "Sexual Politics, Orientalism and Multicultural Citizenship in the Netherlands," *Sociology* 44, 2010.

20. Mon, Nov. 24: **Review of theories toward final paper**

Weds, Nov. 26: **MANDATORY EVENT**
"Gender-Bending End-of-Year party"
Location and time TBA (evening)

Conclusion

21. Thurs, Nov. 27 (Thanksgiving): **Student Presentations of Work**
22. Mon, Dec. 1: **Student Presentations of Work**
23. Thurs, Dec. 4: **Student Presentations of Work**