

SEMINAR PLAN

COLONIAL (UN)MAKING OF GENDER AND SEXUALITY

Tuesdays, 14-16h, Ihnestr.22/UG 3 Seminarraum

This course traces the production of dominant categories of gender and sexuality through colonisation and continuous forms of dispossession. Today, the binary ordering of gender and sexuality as well as heterosexual monogamous marriage and family structures are prominently being challenged by queer communities. We unpack how modern gender and sexual orders have never been natural in the first place and historicize how and why they came into being. Avoiding a single grand universalizing narrative, we follow different ways of conceptualizing gender, sexuality, and their formation through colonisation and land theft, trans-Atlantic slavery, global capitalism, legal interventions, incarceration, and war. Examples from concrete socio-historical contexts show how stories of colonial imposition and enforcement of gender binaries, heterosexuality and the patriarchal family are always also stories of excess and resistance to it.

By way of engagement with key political, social, and cultural texts from mainly Black feminist, Indigenous, postcolonial, queer and trans theorists, the course also wants to discuss different methodologies. We learn from how these scholars approach research and engage with issues of positionality, how to approach the archive and how to do research with care, how not to reproduce violence, as well as how to tackle questions of objectivity/subjectivity and universality/particularity, etc.

SEMINAR ORGANIZATION

The main (required) literature for the seminar can be found on Blackboard. The seminar plan is open to changes and alternative propositions.

We will use the discussion forums on Blackboard for the short reading responses.

Participation

Please leave a short reading response in the relevant discussion forum the day before the seminar (Mondays by 5pm). This should just be a couple of sentences/a point/an idea/argument on the main literature (or, if you prefer, on some additional material).

Examination (if required/wanted)

Term paper of approx. 6000 words (please refer to your study regulations for the specific requirements). You can also write a collaborative term paper with one of your peers. We will collectively discuss the term papers in the last session of the seminar. Please let me know whether you want to write a paper in advance.

Deadline for submission: 02.04.2023.

1 INTRODUCTION 18.10.22

Introducing the Seminar and each other

2 (PRE)COLONIAL GENDER 25.10.22

Oyěwùmí, Oyèrónkẹ́. 1997. *The Invention of Women: Making an African Sense of Western Gender Discourses*. Minneapolis: Minnesota University Press.

- *Preface (ix – xvii)*
- *Chapter 4: Colonising Bodies and Minds: Gender and Colonialism (121-156)*

Additional:

- Oyěwùmí, Oyèrónkẹ́. 2002. "Conceptualising Gender: Eurocentric Foundations of Feminist Concepts and the Challenge of African Epistemologies." *Jenda* 3(2): 1–9.
- Amadiume, Ifi. 2015 [1987]. *Male Daughters, Female Husbands: Gender and Sex in an African Society*. London: Zed Books.
- Nzegwu, Nkiru Uwechia. 2006. *Family Matters: Feminist Concepts in African Philosophy of Culture*. New York: SUNY Press.

3 COLONIAL GENDER SYSTEM 01.11.22

Lugones, María. 2007. "Heterosexualism and the Colonial / Modern Gender System." *Hypatia* 22(1): 186–209.

Additional:

- Lugones, María. 2010. "Toward a Decolonial Feminism." *Hypatia* 25(4): 742–59.
- Terreffe, Selamawit D. 2020. "The Pornotrope of Decolonial Feminism." *Critical Philosophy of Race* 8(1–2): 134–64.

4 UNGENDERING IN SLAVERY 08.11.22

Spillers, Hortense J. 1987. "Mama's Baby, Papa's Maybe: An American Grammar Book." *Diacritics* 17(2): 65–81.

Additional:

- Morgan, Jennifer L. 2021. *Reckoning with Slavery: Gender, Kinship, and Capitalism in the Early Black Atlantic*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Jones-Rogers, Stephanie. 2019. *They Were Her Property: White Women as Slave-Owners in the American South*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Hall, Catherine. 2014. "Gendering Property, Racing Capital." *History Workshop Journal* 78(1): 22–38.
- novel: Morrison, Toni. 1987. *Beloved*. New York: Knopf

5 IMPERIAL GENDERING, MARRIAGE, AND THE FAMILY 15.11.22

Wildenthal, Lora. 2001. *German Women for Empire, 1884-1945*. Durham [N.C.]: Duke University Press.

- Introduction (1-12)
- Chapter 3: A New Colonial Masculinity: The Men's 79 Debate over "Race Mixing" in the Colonies (79 – 130)

Additional

- Fitzpatrick, Matthew P. 2017. "The Samoan Women's Revolt: Race, Intermarriage and Imperial Hierarchy in German Samoa*." *German History* 35(2): 206–28.
- Walther, Daniel J. 2008. "Racializing Sex: Same-Sex Relations, German Colonial Authority, and Deutschtum." *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 17: 11–24

6 QUEER/GAY EMPIRE 22.11.22

Bauer, Heike. 2017. *The Hirschfeld Archives: Violence, Death, and Modern Queer Culture*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

- Chapter 1: Sexual Rights in A World Of Wrongs: Reframing The Emergence Of Homosexual Rights Activism In Colonial Contexts (13-36)

Additional

- Marhoefer, Laurie. 2022. *Racism and the Making of Gay Rights Racism and the Making of Gay Rights: A Sexologist, His Student, and the Empire of Queer Love*. University of Toronto Press.
- Somerville, Siobhan B. 2000. *Queering the Color Line: Race and the Invention of Homosexuality in American Culture*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Podcast: Bad Gays, episode on Magnus Hirschfeld (10,2022)

7 DEVIANT SEXUALITIES 29.11.22

Cohen, Cathy J. 1997. "Punks, Bulldaggers, and Welfare Queens: The Radical Potential of Queer Politics." *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 3: 437–56.

Additional:

- Cohen, Cathy. 2019. „The Radical Potential of Queer? Twenty Years Later“. *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 25(1), 140-144.
<https://www.muse.jhu.edu/article/712687>.
- Bulldagger, Rocko. 2006. "The End of Genderqueer." In *Nobody Passes: Rejecting the Rules of Gender and Conformity*, ed. Matt Bernstein Sycamore.

AK Press, 136–48. <https://biblioteca-alternativa.noblogs.org/files/2012/03/The-End-of-Genderqueer.pdf>.

8 COMPULSORY HETEROSEXUALITY AND IMPERIAL ABJECTION 06.12.22

Rifkin, Mark. 2011. *When Did Indians Become Straight? Kinship, the History of Sexuality, and Native Sovereignty*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

- Introduction (3 - 43)

Additional

- McClintock, Anne. 1995. *Imperial Leather: Race, Gender and Sexuality in the Colonial Contest*. New York: Routledge
- Barker, Joanne, ed. 2017. *Critically Sovereign: Indigenous Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies*. Durham: Duke University Press.

9 BLACKNESS AND TRANSNESS 13.12.22

Snorton, C. Riley. 2017. *Black On Both Sides: A Racial History of Trans Identity*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

- Preface (vii - xiv), Intro (1-12)
- Chapter 1: Anatomically Speaking (or Chapter 2: Trans Capable)

Additional:

- Rivera, Sylvia. 2011. "Queens in Exile, The Forgotten Ones." In *Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries: Survival, Revolt, And Queer Antagonist Struggle*, Untorelli Press, 40–55.
- Ici talk on Black life by Alexander Weheliye: <https://www.ici-berlin.org/events/alexander-g-weheliye/>; book: Weheliye, Alexander G. 2014. *Habeas Viscus: Racializing Assemblages, Biopolitics, and Black Feminist Theories of the Human*. Duke University Press.
- Stanley, Eric A. 2021. *Athmospheres of Violence: Structuring Antagonism and the Trans/Queer Ungovernable*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- prose and poetry in the t4t issue of tsq (<https://www.tsqnow.online/the-t4t-issue>)

10 (IL)LEGIBLE BODIES AND MEDICAL VIOLENCE 03.01.23

Gill-Peterson, Jules. 2018. *Histories of the Transgender Child*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

- Chapter 3: Sex in Crisis: Intersex Children in the 1950s and The Invention of Gender (97-127)

Additional:

- Hil, Malatino. 2019. *Queer Embodiment: Monstrosity, Medical Violence and Intersex Experience*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.
- Heaney, Emma. 2021. "Is a Cervix Cis?: My Year in the Stirrups." *Aster(ix) Journal*. <https://asterixjournal.com/is-a-cervix-cis/>.
- Strings, Sabrina. 2019. *Fearing the Black Body*. New York: NYU Press.
- Film: *Faming Agnes* (2022)

11 QUEER HISTORIES OUT OF THE CAGE 10.01.23

Ryan, Hugh. 2022. *The Women's House of Detention: A Queer History of A Forgotten Prison*. New York: Bold Types Books.

- A Few Notes on Language, Introduction
- Chapter 6: Flickers of Pride

Additional:

- *Queer Fire: Liberation and Abolition*. 2022. Special Issue *GLQ*, Vol. 28, No. 2. <https://www.dukeupress.edu/queer-fire>
- Spade, Dean. 2015. *Normal Life: Administrative Violence, Critical Trans Politics & The Limits of Law*. revised and expanded edition. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Film: *Criminal Queers* (2020; Stanley & Vargas); book: Stanley, Eric A. 2011. *Captive Genders: Trans Embodiment and The Prison Industrial Complex*. Baltimore: AK Press.
- Ryan, Hugh. 2022. "Writing My Community's History Helps Me Chart Our Better, Brighter Future." *Electric Literature*. <https://electricliterature.com/writing-my-communitys-history-helps-me-chart-our-better-brighter-future/>.

12 WAYWARDNESS AGAINST VIOLENT (HI)STORIES 17.01.23

Hartman, Saidiya. 2019. *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments: Intimate Histories of Social Upheaval*. New York: Norton & Company.

- (Book III)

Additional:

- Hartman, Saidiya. 2008. *Venus in Two Acts*. *Small Axe* 12(2), 1-14., see here in a MOMA zine (of the ongoing critical fabulation exhibition): https://www.moma.org/momaorg/shared/pdfs/docs/learn/venus-in-two-acts-cassandra.pdf?_ga=2.165045055.106468539.1665144695-2131501484.1665144694

- Hartman, Saidiya. Notes on Feminisms: The Plot of Her Undoing (5 pages), <https://feministcoalition.org/essays-list/saidiya-hartman>
- Films: *Tourmaline: Happy Birthday, Marsha!* (2017); *Salacia* (2020); *Mary III Fame* (2020-2021), see also: *Tourmaline*. 2020. "Filmmaker and Activist Tourmaline on How to Freedom Dream." *Vogue*. www.vogue.com/article/filmmaker-and-activist-tourmaline-on-how-to-freedom-dream
- Film: *The Watermelon Woman* (Cheryl Dunye, 1996)

13 BEYOND SETTLER FAMILY AND SEX 24.01.23

TallBear, Kim. 2021. "Identity Is a Poor Substitute for Relating: Genetic Ancestry, Critical Polyamory, Property, and Relations." In eds. Brendan Hokowhitu et al. *Routledge Handbook of Critical Indigenous Studies*, 467–78.

TallBear, Kim. 2018. "Making Love and Relations Beyond Settler Sex and Family." In *Making Kin Not Population*, Chicago: Prickly Paradigm Press, 145–164.

Additional:

- podcast *Decolonizing Sex* (All My Relations podcast) <https://www.buzzsprout.com/262196/1001592-ep-5-decolonizing-sex?fbclid=IwAR3cezg7LAdjWAFhs2sg7gGyfkBss5yo1x-R9kvplr1dj5kgM22Hgn2zBUk>
- Lewis, Sophie. 2022. *Abolish the Family: A Manifesto For Care and Liberation*. London: Verso.
- Gumbs, Alexis Pauline, China Martens, and Mai'a Williams, eds. 2016. *Revolutionary Mothering: Love on the Front Lines*. San Francisco: PM Press.
- King, T.L. (2018). Black 'Feminisms' and Pessimism: Abolishing Moynihan's Negro Family. *Theory & Event* 21(1), 68-87.

14 INDIGENOUS QUEER NORMALITY 31.01.23

Simpson, Leanne Betasamosake. 2021. *As We Have Always Done: Indigenous Freedom through Radical Resistance*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

- Chapter 8: Indigenous Queer Normativity

Additional:

- Short film: *Biidaaban*, watch as part of lecture by Leanne Betasamosake Simpson (min 39.33 – 58) <https://www.sfu.ca/gradstudies/life->

[community/news-events/events/pdc/2019-creative-ecologies/leanne-simpson.html](#)

- Maynard, Robyn, Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, Hannah Voegele, and Christopher Griffin. 2021. "Every Day We Must Get Up and Relearn the World An Interview with Robyn Maynard and Leanne Betasamosake Simpson." *Interfere Journal* 2: 140–65.
- Poetry: Belcourt, Billy-Ray (2017). *This Wound Is a World*. Frontenac House.

15 QUEER OF COLOUR CRITIQUE OF CAPITAL 07.02.23

Haritaworn, Jin (2022). From the Kitchen Table to the Streets: Queer of Colour Reflections on Racial Capitalism. In *Women, Gender & Research*, 33(1), 81 – 85.

O'Brien, M.E., Raha, N., Baars, G., Xin, L., Klitgård, M. (2022) Transversing Sexualities and Critiques of Capital. In *Women, Gender & Research*, 33(1), 65- 80.

Additional:

- Critiques of Sexualities Issue of *Women, Gender & Research* ([Kvinder, Køn & Forskning](#)): <https://tidsskrift.dk/KKF/issue/view/9291>
- Speculative fiction novel: O'Brien, M. & Abdelhadi, E. (2022). *Everything for Everyone*. Common Notions Press.
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16 FINAL DISCUSSION 14.02.23

Discussion of term papers

Potential discussion of additional texts