

GSWS 820-5: Graduate Seminar

Danger Zones and Border Crossings: Gender, Space and Spectacle in Comparative Gender and Women's History

Professor: Lara Campbell

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Class location: Harbour Centre 2290, Fridays, 9:30 am

This course will examine selected topics in North American gender and women's history in the 19th and 20th centuries, with a close analysis of the ways in which gender intersects with identity and power located in class, race, ethnicity, region and sexualities. By examining a range of topics, from the class history of the department store to the politics of race in the civil rights movement, from the structuring of gay urban space to the impact of disco on American culture, we will examine the ways in which gendered bodies moved through time, space and place in Canada and the United States.

The course will focus on the permeable and constantly shifting boundaries between public and private space, the contested constructions of race and ethnicity, the creation, maintenance and enforcement of sexual practices and identities, how ideals of gender have changed over time and place, and the making of "civilized" subjects in the framework of Western imperialism. We will supplement our historical readings with current feminist and postcolonial theory, and with work on the methods of historical inquiry.

Required Books (bookstore, reserve, and/or e-book in SFU library):

Sean Mills, *The Empire Within: Postcolonial Thought and Political Activism in Sixties Montreal*

George Chauncey, *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940*

Donica Belisle, *Retail Nation: Department Stores and the Making of Modern Canada*

Christopher Dummitt, *The Manly Modern: Masculinity in Postwar Canada*

Steven Watts, *Mr. Playboy: Hugh Hefner and the American Dream*

Tim Hodgdon, *Manhood in the Age of Aquarius*

Sarah Carter, *The Importance of Being Monogamous: Marriage and Nation Building in Western Canada to 1915*

Alex Lubin, *Romance and Rights: The Politics of Interracial Intimacy, 1945-1954*

Alice Echols, *Hot Stuff: Disco and the Remaking of American Culture*

Marking Scheme:

Paper Proposal: 10%

Historiography: 30%

Seminar Presentation: 25%

Seminar Participation: 25%

Panel Presentation: 10%

Week 1: 6 January

Introduction

Week 2: 13 January

Theory and History: What do we know, how can we know, and will we ever know anything?...or.. “understanding [history] in terms of increasing distance from falsity rather than closeness to truth.” (Sandra Harding)

Gender, Women and the uses of postmodernism

Joan Wallach Scott, “Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis,” & Denise Riley, “Does Sex Have a History?” and responses by Anna Clark and Mariana Valverde, *Feminist History Reader*, 134-158, 168-174.

Thinking About Empire

Catherine Hall, “Civilizing Subjects,” *Feminist History Reader*, 340-48.

Section 1

Space, Place, Identity

Week 3: 20 January

History:

Sean Mills, *The Empire Within: Postcolonial Thought and Political Activism in Sixties Montreal* (Montreal: McGill-Queen’s, 2010)

Week 4: 27 January

History:

George Chauncey, *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940* (focus on chapters 1-4; skim the rest) (Basic Books, 1994)

Theory/Methodology:

Donna Penn, “Queer: Theorizing Politics and History,” *The Feminist History Reader*, 232-241.

Week 5: 3 February

History:

Donica Belisle, *Retail Nation: Department Stores and the Making of Modern Canada* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 2011)

Theory/Methodology:

Andreas Huyssen, “Mass Culture as Woman: Modernism’s Other.” In *After the Great Divide: Modernism, Mass Culture, Postmodernism*, 44-53. (note: replace with Ellen Willis article?)

Section II

Manliness and Modernity in Postwar North America

Week 6: 10 February

History:

Christopher Dummitt, *The Manly Modern: Masculinity in Postwar Canada* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2007) [ebook, SFU library catalogue]

Theory/Methodology:

John Tosh, "The Making of Manhood and the uses of History," in Tosh, *Manliness and Masculinities in Nineteenth-Century Britain* UK: Pearson, 2005: 13-28.

17 February: Reading Week

Week 7: 24 February

History:

Steven Watts, *Mr. Playboy: Hugh Hefner and the American Dream* (Wiley: 2008)

Week 8: 2 March

History:

Tim Hodgdon, *Manhood in the Age of Aquarius: Masculinity in Two Counter-Cultural Communities, 1965-83* (Columbia University Press 2007) (available as e-Gutenberg)

**Section III
Race, Bodies, Intimacy**

Week 9: 9 March

History:

Sarah Carter, *The Importance of Being Monogamous: Marriage and Nation Building in Western Canada to 1915* (Athabasca University Press, 2008) (ebook)

Theory and Methodology:

Anna Johnston and Alan Lawson, "Settler Colonies," in *A Companion to Postcolonial Studies*, 360-75.

Kathleen Canning, excerpts from ch 6. "The Body as Method?" In *Gender History in Practice: Historical Perspectives on Bodies, Class, and Citizenship* (Cornell University Press, 2006).

Week 10: 16 March

History:

Alex Lubin. *Romance and Rights: The Politics of Interracial Intimacy, 1945-1954*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2005. (ebook)

Week 11: 23 March

History:

Alice Echols: *Hot Stuff: Disco and the Remaking of American Culture*. New York: WW Norton, 2010.

Week 12: 30 March

Class Symposium

10-15 minute panel presentations and comments on end of term papers

Week 13: 6 April

Research Week: Finish and Hand in Papers

Sample syllabus from 2011

Recommended Readings:

Theory and History

- Joan Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis," in *Gender and the Politics of History*, 28-52.
- J.N. Katz, "The Invention of Heterosexuality," *Socialist Review* 20,1 (1990): 7-34.
- Joan Scott and Linda Gordon debate, *Signs*, 15, 4 (1990), 848-60.
- Sandra Harding, "Introduction: Is there a Feminist Method?" in Harding, ed *Feminism and Methodology* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1987)
- Lisa Duggan, "The Discipline Problem: Queer Theory Meets Lesbian and Gay History," *GLQ* 2, no. 3 (1995): 179-191.
- Henry Abelove, "The Queering of Lesbian/Gay History," *Radical History Review*, no. 62 (Spring 1995): 44-57.
- Sandra Harding, "Feminism, Science and the Anti-Enlightenment critiques," in *Feminism/Postmodernism*, 83-101
- Joan Hoff, "Gender as a Postmodern Category of Analysis," and replies: Susan Kingsley Kent, "Mistrials and Diatribulations: A Reply to Joan Hoff," and Carolone Ramazanoglu, "Unravelling Postmodern Analysis: A Response to Joan J. Hoff," in *The Feminist History Reader*, 174-190
- Denise Riley, Am I that Name? Feminism and the Category of Woman in History
- Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction*, trans. Robert Hurley (New York: Pantheon, 1978)
- Anne McClintock, "'No Longer in a Future Heaven': Gender, Race and Nationalism," in *Haunted by Empire*, 89-110.
- Robert Padgug, "Sexual Matters: On Conceptualizing Sexuality in History," in *Passion and Power*, ed. Kathy Peiss and Christina Simmons (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1989), 14-31.
- Lisa Duggan, "Making It Perfectly Queer," *Socialist Review* 22, no. 1 (Jan.-Mar. 1992): 11-31.
- Judith Butler, "Against Proper Objects," *differences* 6, nos. 2-3 (Summer-Fall 1994): 1-26.
- Ann Snitow, "A Gender Diary," in *Conflicts in Feminism*.
- Lynn Hunt, *The New Cultural History* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1989)
- Mariana Valverde, "Poststructuralist Gender Historians: Are we those Names?"
- Judith Newton, "History as Usual?" *Cultural critique* (Spring 1988)
- Michel Foucault, "Subjectivity and Truth," In *Ethics, Subjectivity and Truth*.
- Bryan Palmer, *Descent into Discourse: The Reification of Language and the Writing of Social History*.
- Gayatri Spivak, "Can the Subaltern Speak?" in *The Postcolonial Studies Reader*, 28-35.
- Catherine Hall, "Thinking the Postcolonial, Thinking the Empire," in *Cultures of Empire: A Reader*, 1-33.

Space, Place, and Identity

- Karen Dubinsky, *The Second Greatest Disappointment: Honeymoons and Heterosexuality at Niagara Falls* (Toronto: Between the Lines Press), especially chapters: 1-3, 6, 8, and conclusion.
- Cecilia Morgan. Performing for "Imperial Eyes": Bernice Loft and Ethel Brant Monture, Ontario, 1930s-60s."
- Paul Gilroy, "Race Ends Here," *Racial and Ethnic Studies* v 21 September 1998

Travel, Space and Spectacle

Tara McPherson, *Reconstructing Dixie: Race, Gender and Nostalgia in the Imagined South*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2003. [this book is available as an electronic resource, through the SFU library catalogue]

Vron Ware, "The Parameters of 'White Critique.'" In *A Companion to Racial and Ethnic Studies*, eds. David Theo Goldberg and John Solomos, 105-113. [this book is available as an electronic resource, through the SFU library catalogue]

- Kwame Anthony Appiah, "The Illusion of Race," in *The Postcolonial Studies Reader*, eds. Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin, 224-226.

Karen Dubinsky, *The Second Greatest Disappointment or Babies Beyond Borders*

John Urry, chapter 1, "The Tourist Gaze," in *The Tourist Gaze: Leisure and Travel in Contemporary Societies*, 1-15.

- Mary Lousie Pratt, *Imperial Eyes: Travel Writing and Transculturation* (ch 1, 4-5, 7)
- Angela Woollacott, *To Try Her Fortune in London: Australian Women, Colonialism and Modernity*, especially introduction and chapters 1, 2, 5, 6 and conclusion.
- Carter Vaughn Findley, "An Ottoman Occidental in Europe: Ahmed Midhat Meets Madame Gulnar, 1889," *Bodies in Contact*, 277-292.
- Cecilia Morgan, "A Wigwam to Westminster: Performing Mohawk Identity in Imperial Britain, 1890s-1990s," *Gender and History*, v. 15 n. 2 (Aug 2003). (Available on line)
- Vron Ware, "Defining Forces: 'Race', Gender and Memories of Empire" in Ian Chambers and Lidia Curti, eds *The Post-Colonial Questions*
- Catherine Hall, "Going-a-Trolloping: Imperial Man Travels the Empire," in Clare Midgley, *Gender and Imperialism*
- Marilyn Lake, "Between Old Worlds and New: Feminist Citizenship," in *Nation and Race: The Destabilization of Identity*, in Daly and Nolan eds, 277-94.
- Jennifer L Morgan, "Male Travelers, Female Bodies, and the Gendering of Racial Ideology, 1500-1770," *In Bodies in Contact*, 54-66.

Inderpal Grewal, *Home and Harem: Nation, Gender, Empire and the Cultures of Travel* (1996) [this book is available as an electronic resource, through the SFU library catalogue]

Rajeswari Sunder Rajan and You-me Park, "Postcolonial Feminism/Postcolonialism and Feminism," in *A Companion to Postcolonial Studies*, eds. Henry Schwarz and Sangeeta Ray, 53-67.

Sexual Politics

- Karen Dubinsky, *Improper Advances: Rape and Heterosexual Conflict in Ontario, 1880-1929* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1993).
- Judith Walkowitz, *City of Dreadful Delight: Narratives of Sexual Danger in Late-Victorian London* (University of Chicago Press, 1992), especially chapters: 1-4 & 7.
- Seth Koven, *Slumming: Sexual and Social Politics in Victorian London* (Princeton University Press, 2004)
- Ellen Carol Dubois and Linda Gordon, "Seeking Ecstasy on the Battlefield: Danger and Pleasure in Nineteenth-Century Feminist Sexual Thought," *Feminist Studies* 9, no. 1 (Spring 1983): 7-25.

'Deviant' bodies

- Members of the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California, "MTF Transgender Activism in the Tenderloin and Beyond, 1966-1975," *GLQ* 4, no. 2 (1998): 349-372.
- Taft, Michael. "Men in women's clothes: Theatrical transvestites on the Canadian Prairie." In *Undisciplined Women: Tradition and Culture in Canada*, ed. Pauline Greenhill. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1997.
- Judith Halberstam, "Transgender Butch: Butch/FTM Border Wars and the Masculine Continuum," in *Female Masculinities*, 141-173.
- Joanne Meyerowitz, *How Sex Changed: A History of Transsexuality in the United States* (Cambridge: Harvard U Press, 2002).
- Patrick Califia, "The Backlash: Transphobia in Feminism," 86-117 in *Sex Changes: Transgender Politics*, 11-48.
- Angus McLaren, *The Trials of Masculinity: Policing Sexual Boundaries, 1870-1930*. University of Chicago Press, 1997.

Sexual Cultures and Communities in North America

- Elizabeth Lapobsky Kennedy and Madeline D Davis, *Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold: The History of a Lesbian Community*

- Matt Houlbrook, *Queer London: Perils and Pleasures in the Sexual Metropolis, 1918-1957*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005.
- Joan Scott, "The Evidence of Experience" in Henry Abeove et al eds, *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader*, 397-412.
- Elizabeth Kennedy and Madeline Davis, "The Reproduction of Butch-Fem Roles: A Social Constructionist Approach," in *Passion and Power*, ed. Kathy Peiss and Christina Simmons (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1989), 241-256.
- Marc Stein, *City of Sisterly and Brotherly Loves: Gay Philadelphia*
- Estelle Freedman, "The Burning of Letters Continues: Elusive Identity and the Historical Construction of Identity," *Journal of Women's History* 9/4, Winter 1998)
- Elise Chenier, "Rethinking Class in Lesbian Bar Culture: Living the Gay Life in Toronto, 1955-65," *left history* 9 2 (Spring summer 2004) 85-118.
- Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, *Epistemology of the Closet* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990), 1-90.
- Patrick Califia, "The Berdache Wars and Passing Women Follies: Transphobia in Gay Academia," in *Sex Changes*, 120-158.
- Sue-Ellen Case, "Toward a Butch-Femme Esthetic," in *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader*, 294-306.

Colonial Bodies, European Bodies, and Spectacle

Dennis Porter, "Orientalism and its Problems," in *Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory: A Reader*
 Catherine Hall, *Civilising subjects: Metropole and colony in the English imagination, 1830-1867* (2002)
 Roslyn Poignant, *Professional Savages: Captive Lives and Western Spectacle*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2004
 Edward Said, "Orientalism," in *The Post-Colonial Studies Reader*, 24-27.
 Clifton Crais and Pamela Scully, *Sarah Baartman and the Hottentot Venus: A Ghost Story and a Biography* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008).

Colonial Rule, Racialization and Intimacy

- Robert Aldrich, *Colonialism and Homosexuality* (2003)
- Barman, Jean. "Taming Aboriginal Sexuality: Gender, Power, and Race in British Columbia, 1850-1900." *BC Studies* no. 115-116 (1997): 237-66.
- Laura Ann Stoler, "Making Empire Respectable: The Politics of Race and Sexual Morality in Twentieth Century Colonial Cultures" in Anne McClintock, ed., *Dangerous Liaisons: Gender, Nation and Postcolonial Perspectives* (1999)
- Fausto-Sterling, Anne, "Gender, Race, and Nation: The Comparative Anatomy of 'Hottentot' women in Europe: 1815-1817," in J. Terry and J. Urla, eds., *Deviant Bodies* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1995): 19-48. (online at http://bms.brown.edu/faculty/f/afs/pdfs/Gender_Race_Nation_15.pdf)
- Tony Ballantyne and Antionette Burton, "Postscript: Bodies, Gender, Empire: Reimagining World Histories," in *Bodies in Contact*, 405-20. (skim)
- Sara Mills, "Gender and Colonial Space," *The Postcolonial Studies Reader*, 692-713.
- Robin Jarvis Brownlie, "Intimate Surveillance: Indian Affairs, Colonization, and the Regulation of Aboriginal Women's Sexuality," *Contact Zones*
- Deborah Bergoffen, "Towards a Politics of the Vulnerable Body," *Hypatia* 18/1 (Winter 2003), 116-135.
- Carol Bacchi and Chris Beasley, "Citizen Bodies: Is Embodied Citizenship a Contradiction in Terms?" *Critical Social Policy*, 22/2, 324-52.
- Thomas Laquer, "Bodies, Details..." in *The New Cultural History*, 1989.
- Chapter 6 "A Colonial Reading of Foucault," in Ann Stoler, *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Race and the Intimate in Colonial Rule*. University of California Press, 2002.

Gender and Empire

Antoinette Burton, *Burdens of History: British Feminists, Indian Women, and Imperial Culture, 1865-1915*.
 Sanjam Ahluwalia, "Rethinking Boundaries: Feminism and (inter)nationalism in early 20th century India," and reply, Antoinette Burton, "South Asian Women, Gender, and Transnationalism," in the *Feminist History Reader*, 351-359.

- Barbara Bush, "Gender and Empire: The Twentieth Century," in Philippa Levine, *Gender and Empire*, (Oxford, 2004) 77-111.
 - Julia Wells, "The Scandal of Rev. James Read and the Taming of the London Missionary Society by 1820." *South African Historical Journal*, 42 (May 2000)
 - Mary Renda, *Taking Haiti: Military Occupation and the Culture of US Imperialism, 1915-1940*
 - Graham Dawson, "The Blond Bedouin," in *Manful Assertions*, eds Roper and Tosh, 113-144.
 - Myra Rutherdale, *Gender and the White Man's God: Gender and Race in the Canadian Mission Field* (University of Toronto Press) (all except chapter 1)
 - Padma Anagol, "Indian Christian Women and Indigenous Feminism, 1850-1920," in Clare Midgley, *Gender and Imperialism*, 79-99.
 - Jane Haggis, "White Women and colonialism: towards a non-recuperative history," in *Gender and Imperialism*, ed Claire Midgely, (Manchester University Press, 1998), 45-78.
 - Michele Langfield, "A Chance to Bloom: Female Migration and Salvationists in Australia and Canada, 1890s to 1939," *Australian Feminist Studies* 17: 39 2002: 287-303
 - Homi Bhaba, "Signs Taken for Wonders" (1985)
 - Jo-Anne Fiske, "Spirited Subjects and Wounded Souls: Political Representations of an Im/moral Frontier," *Contact Zones*
 - Catherine Hall, "Missionary Stories: Gender and Ethnicity in England in the 1830s and 1840s, in *White Male and Middle Class*, 205-49.
 - Cecilia Morgan, "Turning Strangers into Sisters?: Missionaries and Colonization in Upper Canada," in *Sisters or Strangers?*, 23-48.
 - Carol Williams, "She was the Means of Leading into the Light: Photographic Portraits of Tsimshian Methodist Converts," in *Framing the West*, 85-107.
 - Veronica Strong Boag and Carole Gerson, *Paddling Her Own Canoe: The Times and Texts of E. Pauline Johnson, Tekahionwake*
 - Sarah Carter, *Capturing Women: The Manipulation of Cultural Imagery in Canada's Prairie West.*
- Veronica Strong-Boag, "A Red Girl's Reasoning: E. Pauline Johnson Constructs the New Nation," *In Painting the Maple: Essays on Race, Gender and the construction of Canada*, 130-154.
- Cecilia Morgan, 'Private Lives and Public Performances: Aboriginal Women in a Settler Society, Ontario, Canada, 1920s-1960s,'
- Performing for "Imperial Eyes": Bernice Loft and Ethel Brant Monture, Ontario, 1930s-60s."
- Adele Perry, *On the Edge of Empire*, Intro, chapters 1,4,6, and conclusion.
- Kirsten McKenzie, *Scandal in the Colonies*, prelude, 1, 4, 5, postscript. [note: this book is not available in the SFU library]