

MAPS 33129 - Transnational Queer Politics and Practices

T-R 3:30-4:50PM

Zoom Meeting ID: TBA

Instructor: Caterina Fugazzola
Office Hours: Friday 2-4pm on Zoom
Email: [email]

Course Description

This course aims to examine gender and sexual practices and identities in a transnational perspective. As people and ideas move across national, cultural, and racial borders, how is sexuality negotiated and redefined? How are concepts such as “global queerness” and the globalization of sexualities leveraged for change? How are queer identities and practices translated, both culturally and linguistically? To explore transnational articulations of queerness we will draw on a range of theoretical perspectives, including postcolonial, feminist, queer, and indigenous approaches to the study of sexualities. We will engage with scholarship on the politics of global gay rights discourses, on the sexual politics of migration, and on the effects of colonialism and neoliberal capitalism. By analyzing queer experiences and practices in a transnational context, our goal is to decenter and challenge Western-centric epistemologies and to dive into the complexities of cultural representations of queerness around the globe.

Course Requirements

Zoom Participation	20%
Perusall Comments	30%
Short Assignments	20%
Final Assignment	30%
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Total	100%

Zoom Participation: This is a discussion-based seminar, which means I expect all of you to actively participate in discussions. You can do so by speaking in class or by writing your questions or comments in our classroom chat. To participate effectively, read all of the weekly assigned material before the class meets. In addition, each class period you’ll be expected to bring to class at least one question or comment based on the readings for that day. And remember – a good participator is one who speaks, but also one who knows how to listen to others.

Important: If conditions allow, I encourage you to treat our Zoom meetings the way you would treat a regular in-person class. Dress appropriately (at least from the waist up!), avoid comfy seating options like a couch or a bed, and organize your surroundings so you won’t have to move around too much during class time.

Perusall Comments: In Weeks 2-9, everyone is required to contribute to our online discussion by annotating in Perusall. You will be assigned to two readings each week (one for each class meeting), which you will find under 'Assignments' in Perusall.

Your annotations will be graded based on quality, on a scale of 0 (low), 1 (medium), 2 (high). Full credit will be assigned if you contribute 5 high quality annotations per reading. Please aim to distribute your annotations evenly throughout the article, failure to do so will result in a 5% penalty.

Extra credit can be earned in two ways: i) when you write comments and questions that elicit responses from other students, and ii) when you write comments and questions that are upvoted (e.g. "I have the same question" or "This helps my understanding") by other students.

All annotations are due at 5pm the day before class (5pm on Monday for Tuesday readings, 5pm on Wednesday for Thursday readings). Late annotations past the deadline will not be scored.

Short Assignments: There will be four short assignments, worth 5% each.

- Assignment 1 (due Sunday 4/19 at 5pm) – Pick a Battle.
Select an issue (related to gender/sexuality) that you are interested and invested in. You can choose anything in the world. Reflect on the benefit of thinking about this issue transnationally. Start thinking about the change you would like to see. Submit a one-page (single spaced) report addressing these points.
- Assignment 2 (due Sunday 5/3 at 5pm) – Find Allies.
Identify people, organizations, and scholars that have been working on the issue you selected. Write a two-page document in which you give an overview of their various approaches. Track alliances. Think about who you would want as an ally. Dedicate the second page of the document to a detailed plan you can implement to make this alliance a reality.
- Assignment 3 (due Sunday 5/17 at 5pm) – Make a Plan.
Plan an intervention on the ground. Think about which voices you want to see represented in your vision of change. Reflect on where agency lies, and on the narrative you want to create. Put together a 1-2 pg. manifesto.
- Assignment 4 (due Sunday 5/31 at 5pm) – Find Support.
Identify at least three potential sources of funding for your project of change. For each of them, explain the pros and cons of relying on this source. What would you have to sacrifice? Which compromises would you need to reach?

Final Assignment: Your final assignment will be **due on Wednesday of Week 10 (June 10) at 5pm**. The assignment will be a full grant proposal addressed to one of the sources you identified in Week 8. The proposal needs to include a description of the problem you identified, a clear argument explaining the relevance of the issue and the potential consequences of leaving it unaddressed, and a concrete plan for action.

Remote Classroom Policies: My goal is for all students to feel included in the course. I am readily accessible via email and virtual office hours to address any concerns that may arise. In order to be successful in this course, it's important to take care of yourself, including your mental and physical health. If you are encountering any challenges, please reach out to me sooner rather than later so I can help you identify appropriate resources available to you. Please also be aware that some issues discussed in this course may present personal "triggers." If you need more guidance about the content of course materials in advance, please let me know and I will be happy to provide it. I am committed to meeting the needs of all my students. If you need any class-related accommodations, please visit: <http://disabilities.uchicago.edu/contacts/index.shtml>

Assignment Policies:

- Any suspected academic dishonesty in the form of cheating and/or plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students office. The University's policy on academic integrity can be found here: <https://college.uchicago.edu/advising/academic-integrity-student-conduct>
- Late assignments (papers not turned in before the class period when they are due) will be penalized one third of a letter grade per day, and will not be accepted after 7 days. I will grant paper extensions in the case of an emergency - please notify me so I can make reasonable accommodations to ensure your inclusion and success in the course.
- Formatting: all assignments must be written in standard 12-point font, with 1-inch margins.
- Incompletes and Withdraws: Under university rules, an incomplete is only available if you have completed at least 2/3 of the course assignments. If you are seeking an incomplete, please be in touch with your advisor and myself as early as possible. I will support a student's request to withdraw from the course at any time.
- Class recordings: I will record our classroom discussion, and will make the recordings available upon request.

Course Books

No books will be required for this course. Individual chapters from the following texts will be made available on Canvas:

Altman, Dennis. 2001. *Global Sex*. Chicago, University of Chicago Press.

Leap, William L., and Tom Boellstorff (eds). 2004. *Speaking in Queer Tongues: Globalization and Gay Language*. Chicago: University of Illinois Press.

Cantu, Lionel. 2009. *The Sexuality of Migration: Border Crossing and Mexican Immigrant Men*. New York: New York University Press.

Carrillo, Hector. 2017. *Pathways of Desire: The Sexual Migration of Mexican Gay Men*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Engbrechtsen, Elisabeth L. et al (eds). 2015. *Queer/Tongzhi China: New Perspectives on Research, Activism, and Media Cultures*. Copenhagen: NIAS Press.

Manderson, Lenore, and Margaret Jolly. 1997. *Sites of Desire/Economies of*

Pleasure: Sexualities in Asia and the Pacific. Chicago: University of Chicago Press

Morgansen, Scott. 2011. *Spaces Between Us: Queer Settler Colonialism and Indigenous Decolonization*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Savci, Evren. *Queer in Translation: Paradoxes of Westernization and Sexual Others in the Turkish Nation* [book project in progress]

Thoreson, Ryan R. 2014. *Transnational LGBT Activism: Working for Sexual Rights Worldwide*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press

Week One: Global Identities

- (T 4/7): *Introduction*
 Grewal, Inderpal, and Caren Kaplan. 2001. "Global Identities: Theorizing Transnational Studies of Sexuality." *GLQ* 7(4): 663-679
- (R 4/9): Altman, Dennis. 1997. "Global Gaze/Global Gays." *GLQ* 3(4): 417-436
 Global Sex: Introduction and Chapter 6: "The Globalization of Sexual Identities"

Week Two: Nationalism, Homonationalism, Postnationalism

- (T 4/14) Oswin, Natalie. 2006. "Decentering Queer Globalization: Diffusion and the "Global Gay." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 24: 777-790.
 Rofel, Lisa. 2009. "Qualities of Desire: Imagining Gay Identities in China." *GLQ* 5(4): 451-474
 Puar, Jasbir. 2011 "Citation and Censorship: The Politics of Talking About the Sexual Politics of Israel." *Feminist Legal Studies* 19: 133-142
 Rankin, Pauline. 2000. "Sexualities and National Identities: Re-Imagining Queer Nationalism." *Journal of Canadian Studies* 35(2): 176-19
- (R 4/16) Kahlina, Katja. 2015. "Local Histories, European LGBT Designs: Sexual Citizenship, Nationalism, and "Europeanisation" in Post-Yugoslav Croatia and Serbia." *Women's Studies International Forum* 49: 73-83
 Schotten, C. Heike. 2016. "Homonationalism: From Critique to Diagnosis, or, We Are All Homonational Now." *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 18(3): 351-370
 Bacchetta, Paola, and Jin Haritaworn. 2011. "There are many transatlantics: homonationalism, homotransnationalism and feminist-queer-trans of colour theories and practices."

**** **Short Assignment 1 Due Sunday 4/19 at 5pm** ****

Assignment 1: Pick a battle.

Select an issue (related to gender/sexuality) that you are interested and invested in. You can choose anything in the world. Reflect on the benefit of thinking about this issue transnationally. Start thinking about the change you would like to see. Submit a one-page (single spaced) report addressing these points.

Week Three: Queer Cultures Beyond Global/Local Dichotomies

- (T 4/21): *Queer/Tongzhi China*, Chapter 7. Huang, Ana. "On the Surface: T and Transgender Identity in Chinese Lesbian Culture."
Bie, Bijie, and Lu Tang. 2016 "Chinese Gay Men's Coming Out Narratives: Connecting Social Relationship to Co-Cultural Theory." *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*: 1-16
McLelland, Mark. 2000. "Is there a Japanese 'Gay Identity'?" *Culture, Health & Sexuality* 2(4): 459-472
- (R 4/23): Carrillo, Héctor. 1999. "Cultural Change, Hybridity and Male Homosexuality in Mexico." *Culture, Health & Sexuality* 1(3): 223-238
Swarr, Amanda Lock, and Richa Nagar. 2004. "Dismantling Assumptions: Interrogating "Lesbian" Struggles for Identity and Survival in India and South Africa." *Signs* 29(2): 491-516
Ellawala, Themal I. 2018. "Mismatched Lovers: Exploring the Compatibility Between LGBTQ+ Identity Theories and Gender and Sexual Plurality in Sri Lanka." *Sexuality & Culture* 22: 1321-1339.

Week Four: Translating Queerness

- (T 4/28) *Speaking in Queer Tongues*, Introduction
Queer in Translation, Introduction
Boellstorff, Tom. 2003. "Dubbing Culture: Indonesian "Gay" and "Lesbi" Subjectivities and Ethnography in an Already Globalized World." *American Ethnologist* 30(2): 225-242.
- (R 4/30): *Queer in Translation*, "Who Killed Ahmed Yildiz? Seeking Justice in Modernizing Turkey"
Bassi, Serena. 2017. "Displacing LGBT: Global Englishes, Activism and Translated Sexualities."

Lim, Song Hwee. 2008. "How to Be Queer in Taiwan: Translation, Appropriation, and the Construction of a Queer Identity in Taiwan." Pp. 235-250 in Fran Martin et al (eds.) *AsiaPacifiQueer: Rethinking Genders and Sexualities*. Chicago: University of Illinois Press

****** Short Assignment 2 Due Sunday 5/3 at 5pm ******

Assignment 2: Find Allies.

Identify people, organizations, and scholars that have been working on the issue you selected. Write a two-page document in which you give an overview of their various approaches. Track alliances. Think about who you would want as an ally. Dedicate the second page of the document to a detailed plan you can implement to make this alliance a reality.

Week Five: Circuits of Desire (1) - Migration

(T 5/5) *Pathways of Desire*, Introduction + Chapter 4: "A Gay Culture of Migration?"

Luibhéid, Eithne. 2008. "Queer/Migration: An Unruly Body of Scholarship." *GLQ* 14(2/3): 169-190

(R 5/7) *The Sexuality of Migration*, Chapter 1: "Sexuality, Migration, and Identity" + Chapter 3: "Border Crossers: Seeking Asylum and Maneuvering Identities."

Fajardo, Kale Bantigue. 2008. "Translating Filipino and Filipino American Tomboy Masculinities through Global Migration and Seafaring." *GLQ* 14(2/3): 403-424

Week Six: Circuits of Desire (2) - Globalization

(T 5/12) Jackson, Peter. 2009. "Capitalism and Global Queering: National Markets, Parallels among Sexual Cultures, and Multiple Queer Modernities." *GLQ* 15(3): 357-395

Sinnott, Megan. 2012. "Korean-Pop, *Tom Gay Kings*, *Les Queens* and the Capitalist Transformation of Sex/Gender Categories in Thailand." *Asian Studies Review* 36: 453-474

Lim, Eng-Beng. 2005. "Glocalqueering in New Asia: The Politics of Performing Gay in Singapore." *Theatre Journal* 57(3): 383-405

(R 5/14) Howe, Cymene, and Jakob Rigi. "Transnationalizing Desire: Sexualizing Cultures and Commodifying Sexualities." *Ethnos* 74(3): 297-306

Sites of Desire/Economies of Pleasure, Chapter 5: “Parables of Imperialism and Fantasies of the Exotic: Western Representations of Thailand—Place and Sex”

Hoang, Kimberly Kay. 2014. “Flirting with Capital: Negotiating Perceptions of Pan-Asian Ascendancy and Western Decline in Global Sex Work.” *Social Problems* 61(4): 507-529

****** Short Assignment 3 Due Sunday 5/17 at 5pm ******

Assignment 3: Make a Plan.

Plan an intervention on the ground. Think about which voices you want to see represented in your vision of change. Reflect on where agency lies, and on the narrative you want to create. Put together a 1-2 pg. manifesto.

Week Seven: Local Activism

(T 5/19) *Queer/Tongzhi China*, Chapter 6. Engebretsen, Elisabeth L. “Of Pride and Visibility: The Contingent Politics of Queer Grassroots Activism in China.”

Pinheiro, Gabriela, and Clare Harvey. 2019. “We are a collective, a lot of us together, standing up: South African black lesbian women’s activism against discourses of blackwashing homophobia.” *Agenda*: 1-16

Tiidenberg, Katrin, and Airi-Alina Allaste. 2018. “LGBT activism in Estonia: Identities, enactment and perceptions of LGBT people.” *Sexualities* 23(3): 307-324.

(R 5/21) Levitt, Peggy. and Sally Merry. 2009. “Vernacularization on the ground: local uses of global women's rights in Peru, China, India and the United States. *Global Networks* 9: 441–461

Vijayakumar, Gowri. 2018. “Is Sex Work Sex or Work? Forming Collective Identity in Bangalore.” *Qualitative Sociology* 41: 337-360

Week Eight: Transnational Activism

(T 5/26): *Transnational LGBT Activism*, Introduction + Chapter 3: “Fusing Human Rights and Sexual Politics: Advocating for LGBT Human Rights Worldwide.”

Stychin, Carl. 2004. “Same-Sex Sexualities and the Globalization of Human Rights Discourse.” *McGill Law Journal* 39: 952-968

- (R 5/28): Hildebrandt, Timothy. 2012. "Development and Division: the effect of transnational linkages and local politics on LGBT activism in China." *Journal of Contemporary China* 21(77): 845-862
- Offord, Baden. 2013. "Queer Activist Intersections in Southeast Asia: Human Rights and Cultural Studies." *Asian Studies Review* 37(3): 335-349

****** Short Assignment 4 Due Sunday 5/31 at 5pm ******

Assignment 4: Find Support.

Identify at least three potential sources of funding for your project of change. For each of them, explain the pros and cons of relying on this source. What would you have to sacrifice? Which compromises would you need to reach?

Week Nine: Decolonizing Sexualities

- (T 6/2): *Decolonizing Sexualities*, Foreword: "Decolonial Body-Geo-Politics at Large" + Prologue: "Paris Black Pride 2016" + Introduction
- Cheney, Kristen. 2012. "Locating Neocolonialism, "Tradition," and Human Rights in Uganda's "Gay Death Penalty"." *African Studies Review* 55(2): 77-95
- (R 6/4): *Spaces Between Us*, Chapter 6: "Together We Are Stronger: Decolonizing Gender and Sexuality in Transnational Native AIDS Organizing."
- Decolonizing Sexualities*, Chapter 8: "This Is How We Soften Our Hearts" + Chapter 10: "Theoretical Coalitions and Multi-Issue Activism: 'Our Struggles Will Be Intersectional or They Will Be Bullshit!'"

**** Final Assignment due via email by 5PM on June 10****