

Gender and Sexuality in the Developing World
Instructors: _____ and Robert Wyrod
Sociology 28014 - University of Chicago – Spring 2005
Tues/Thur
12-1:20

Contact Information _____ Robert Wyrod: rjwyrod@uchicago.edu	Office hours Social Sciences Building, Room 415 Tuesday 3-5
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Course Description

This course will investigate theoretical and empirical research addressing issues of gender and sexuality in the developing world. Up until recently, theories produced in the developed world have been the main tools with which scholars have approached the study of gender and sexuality in various contexts. But ethnographic data from the developing world may challenge and deepen those theories.

With Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa as the primary areas of focus, this course aims to understand how local contexts shape ideas about gender and sexuality, and how studies of third world countries deepen and challenge contemporary understandings of gender and sex. The course also seeks to explore the different ways scholars have approached gender and sexuality in the developing world.

Moreover, these two world regions are undergoing tremendous social change, partly as a result of the globalization of markets and culture. This course therefore will also seek to understand how gender and sexuality are key aspects of these transformations.

Pre-requisites

There are no formal pre-requisites for the class, but students are expected to have some background in gender and sexuality studies.

Course Goals

- Students should gain an understanding of how to theorize gender and sexuality in the context of the developing world. Students should be able to critically examine the applicability of conventional theoretical approaches to gender and sexuality in non-western societies.
- Students will be exposed to accounts of gender and sexuality in a variety of different and non-western cultural contexts and expand their knowledge of contemporary issues in these regions. The intention is to get students to be more engaged with gender and sexuality in an international context, and to provide analytical tools appropriate to that context.

Format of Course

The class will meet twice a week. It is designed primarily as a seminar. Although there will be some lecture time, students will be expected to discuss readings and ask questions. Students with an interest in other world regions are welcome to bring additional relevant readings or materials for the class.

Course Materials

This course has a Chalk website. It will be used primarily for discussions, as well as announcements outside class. Students are encouraged to give the instructors links or additional materials to put on the website.

Several books have been ordered and are available at Seminary Co-op. However, we will not be reading every chapter of the books. Readings are on reserve at the Regenstein, and most articles are available on e-reserve under Sociology 28014.

For those interested in purchasing books, the following have been ordered:

- Narayan, Uma. *Dislocating Cultures: Identities, Traditions, and Third-World Feminism*. Routledge, 1997
- Chatterjee, Partha. *The Nation and its Fragments*. Princeton University Press, 1993
- Ong, Aihwa. *Spirits of Resistance and Capitalist Discipline: Factory Women in Malaysia*. State University of New York Press, 1987
- Setel, Philip. *A Plague of Paradoxes: AIDS, Culture and Demography in Northern Tanzania*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1999

Assignments and Requirements

1. Each week, students will be required to post a response to the readings for one of the sessions. These are short, informal thought pieces that may include reactions to the readings, questions, or critiques. They should be no more than two paragraphs long, and should be posted on the course website by 5 p.m. on the day before class. The instructors will use these posts as a jumping-off point for class discussions.
2. Each student is required to make a presentation of a reading during class. The presentation is not a summary of a reading, but comments on the reading and points for further discussion. These presentations are expected to last between 5 and 10 minutes. You should bring copies of an outline of the presentation to give out to other students to use as study material.
3. There are two short paper assignments. The first is due at the end of week 5, and the second is due at the end of the quarter (date TBA). Both should be about 5-7 double-spaced pages. Hard copies of papers must be given to the instructors in class. Students who are already engaged in research or work around a particular topic may substitute their own idea for the final paper assignment, provided that they discuss it with the instructors early in the quarter. Please see the attached handout for an explanation of the criteria for a good paper.

MIDTERM PAPER ASSIGNMENT: This paper should compare and contrast two different approaches to understanding gender and sexuality in the developing world. What are the pros and cons of these approaches? How helpful are they in elaborating gender and or sexuality in a given region? Students should use readings from first five weeks of the course syllabus.

FINAL PAPER ASSIGNMENT: This paper should delve more deeply into any of the weeks' topics. You should make an argument about how to theoretically approach a given topic, i.e. AIDS, but more importantly, grapple with the ethnographic and empirical detail raised by the readings. Additional outside reading is not required, but also not discouraged. The goal is for you to gain some fluency in a substantive, real-world issue relevant to gender and sexuality, and to make an argument about what kind of theoretical approach is suitable for that topic. Alternatively, you may also review a particular topic from three or four points of view represented in the syllabus and analyze the pros and cons of each.

Grading

Midterm Paper: 30%

Final Paper: 30%

Presentation: 10%

Course Participation and Attendance: 10%

Chalk Postings: 10% (these will be graded on a pass/fail system, students who make 7 or more on-time postings will automatically get a pass, students who make fewer than 7 will get a fail for this category)

COURSE OUTLINE:

Week 1: Introduction And Theoretical Orientations

How can we think about gender and sexuality in African and Southeast Asian cultural contexts?

Session A:

- Introduction to Class, Assignments for Presentations, Introduction to Regions

Session B: Overview of Theories of Sex and Gender

- Errington, Shelly. "Recasting Sex, Gender, and Power: A Theoretical and Regional Overview," in Errington, Shelly and Jane Monnig Atkinson, eds. *Power and Difference: Essays on Gender in Island Southeast Asia*. Stanford University Press, 1990. READ PAGES 1-11, 37-58
- Oyewumi, Oyèrónkẹ. "Family Bonds / Conceptual Binds: African Notes on Feminist Epistemologies". *Signs*. 25, no. 4, (2000): 1093-1098.

Week 2: Gender, Sexuality, Colonialism

The experience of colonialism is a crucial part of the histories of most countries in Africa and Southeast Asia. What role did colonialism play in constructing categories of gender and sexuality? Does it continue to have an impact?

Session A:

- Stoler, Ann Laura. Chapter 3 "Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Gender and Morality in the Making of Race." *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Race and Intimate in Colonial Rule*. University of California Press, 2002. pp. 41-78.

Session B:

- Van Allen, Judith. "Sitting on a Man: Colonialism and the Lost Political Institutions of Igbo Women" in *Perspectives on Africa*. Roy Richard Grinker and Christopher Steiner eds. Blackwell. 1997. pp 536-549
- White, Louise. "Separating the men from the boys: Constructions of gender, sexuality, and terrorism in central Kenya 1939-1959". *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 23(1):1-27. 1990.

Week 3: Post-colonial Critiques

Many Asian and African countries have important women's movements. Yet some of these activists have been reluctant to categorize themselves as feminists. What is behind this concern about feminism? How have theorists, especially feminists, from the developing world critiqued western theories of gender and sexuality?

Session A:

- Mohanty, Chandra et al. eds. Chapter 1 "Under Western Eyes" in *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism*. Indiana University Press, 1991.

Suggested reading:

- Mohanty, Chandra. "Under Western Eyes Revisited: Feminist Solidarity through Anticapitalist Struggles," *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 2003, vol. 28, no. 2
PDF: <http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/Signs/journal/contents/v28n2.html>

Session B:

- Narayan, Uma. *Dislocating Cultures: Identities, Traditions, and Third-World Feminism*. Routledge, 1997
 - Chapter 1 "Contesting Cultures: Westernization, Respect for Cultures, and Third-World Feminists"
 - Chapter 2 "Restoring History and Politics to Third-World Traditions: Contrasting the Colonialist Stance and Contemporary Contestations of Sati."

Suggested reading:

- Mbembe, Achille. *On the Postcolony*. University of California Press, 2001. Chapter 3 "The Aesthetics of Vulgarities." Pp 102-141. [originally published as "Provisional Notes on the Postcolony" *Africa* 62, I(1992), pp. 3-37.]

Week 4: Gender, Sexuality, and the Nation-State

Many Asian and African countries fought against colonial rule and to establish independent states. Many of these places are characterized by very active states, and a strong sense of nationhood, while others have weak states. What role does the nation-state and nationalism play in the construction of gender and sexuality?

Session A:

- Chatterjee, Partha. *The Nation and its Fragments*. Princeton University Press, 1993.
 - Chapter 1 "Whose Imagined Community"
 - Chapter 6 "The Nation and its Women"
- Yuval-Davis, Nira. *Gender and Nation*. Sage. 1997. Chapter 1 "Theorizing Gender and Nation" pp 1-25.

Session B – Chose 2 of the following 3 readings:

- Suryakusuma, Julia. "The State and Sexuality in New Order Indonesia," in *Fantasizing the Feminine in Indonesia*, Laurie J. Sears, ed. Durham: Duke University Press 1996. pp92-119.
- Geraldine Heng and Janadas Devan, "State Fatherhood: The Politics of Nationalism, Sexuality, and Race in Singapore" in Lancaster, Roger N., and Micaela Di Leonardo, eds. *The Gender/Sexuality Reader: Culture, History, Political Economy*. Routledge, 1997. pp 107-121 [originally published in *Nationalisms & Sexualities*, Andrew Parker et al eds., Routledge 1992. Chapter 19 pp 343-365]
- Cobham, Rhonda. "Misgendering the Nation: African Nationalist Fictions and Nuruddin Farah's Maps." *Nationalisms & Sexualities*. Ed. Andrew Parker, et al. Routledge, 1992. 42-59.

Week 5: Women and Work

One of the most important transformations wrought by the global economy is changes in women's work. New forms of women's labor include domestic service, factory work, and sex work. What challenges do these new forms of work pose for our understanding of gender and sexuality? And what do they reveal about the relationship between gender and the global economy?

Session A:

- Ong, Aihwa. *Spirits of Resistance and Capitalist Discipline: Factory Women in Malaysia*. State University of New York Press, 1987.
 - Part III Chapters 7-9

Session B:

- Hansen, Karen Tranberg. "Body Politics: Sexuality, Gender and Domestic Service in Zambia" in *Perspectives on Africa*. Roy Richard Grinker and Christopher Steiner eds. Blackwell. 1997. pp. 550-566.
- Peacock, Nadine. "Rethinking the Sexual Division of Labor: Reproduction and Women's Work among the Efe" in *Gender at the Crossroads of Knowledge: Feminist Anthropology in the Postmodern Era*. University of California Press. 1991. Chapter 10 pp 339-360.

MID-TERM DUE IN CLASS TUESDAY MAY 3rd

Week 6: Feminism and Women's Movements

Feminism is often thought of as a Western social movement. But feminist and women's movements are increasingly influential in the developing world. What happens when these Western ideas cross borders? How are they interpreted in different contexts? And are these ideas Western to begin with?

Session A:

- Jayawardena, Kumari. *Feminism and Nationalism in the Third World*. London and New Jersey: Zed Books, 1986.
 - Introduction pp 1-24 and Chapter 8 pp 137-154.
- Mikell, Gwendolyn, "Introduction" in Gwendolyn Mikell ed., *African Feminism: The Politics of Survival in Sub-Saharan Africa*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1997. pp 1-33.

Session B:

- Thayer, Millie. Chapter 7 "Traveling Feminisms: From Embodied Women to Gendered Citizenship" in Michael Burawoy, et al, eds., *Global Ethnography: Forces, Connections, and Imaginations in a Postmodern World*. University of California Press, 2000. pp. 203-234.
- Goetz, Anne Marie and Shireen Hassim. *No Shortcuts to Power: African Women in Politics and Policy Making*. Zed. 2003. Chapter 1 "Introduction: Women and Power in Uganda and South Africa." Pp. 1-28.

Week 7: Islam and Gender

Islam is often stereotyped as a religion that is particularly unfriendly to women. Yet there are many feminist thinkers who are interpreting Islamic texts in ways that emphasize gender equality, as well as others who are deeply critical of the way women are treated in Islamic societies. Many scholars are also engaged in active discussions about the role of women in Islamic thought and Islamic societies.

Session A:

- Ahmed, Leila. *Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1993. Chapter 8 “The Discourse of the Veil”. pp144-168.

Suggested reading:

- Mernissi, Fatima. *Beyond the Veil*. Indiana University Press. 1987 [Rev. ed.]
 - Preface, Introduction and Chapter 1 “The Muslim Concept of Active Female Sexuality”. Pp vii-45.

Session B:

- Bernal, Victoria. “Islam, Transnational Culture, and Modernity in Rural Sudan” in Maria Grosz-Ngate and Omari Kokole eds., *Gendered Encounters: Challenging Cultural Boundaries and Social Hierarchies in Africa*. Routledge. 1997. pp 131-151.
- Brenner, Suzanne. “Reconstructing self and society: Javanese Muslim Women and “The Veil”” *American Ethnologist* 23(4), 1996.

Week 8: Masculinity

In the last decade, many scholars have begun to study masculinity from a feminist perspective. Research examining men in the developing world is an important part of this emerging literature. What are the historical roots of non-Western notions of manhood and how have “traditional” ideas about being a man been impacted by colonialism and post-coloniality?

Session A:

- Connell, Robert. Chapter 3 “The Social Organization of Masculinity”. *Masculinities: Knowledge, Power and Social Change*. University of California Press. 1995. pp 67-86.
- Kimmel, Michael. “Masculinity as Homophobia: Fear, Shame, and Silence in the Construction of Gender Identity” in *Theorizing Masculinities*. Harry Brod and Michael Kaufman (eds.). Sage. 1994. pp119-141.

Session B:

- Oetomo, Dede. “Masculinity in Indonesia: Genders, Sexualities, and Identities in a Changing Society” in Richard Parker, Regina Maria Barbosa, and Peter Aggleton, eds. *Framing the Sexual Subject: The Politics of Gender, Sexuality, and Power*. University of California Press. 2000. Chapter 2, pp. 46-59.

- Morrell, Robert. "The Times of Change: Men and Masculinity in South Africa," in Robert Morrell (ed.) *Changing Men in Southern Africa*. University of Natal Press and Zed Press. 2000. Chapter 11.

Week 9: AIDS

One of the most significant developments of the late 20th Century has been the AIDS pandemic. Sub-Saharan African has been affected severely by HIV/AIDS, and Southeast Asia is now facing a quickly growing epidemic. How is this epidemic transforming societies in the developing world, and what challenges does it pose to academics who chart these transformations?

Session A:

- Parker, Richard. "The Social and Cultural Construction of Sexual Risk, or How to Have (Sex) Research in an Epidemic," in *Culture and Sexual Risk: Anthropological Perspectives on AIDS*. H. ten Brummelhuis and G. Herdt (eds.). Amsterdam: Gordon and Breach Publishers. 1995. pp. 257-270.
- Schoepf, Brooke. "AIDS, Gender and Sexuality during Africa's Economic Crisis" in Gwendolyn Mikell ed., *African Feminism: The Politics of Survival in Sub-Saharan Africa*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1997. Chapter 13, pp 310-332.

Session B:

- Setel, Philip. *A Plague of Paradoxes: AIDS, Culture and Demography in Northern Tanzania*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1999.
 - Chapter 3 "Population, Men and Movement: (M)oral Demographies of Desire and Risk" pp 51-88
 - Chapter 4 "Personhood and the Pragmatics of Desire" pp 89-143.

Week 10: Same-Sex Practices and the Impact of Globalization

In many countries of the developing world, same-sex practices are often viewed as Western imports. Yet an emerging body of research has explored the variety of same-sex sexual practices existing in many developing countries.

Session A:

- Wieringa, Saskia and Evelyn Blackwood, eds. *Female Desires: Same-Sex Relations and Transgender Practices Across Cultures*. Columbia University Press, 1998.
 - Chapter 8 "Tombois in West Sumatra: Constructing Masculinity and Erotic Desire"
 - Chapter 11: "How Homosexuality Became 'Un-African': The Case of Zimbabwe"
- Murray, Stephen and Will Roscoe. "Africa and African Homosexualities: An Introduction". *Boy-wives and Female Husbands: Studies in African Homosexualities*. Palgrave for St. Martin's Griffin. 1998.

Suggested reading:

- Tamale, Sylvia. "Out of the Closet: Unveiling Sexuality Discourses in Uganda." *Feminist Africa*, Issue 2, 2003.
<http://www.feministafrica.org/fa%202/02-2003/sp-tamale.html>

Session B:

- Reading period

FINAL PAPERS DUE MONDAY, JUNE 7 5PM
NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED
Drop papers in box outside Room 415, Social Sciences Building
Papers can be picked up at the same spot the following Monday

Suggestions for further reading:

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

Budianta, Melani. "Plural Identities: Indonesian Women's Redefinition of Democracy in the Post-Reformasi Era," in *Challenging Authoritarianism in Southeast Asia: Comparing Malaysia and Indonesia*, Ariel Hernanto and Sumit K. Mandal, eds. Routledge/Curzon, 2003.

Enloe, Cynthia. *Bananas, Beaches and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics*. University of California Press. 2001 Revised Edition.

Fallon, Kathleen. "Transforming Women's Citizenship Rights within an Emerging Democratic State: The Case of Ghana." *Gender & Society*, vol. 17 no. 4, August 2003 525-543.

Mies, Maria. *Patriarchy and Accumulation on a World Scale: Women in the International Division of Labour*. Zed Books, 1999.

Mills, Mary Beth. *Thai Women in the Global Labor Force: Consuming Desires, Contested Selves*. Rutgers University Press, 1999.

Paidar, Parvin. "Feminism and Islam in Iran" in Deniz Kandiyoti, (ed) *Gendering the Middle East: Emerging Perspectives*, NY: Syracuse University Press, 1996, 51-67

Parrenas, Rhacel Salazar. *Servants of Globalization: Women, Migration and Domestic Work*. Stanford University Press, 2001.

Salzinger, Leslie. *Genders in Production: Making Workers in Mexico's Global Factories*. University of California Press, 2003.

Treichler, Paula. 1999. "AIDS and HIV Infection in the Third World: A First World Chronicle." In Treichler (ed) *How to Have Theory in an Epidemic*. Durham: Duke University Press. pp. 99-126.

Yural-Davis, Nira and Floya Anthias. *Woman, Nation, State*. St. Martin's Press. 1989.

Wolfe, Diane L. "Javanese Factory Daughters: Gender, the State, and Industrial Capitalism," in *Fantasizing the Feminine in Indonesia*, Laurie J. Sears, ed. Durham: Duke University Press, 1996.

Gender and Women's Studies for Africa's Transformation:

<http://www.gwsafrica.org/>