# QUEER ANTHROPOLOGY: THEORY AND METHOD ANTH 515 MM QUEER THEORY AND ETHNOGRAPHY

GWS 581 MM Thursdays, 12-2:50 pm Noyes Laboratory 162

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Office: Davenport Hall 387 Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1-3 pm

## **Course Description:**

This seminar examines the history and continuing legacy of LGBT studies and queer theory in the anthropological imagination. Ethnographic studies and theoretical essays are read to engage with enduring questions and new inquiries about issues of sex and gender in relation to race, class, ethnicity, nationalism and globalization. This class will explore the limits and possibilities of Queer Anthropology in terms of research and activism, as well as the tensions between disciplinarity and inter-disciplinarity.

Part of the intellectual strains and pressures that may arise from the readings and discussions will be from the seemingly antipodal nodes of theory and method. What does it mean "to queer ethnography"? Is queerness and the professional stranger an inevitable tandem? What is the relationship of method to theory and vice versa? We will explore the grounded queer experiences of ethnographic fieldwork, savor the sensorial delights of the texts, and engage with the various spatial and temporal attunements in the various works of contemporary queer ethnographic scholarship in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and reflect on its future.

## **Requirements:**

1. **Seminar Paper** (15 + pages approximately) 50% Topic and format to be discussed with the professor through a scheduled tutorial (see #2).

#### 2. Seminar participation

25%

Including a **class presentation** on a specific week's readings and a **scheduled tutorial**. Seminars are meant to be arenas for active engagements and debate about ideas. While the practice reading is instrumental in graduate education, the commensal aspect of seminar provide numerous skills and opportunities such as creating social and intellectual collegiality and camaraderie and promote skills in verbal presentation and professional composure. The scheduled tutorial is a 20-30 minute individual discussion with the professor about the seminar project topic as well as topics of interest.

## 3. Weekly Reading Notes

25%

These are exercises in synthesizing your thoughts about the week's readings. You can use you notes as prompts for you own participation in the seminar discussions. These notes are due on the day of the seminar during the class period. A sheet containing suggestions on how to format and organize your reading notes will be passed around the class and will also be posted on the compass course website.

## **Required Books:**

Books are available in the bookstores. Individual essays from journals and anthologies will be available on the compass course website.

Allen, Jafari. 2011. Venceremos? The Erotics of Black Self-Making in Cuba. Duke University Press.

Dave, Naisargi. 2012. Queer Activism in India: A Story in the Anthropology of Ethics. Duke University Press.

Decena, Carlos Ulises. 2011. *Tacit Subjects: Belonging and Same-Sex Desire Among Dominican Immigrant Men.* Duke University Press.

Gaudio, Rudolf Pell. 2009. Allah Made Us: Sexual Outlaws in an Islamic African City. Wiley-Blackwell

Howe, Cymene. 2013. *Intimate Activism: The Struggle for Sexual Rights in Postrevolutionary Nicaragua*. Duke University Press.

Kam, Lucetta. 2013. Shanghai Lalas: Female Tongzhi Communities in Urban China. Hong Kong University Press.

Morgensen, Scott Lauria. 2011. Spaces Between Us: Queer Settler Colonialism and Indigenous Colonization. University of Minnesota Press.

Manalansan, Martin IV F. 2003. *Global Divas: Filipino Gay Men in the Diaspora*. Duke University Press.

Ochoa, Marcia. 2014. Queen for a Day: Transformistas, Beauty Queens, and the Performance of Femininity in Venezuela. Duke University Press.

Weiss, Margot. 2011. *Techniques of Pleasure: BDSM and the Circuits of Sexuality*. Duke University Press.

#### **SEMINAR SCHEDULE:**

## August 28 Orientations

#### September 4

Exploring the House of Queer Anthropology: Queries about History and the re-making of Ethnography

- 1. Boellstorff, Tom. 2007. "Queer Studies in the House of Anthropology." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 36:1–19.
- 2. Weston, Kath. 1993. "Lesbian/Gay Studies in the House of Anthropology." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 22:339–367.

- 3. Fitzgerald, Thomas. K. 1977. "A Critique of Anthropological Research on Homosexuality." *Journal of Homosexuality*. 2(4): 385-97.
- 4. Morris, Rosalind 1995 All made up: performance theory and the new anthropology of sex and gender. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 24:567-592.
- 5. Valentine, David. 2007. *Imagining Transgender: An Ethnography of a Category*. Duke University Press. "The Making of a Field: Anthropology and Transgender Studies" and "Conclusion: Making Ethnography." 143-172; 231-255
- 6. Newton, Esther. 2000. *Margaret Mead Made Me Gay: Personal Essays, Public Ideas*. Duke University Press. Selections from *Mother Camp*. 11-33

## **September 11** (Musser and Sanya)

## More Queer Excursions: Ethnographic Method – Erotics, Techniques, Contingencies

1. Selections from:

Browne, Kath and Catherine J. Nash. Queer Methods and Methodologies: Intersecting Queer Theories and Social Science Research." London: Ashgate.

- a. Rooke, Allison. "Queer in the Field: On Emotions, Temporality and Performativity in Ethnography."
- b. Munoz, Lorena. "Brown, Queer and Gendered" Queering the Latina/o "Streetscapes in Los Angeles."
- c. Connors Jackman, Michael. "The Trouble with Fieldwork: Queering Methodologies."
- d. Graham, Mark. "Method Matters: Ethnography and Materiality."
- e. Boellstorff, Tom. "Queer Techne: Two Theses on Methodology and Queer Studies."
- f. Gorman-Murray, Andrew et. al. "Queering Communication in Research Relationships: A conversation about Subjectivities, Methods and Ethics."
- 2. Newton, Esther. 2000. *Margaret Mead Made Me Gay: Personal Essays, Public Ideas*. Duke University Press. "My Best Informant's Dress: The Erotic Equation in Fieldwork." 243-257

#### **September 18** (Easterday and Fields)

Allen, Jafari. 2011. Venceremos? The Erotics of Black Self-Making in Cuba. Duke University Press

## September 25 (Atienza)

Kam, Lucetta. 2013. Shanghai Lalas: Female Tongzhi Communities in Urban China. Hong Kong University Press.

## October 8 (Arjona and Trajanyi)

#### ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CONFERENCE ROOM, 6-9 PM

Weiss, Margot. 2011. *Techniques of Pleasure: BDSM and the Circuits of Sexuality*. Duke University Press.

October 9 (Linear)

Ochoa, Marcia. 2014. Queen for a Day: Transformistas, Beauty Queens, and the Performance of Femininity in Venezuela. Duke University Press.

October 16 (Rose and Sauls)

Decena, Carlos Ulises. 2011. *Tacit Subjects: Belonging and Same-Sex Desire Among Dominican Immigrant Men.* Duke University Press.

October 23 (Coyle and Aristizabal)

Morgensen, Scott Lauria. 2011. Spaces Between Us: Queer Settler Colonialism and Indigenous Colonization. University of Minnesota Press.

October 30 (Groundwater)

Gaudio, Rudolf Pell. 2009. Allah Made Us: Sexual Outlaws in an Islamic African City. Wiley-Blackwell

November 6 TUTORIALS AND MEETINGS (to be scheduled with professor)

**November 13** (Leone and Prutzer)

- 1. Howe, Cymene. 2013. *Intimate Activism: The Struggle for Sexual Rights in Postrevolutionary Nicaragua*. Duke University Press.
- 2. Dave, Naisargi. 2012. *Queer Activism in India: A Story in the Anthropology of Ethics*. Duke University Press.

November 20 TUTORIALS AND MEETINGS (to be scheduled with professor)

November 25 – 28 Thanksgiving Break

## December 10 ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CONFERENCE ROOM, 6-9 PM

- 1. Manalansan, Martin IV F. 2003. *Global Divas: Filipino Gay Men in the Diaspora*. Duke University Press.
- 2. Manalansan, Martin IV F. (n.d.) "Queer Metrics: Towards an Anthropology of Small Things." (manuscript)