

History 72200 The Geopoliticization of Sex: Histories and Theories

Prof. Dagmar Herzog, Graduate Center CUNY, Fall 2018, Tuesdays 2-4, Room 5212

Aug. 28 Introduction to the class. There will be 9 weekly sessions with intensive reading; then 2 sessions for student presentations. 2 questions per text due each week by 8 am Tuesday; 1 formal conference paper with ppt images due at end; final research paper an alternate option.

1 Sep. 4 Sex? Rights? Causation?

Conceptual cluster: Sigmund Freud, "Thoughts for the Times on War and Death" (1915), pp. 1-3 only; Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents* (1930), Part V, pp. 68-74 only; Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari, "We use the term *Libido*..." *Anti-Oedipus* (1972), pp. 291-293 only; Michel Foucault, "Method" (pp. 92-96 only) and "Right of Death and Power over Life" (pp. 154-159 only), *The History of Sexuality Vol. 1* (1976); Michel Foucault, "Preface" (1977) to Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari, *Anti-Oedipus*, pp. xi-xiv; Samuel Moyn, "How Human Rights Groups Failed on Economic Equality," *New York Times*, April 23, 2018, p. A23; Zahid Chaudhary and Omnia El Shakry, "What is the Future of Psychoanalysis in the Academy?," *Psychoanalysis and History* 20/1 (2018), pp. 23-24.

Pasts and Presents: Ann Laura Stoler, "Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power" (1991), in Joan W. Scott, ed., *Feminism and History*, pp. 209-266; Teresa de Lauretis, "Death @ Work" (pp. 1-9 only) and "The Queer Space of the Drive" (pp. 58-97), in *Freud's Drive: Psychoanalysis, Literature, and Film* (2008); Paul Amar, "Introduction: The Archipelago of New Security-State Uprisings," *The Security Archipelago: Human-Security States, Sexuality Politics, and the End of Neoliberalism* (2013), pp. 1-21 only.

Also see: The Yogyakarta Principles, <https://yogyakartaprinciples.org/>.

Sep. 11 and Sep. 18 No classes – CUNY rearranged schedule. Start research on your independent projects (mix one present with two pasts and two theoretical approaches).

2 Sep. 25 Family Planning

Anna Glasier, "Sexual and Reproductive Health: A Matter of Life and Death," *Lancet* 368 (Nov. 4, 2006); Nicole Bourbonnais, "Class, Colour, and Contraception: The Politics of Birth Control in Jamaica, 1938-1968," *Social and Economic Studies* 61, no. 3 (September 2012), pp. 7-38; Ilana Löwy, "Zika and Microcephaly: Can we learn from history?" *Physis* 26/1 (2016); Alana Harris, "Introduction: The Summer of '68 – Beyond the Secularization Thesis," in Alana Harris, ed., *The Schism of '68*, pp. 1-20; SeungGyeong (Jade) Ji, "A Time to Mourn, a Time to Dance: Abortion Death Rituals in South Korea," *Religion and Gender* 7/2 (2017), pp. 204–223; Dagmar Herzog, "Moral Reasoning in the Wake of Mass Murder: The Singer-Affair and Reproductive Rights in Germany, 1980s-1990s," *Unlearning Eugenics* (2018).

3 Oct. 2 LGBTQIA

Dan Healey, "Forging Gulag Sexualities," *Russian Homophobia from Stalin to Sochi* (2017), pp. 27-50; Benjy Kahan, "Conjectures on the Sexual World-System," *GLQ* 23:3 (2017), pp. 327-357; Michael Thomas Taylor, "Magnus Hirschfeld's Institute for Sexual Science as Archive, Museum, and Exhibition," in Michael Thomas Taylor, Annette F. Timm, and Rainer Herrn, eds., *Not Straight from Germany: Sexual Publics and Sexual Citizenship since Magnus Hirschfeld* (2017), pp. 12-36; Emma Heaney, "The Condensation of Trans Femininity into the Category of Transsexual" (ms. 2018), pp. 1-10 only; Howard

Chiang, "Introduction: Toward a Genealogy of Sex," *After Eunuchs: Science, Medicine, and the Transformation of Sex in Modern China* (2018), pp. 1-14; Kadji Amin, "Transing Race and Species: Gland Transplantation and the 'White Beast'" (ms. 2018); Wannas Dupont, "Pink Perils and Post-War Blues: Homosexuality and Penal Policy in Western Europe's International Forensic Community" (ms. 2018)

4 Oct. 9 Sexual Violence and the Problem of Pleasure in Genocides and Military Conflicts

Chunghhee Sarah Soh, "Epilogue: Truth, Justice, Reconciliation," *The Comfort Women: Sexual Violence and Postcolonial Memory in Korea and Japan* (2008), pp. 227-240; Elisa von Joeden-Forgey, "The Devil in the Details: 'Life Force Atrocities' and the Assault on the Family in Times of Conflict," *Genocide Studies and Prevention* 5/1 (April 2010); Nicole Hogg and Mark Drumbl, "Women as Perpetrators: Agency and Authority in Genocidal Rwanda," in Amy Randall, ed., *Genocide and Gender in the Twentieth Century* (2015), pp. 189-211; Victoria Sanford, Sofia Duyos Álvarez-Arenas, and Kathleen Dill, "Sexual Violence as a Weapon during the Guatemalan Genocide," in Victoria Sanford et al., *Gender Violence in Peace and War: States of Complicity* (2016); Anna Hajkova et al. "Holocaust and the History of Gender and Sexuality," *German History* 36/1 (2017), pp. 78-100; Edward Westermann, "Drunk on genocide: how the Nazis celebrated murdering Jews," *Aeon*, February 16, 2018.

5 Oct. 16 12 noon to 2 just this day!!! Colonialism<->Postcolonialism

M. Jacqui Alexander, "Not Just (Any) Body Can Be a Citizen: The Politics of Law, Sexuality and Postcoloniality in Trinidad and Tobago and the Bahamas," *Feminist Review* 48 (Autumn 1994), pp. 5-23; Ann Twinam, "Introduction: Antecedents," *Public Lives, Private Secrets: Gender, Honor, Sexuality and Illegitimacy in Colonial Spanish America* (1999); Sarah Carter, "Creating, Challenging, Imposing, and Defending the Marriage 'Fortress,'" *The Importance of Being Monogamous: Marriage and Nation Building in Western Canada to 1915* (2008), pp. 1-18; Oliver Phillips, "The Perils of Sex and the Panics of Race: The Dangers of Interracial Sex in Colonial Southern Rhodesia," in Sylvia Tamale, ed., *African Sexualities: A Reader* (2011); Durba Mitra, "A Primitive Within?" *Cosmologics* (Summer 2016), <http://cosmologicsmagazine.com/durba-mitra-a-primitive-within/>; Chelsea Schields, "'This is the Soul of Aruba Speaking': The 1951 Campo Alegre Protest and Insular Identity on Aruba," *New West Indian Guide* 90/3-4 (2016), pp. 195-224; Todd Shepard, "The Far Right and the Reinvigoration of Sexual Orientalism in Post-Decolonization France," *Sex, France, and Arab Men, 1962-1979* (2017), pp. 19-41.

6 Oct. 23 Slavery's Legacies

Saidiya Hartman, "Introduction," *Scenes of Subjection: Terror, Slavery, and Self-Making in Nineteenth-Century America* (1997); Gloria Wekker, "No Tide, No Tamara/ Not Today, Not Tomorrow," *The Politics of Passion: Women's Sexual Culture in the Afro-Surinamese Diaspora* (2006), pp. 1-10 only; Marisa J. Fuentes, "Power and Historical Figuring: Rachael Pringle Polgreen's Troubled Archive," *Gender and History* 22/3 (November 2010), pp. 564-84; Françoise Vergès, "Like a Riot: The Politics of Forgetfulness, Relearning the South, and the Island of Dr. Moreau," *Documenta14* (2014), http://www.documenta14.de/en/south/25_like_a_riot_the_politics_of_forgetfulness_relearning_the_south_and_the_island_of_dr_moreau; Sarah Haley, "Introduction," *No Mercy Here: Gender, Punishment, and the Making of Jim Crow Modernity* (2016); Sowande' Mustakeem, "Introduction: Middle Passage Studies and the Birth of Slavery at Sea," *Slavery at Sea: Terror, Sex, and Sickness in the Middle Passage* (2016); Vanessa Holden, "Reading the Language of Violence in the Middle Passage," *Black Perspectives*, March 10, 2017, <https://www.aaihs.org/reading-the-language-of-violence-in-the-middle-passage/>; Kari J. Winter, review of *Slavery at Sea*, *American Historical Review* 123/1 (February 2018), 188-89.

7 Oct. 30 Saving "Others"

Susan Igras et al., "Integrating Rights-Based Approaches into Community-Based Health Projects: Experiences from the Prevention of Female Genital Cutting Project in East Africa," *Health and Human Rights* 7/2 (2004), pp. 251-271; Fuambai S. Ahmadu and Richard A. Shweder, "Disputing the myth of the sexual dysfunction of circumcised women," *Anthropology Today* 25/6 (2009), pp. 14-17; Kristen Loveland, "Germany's Circumcision Ban: Physical Integrity and Individual Dignity," *Dissent* (July 30, 2012); Luis Abolafia Anguita, "Aid Conditionality and Respect for LGBT People Rights" (2012), in *Sexuality Policy Watch*, <http://sxpolitics.org/we-recommend-134/7369>; Adrienne D. Davis, "Regulating Sex Work: Assimilationism, Erotic Exceptionalism and the Challenge of Intimate Labor," *California Law Review*, 103/5 (October 2015); Kimberly Kay Hoang, "Introduction: Dealing in Desire," *Dealing in Desire: Asian Ascendancy, Western Decline, and the Hidden Currencies of Global Sex Work* (2015), pp. 1-26; Judith Surkis, "Introduction," *Sex, Law, and Sovereignty in French Algeria 1830-1930* (2018), pp. 1-28.

8 Nov. 6 Disability/Welfare/Eugenics

Margrit Shildrick and Janet Price, "Deleuzian Connections and Queer Corporealities: Shrinking Global Disability," *Rhizomes* 11/12 (Fall 2005/Spring 2006); *Yes We Fuck!* (trailer, 2015), <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/yeswefuck>; Melinda Cooper, "All in the Family Debt: How Neoliberals and Conservatives came Together to Undo the Welfare State," *Boston Review*, May 31, 2017, <http://bostonreview.net/class-inequality/melinda-cooper-all-family-debt>; Laura Briggs, "Epilogue: The Subprime," *How All Politics Became Reproductive Politics* (2018), pp. 188-212; Ilana Löwy, "Introduction: 'To See What Is about to Be Born'" and "Conclusion: A Nonscrutinized Diagnosis," *Tangled Diagnoses: Prenatal Testing, Women, and Risk* (2018); Edith Sheffer, "The Daily Life of Death," *Asperger's Children: The Origins of Autism in Nazi Vienna* (2018), pp. 180-206.

9 Nov. 13 Religion and Secularization, Sex and Sexism

Neil Datta, "Keeping It All in the Family: Europe's Antichoice Movement," *Conscience* 34/2 (2013), pp. 22-27; Amir Hodzic and Aleksandar Stulhofer, "Embryo, Teddy-Bear Centaur and the Constitution: Mobilizations against 'Gender Ideology' and Sexual Permissiveness in Croatia," in Roman Kuhar and David Paternotte, eds., *Anti-Gender Campaigns in Europe: Mobilizing against Equality* (2017), pp. 59-77; Elżbieta Korolczuk and Agnieszka Graff, "Towards an Illiberal Future: Anti-Genderism and Anti-Globalization," *Global Dialogue* 7/4 (December 2017) [3 pp.]; Paul Preciado, Angela Jones, Jane Ward, Lauren Berlant, Jack Halberstam, *BullyBloggers* (October 2017-January 2018); Laura Kipnis, "Kick against the Pricks" (rvw of Gretchen Carlson, *Be Fierce*), *New York Review of Books* (December 21, 2017); Susan Faludi, "The Patriarchs are Falling, the Patriarchy is Stronger than Ever," *New York Times*, December 28, 2017, <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/28/opinion/sunday/patriarchy-feminism-metoo.html>; Joann Wypijewski, "What we don't talk about when we talk about #MeToo," *The Nation* (March 19-26, 2018); Anne McClintock, "A Monumental Reckoning," *Chronicle of Higher Education* (2018), <https://www.chronicle.com/interactives/the-awakening>; Joan Scott, "Sexual Emancipation," *Sex and Secularism* (2018), pp. 156-183.

Nov. 20 No class

Nov. 27 Project presentations #1-6

Dec. 4 Project presentations #7-12

Dec. 11 No class. *Final papers due Dec. 18.*

Learning Objectives:

- To acquire – *and to generate* – new insights into causal processes and dynamics in history, and into the historians’ craft more generally
- To work intensively with primary source evidence as well as with a variety of conceptual-theoretical models and tools
- To improve the ability to express ideas in ways both sophisticated and accessible, in both written and – informal and formal – verbal form

Course Abstract:

In the early twenty-first century, sexual matters saturate high politics: from the giving or withholding of billions in development aid to the preoccupations of supranational human rights treaties and juridical institutions to the reasons given for nations to intervene in wars to the shapes taken by welfare states or their dismantling to transnationally organized activism and social media-fueled social movements across the ideological spectrum. We are living through an era of “the geopoliticization of sex,” involving levels of imbrication of sex with global politics to an extent that Michel Foucault could not have imagined when he was writing in the 1970s about sex as “an especially dense transfer point for relations of power.” We confront as well the double fact that, on the one hand, sexual rights of all kinds turn out to be fragile and contested, not just at state levels and within revitalized religious traditions but also popularly (as they are the focus of apparently considerable ambivalence for many people) while, on the other, the so recently hard-won ideals of sexual rights can, it turns out, be misused for other purposes entirely. Meanwhile, we encounter new questions about what exactly “sexuality” or “sex” even is, as well as recurrent skepticism about the very concepts of “rights,” “individual autonomy,” and “self-determination.”

The legacies of multiple pasts hang over all the current struggles. This is evident whether we are considering the ravages of HIV/AIDS or Zika or family planning programs or novel reproductive technologies, the persistence of sexual aggression and harm in war and peace, the instrumentalization of either support or hostility to LGBT individuals for other political agendas, the international concern with sex trafficking at the intersection of prostitution and wider migration processes, the growing affirmative visibility of individuals with disabilities concomitantly with the onslaught of neoliberal austerity projects, or the centrality of sexualized themes in the resurgence of xenophobia and right-wing populism worldwide.

This course will combine historiography and scholarship from adjacent disciplines (from military history and the history of economics to the histories of emotions and of the modern self, and from the histories of human rights law and NGOs to the sociology and anthropology of violence, of religion, and of disease and public health) with relevant theoretical readings with the pursuit of exploratory independent projects presented either as conference talks or as research papers. The theoretical readings will include texts concerned with psychoanalytic and decolonial approaches as well as epistemology, ontology, temporality, and causation. Foucault, in short, will be supplemented not only with Freud but also with Guattari, Laplanche, Moyn, Stoler, Shepard, Scott, and deLauretis.

Together we will consider: What has changed even in the last five years in the questions we pose to the past? How can we make sense of recursive returns, deferred effects, and unexpected repercussions between different moments in time? And above all, a conceptual puzzle relevant to all historians: What should count as the pertinent backstories to which subsequent developments? We will thus spend significant time exploring the intersections of aspects of the history of sexuality with the histories of slavery, colonialism, Cold War conflicts, and past wars and genocides.