

Professor Margot Weiss

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This course explores global experiences of LGBT/Q life, bringing an explicitly transnational lens to a field too often dominated by U.S.-centered perspectives. Drawing on queer ethnography and film, we will explore the contours of queer and trans life around the globe, from the lives of gay men in Indonesia to Muslim *yan daudu* in Nigeria, gay tourism in post-Revolutionary Cuba, queer *mati* work among working-class Afro-Surinamese women, lesbian activism in India, LGBT asylum claims in Canada, the queer art of Carnival in Trinidad and Tobago, the everyday lives of *lalas* (lesbians) in China, and the transnational lives of Filipino gay men in New York. Our aim is to expand Western categories and concepts of sexuality, gender, identity, and desire (both hetero- and homo-normative), and to understand how sexual/gendered identities, cultures, and politics are shaped by colonialism, imperialism, racialization, migration, transnational media, and global capitalism.

This semester will feature a lecture/film series as part of our course, with visiting scholars Erin Durban (on postcolonial homophobia in Haiti), Martin Manalansan (on QTPOC Filipino lives), and filmmaker Harjant Gill (on gender/sexuality in India).

Course Readings

1. Gloria Wekker (2007) *The Politics of Passion: Women's Sexual Culture in the Afro- Surinamese Diaspora*. New York: Columbia University Press. ISBN: 9780231131636
2. Don Kulick (1998), *Travesti: Sex, Gender and Culture among Brazilian Transgendered Prostitutes*. University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 9780226461007
3. Elisabeth Engebretsen (2013). *Queer Women in Urban China*. New York: Routledge. ISBN: 9781138929623
4. Rudolf Gaudio (2009) *Allah Made Us: Sexual Outlaws in an Islamic African City*. New York: Wiley-Blackwell. ISBN: 9781405152525

Books are available at RJ Julia's Bookstore and are also on reserve at Olin library (some are also e-books via Olin). You are welcome to buy the books elsewhere, if you like. All articles are on Moodle and also available as a course pack through your portfolio.

Course Assignments

- Participation and attendance ----- 15% (includes lectures)
- Preparatory Notes ----- 15%
- Group Discussion Leading --- 10%
- 2 5-7 page papers -- total 30%
- Final paper, 8-10 pages – 30%

Participation

This is a reading-heavy course designed for an active learner. You will get out of it what you put in to it – your active participation and enthusiasm is crucial to its success. Come to class on time and prepared, and contribute to our discussion in a relevant, present, and respectful way. We will be

reading challenging theoretical essays that often advocate opposing viewpoints, alongside a wide range of ethnographic material. Thus, participation in this course means coming to class ready to ask questions, to think about what is at stake in these debates, and to begin to forge your own analysis. Your participation should be grounded in the reading; pointing us to relevant sections of an article or to a particular quote is most productive. When you have read the recommended reading, volunteer to share that material with your classmates.

In this class, we value “half formed” thoughts – so do not feel that you need to master the material in order to comment on it. Remember, participation means contributing to our collective learning – asking questions and expanding others’ insights is often as useful as (maybe even more useful than) making declarations.

Your participation includes attendance at the three lectures that are part of this class:

Erin Durban / Wednesday, February 20, 2019

"Plastic Animacies: Queer Reframings of Haitian Ecologies"

4:30 - 6:00 PM

Allbritton 311

Martin F. Manalansan IV / Thursday, April 4, 2019

"Enmeshment: Queer Togetherness and Caring"

4:30 - 6:00 PM

Russell House

Harjant S. Gill / Wednesday, April 24, 2019

Screening and Q&A, Mardistan (Macholand)

5:00 - 6:30 PM

Film Studies 190 (Powell Family Cinema)

If you cannot make these lectures, please speak with me.

Preparatory Notes

Before class, by 9:30am, you will email me about 1 page (~250 words) of preparatory notes. Half of you will send these on Monday mornings; half on Wednesday mornings (we will switch halfway through the semester). These notes are mainly a way for you to gather your thoughts before class, and secondarily a way for me to get a sense of what is on your mind. You might write a brief reflection, pose some questions, share a passage that really struck you, unpack a connection between the readings, or explore a connection between the readings and your own life, another class you are taking, popular media, etc. One good place to start, if you are stuck, is by asking the question, “what surprised me in these readings?” On most days, I will respond to you with a brief email before class, perhaps to encourage you to share your idea in class, follow up with me during office hours, or pursue your thinking some other way.

Group Reflection and Discussion Questions

Once during the semester, you will have the opportunity to guide our discussion of one of the ethnographies. You’ll meet outside of class in a small group of 3 or 4 students to reflect on the reading and choose several passages or moments from the book on which you would like the class to focus or that you think we should spend class time discussing (a passage can be anywhere from 1 sentence to 1 paragraph). Please also bring in questions about issues and/or the material to guide our class discussion. You’ll then have 30 minutes to lead our discussion. You will turn in your collective notes at the end of the class.

Two 5-7 Page Papers

On assigned dates, you will turn in two 5-7 double-spaced-page papers: March 1, April 5. These papers are based on course material; they should reflect your critical engagement with our course readings. Papers should be analytical essays; be sure to use specific examples backed by precisely chosen textual evidence. I will give additional guidance and prompts as the first paper due date approaches. Papers will be submitted to a Moodle dropbox.

Final 8-10 Page Paper

Your final assignment is either a research paper, a cumulative paper, or another substantive project on the aspect of Global Queer Studies of your choice. The paper should be 8-10 typed, double-spaced pages or the equivalent. You can either choose a new topic in which you are particularly interested and integrate the concepts and frameworks you have learned in the course with new perspectives you have researched on your own, or you can use the paper as an opportunity to review the course materials and make your own connections, arguments, or analysis from across the course as a whole. You will need to meet with me to discuss your ideas; a 1-page Paper Proposal, with beginning research questions, a topic, and at least 3 sources, is also required. Final papers are due May 15 by 5pm.

On moodle, you'll find a list of recommended ethnographies for further reading. Any of these are appropriate topics for a final paper. Authors in the syllabus with a ** next to their name have full-length ethnographies that you can read.

Extra credit

For extra credit, you can write a brief (1-2 page) review of any relevant queer studies event, including the course talks. The review is due within a week of the event, in hard copy.

Course Policies

1. Policy on Absences: You may miss 2 classes without explanation or penalty: think of these as a sick (or health) day, and take them when you see fit. There is no need to email me unless you are dealing with something more serious, in which case we should have a more detailed conversation that will include your Class Dean. If you miss more than 4 classes, I may ask you to withdraw. Missing more than 5 classes is grounds to fail the course.

2. Policy on extensions and late papers: I do not grant extensions. You cannot turn in Notes late. For the Short Papers: I will accept late papers with a grade penalty of 3 points (1/3 a letter grade) each day. You cannot turn in the Final Paper late, as it is due during your scheduled final. If you have valid reasons for needing more time, you will need to request an Incomplete for the course.

3. Policy on computers/cell phones in the classroom:

4. Office Hours: I have office hours on Mondays and Wednesdays; schedule an appointment using my online calendar: <http://calendly.com/margot-weiss>. Please come and talk to me about course material, dynamics, or any concerns or ideas you might have. My office is located in the Center for the Americas, 255 High Street, on the second floor (room 201). If you need to phone, my office number is 685-5754. If you cannot make any of my available times, email me and we will work out an alternative time to meet.

Writing Resources

Working on your writing? Don't go it alone! Instead, make a *free* one-on-one appointment with peer writing tutors at the Writing Workshop. Trained to help Wesleyan writers at any stage of the writing process, writing tutors are available, by appointment, Sunday from 2-11 and M-Th from 7-11 in locations across campus. Make an appointment by going to Wesportal→ Academics-->Writing Workshop Account. You'll be asked to make an account before being brought to our online scheduler.

Want semester long support?

Apply for a writing mentor who will work with you for an hour every week. Focus on specific writing tasks like organization and time management with the help of a trained peer! Learn more at <https://www.wesleyan.edu/writing/writingworkshop/resourcesforstudents/index.html> or email the Ford Fellow, Dache Rogers at writingworks@wesleyan.edu

Disability Resources

Wesleyan University is committed to ensuring that all qualified students with disabilities are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in, and benefit from, its programs and services. To receive accommodations, a student must have a disability as defined by the ADA. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible. If you have a disability, or think that you might have a disability, please contact [Accessibility Services](#) in order to arrange an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations. Accessibility Services is located in North College, rooms 021/022, or can be reached by email (accessibility@wesleyan.edu) or phone (860-685-5581).

Honor Code

All work must be done in compliance with the Honor Code. If you need help with proper citations or you have questions on how to avoid plagiarism, let me know or contact the **Writing Workshop**: <http://www.wesleyan.edu/writing/workshop/>

Time Commitment

While the exact time commitment for the class will vary individually and over the course of the semester, I recommend that you budget approximately three out-of-class hours for every class hour to complete the reading, assignments, homework, and project. I have designed the class so that it should be feasible to satisfactorily complete the requirements with approximately twelve hours per week of time commitment. If you are spending more time than this on a regular basis I would encourage you to check in with me.

Course Schedule

Introduction: Globalizing Queer Studies + Queering Anthropology

Monday, January 28: Introduction

“What is Queer Anthropology?”

Wednesday, January 30: De-Americanizing Queer Studies

- Inderpal Grewal & Caren Kaplan, 2001. “Global Identities: Theorizing Transnational Studies of Sexuality” *GLQ*

- Maya Mikdash & Jasbir K. Puar, 2016. “Queer Theory and Permanent War” *GLQ*

- Tom Boellstorff, 2006. “Queer Theory Under Ethnography's Sign” *GLQ*

REC: David Eng, Jack Halberstam & Jose Munoz, 2005. “What’s Queer About Queer Studies Now?” *Social Text*

Monday, February 4: Queering Anthropology

- Esther Newton, 1993. “My Best Informant's Dress: The Erotic Equation in Fieldwork” *Cultural Anthropology*

- Margot Weiss, 2016. “Always After: Desiring Queerness, Desiring Anthropology” *Cultural Anthropology*

- Calogero Giannetta, 2018. “Reorienting Participation, Distance and Positionality: Ethnographic Encounters with Gender and Sexual Minority Migrants” *Sexualities* (read for queer method)

REC: Kath Weston, 1998. “The Bubble, the Burn, and the Simmer” *Long, Slow Burn*

Paul Boyce, Elisabeth Engebretsen, Silvia Posocco, 2018. “Introduction: Anthropology’s Queer Sensibilities” *Sexualities*

Tom Boellstorff, 2007. “Queer Studies in the House of Anthropology” *Annual Review of Anthropology* (on Moodle only)

1. Decolonizing Queer Anthropology

Wednesday, February 6: Toward a Queer Black Anthropology

- Omise'eke Natasha Tinsley, 2008. “Black Atlantic, Queer Atlantic: Queer Imaginings of the Middle Passage” *GLQ*

- Lyndon K. Gill, 2012. “Situating Black, Situating Queer: Black Queer Diaspora Studies and The Art of Embodied Listening” *Transforming Anthropology*

- Jafari Sinclair Allen**, 2016. “One View from a Deterritorialized Realm: How Black/Queer Renarrativizes Anthropological Analysis” *Cultural Anthropology*

REC: Shaka Mcglotten, 2012. “Ordinary Intersections: Speculations On Difference, Justice, And Utopia in Black Queer Life” *Transforming Anthropology* (on Moodle only)

Scott L. Morgensen**, 2016. “Encountering Indeterminacy: Colonial Contexts and Queer Imagining” *Cultural Anthropology* (on Moodle only)

Monday, February 11: *The Politics of Passion*

- Gloria Wekker, 2006. *The Politics of Passion: Women's Sexual Culture in the Afro- Surinamese Diaspora* (begin, through Ch. 3)

REC: Andrea Stevenson Allen, 2018. “Brides’ Without Husbands: Lesbians in The Afro-Brazilian Religion Candomble” *Sexualities* (on Moodle only)

Wednesday, February 13: *The Politics of Passion*

- Gloria Wekker, 2006. *The Politics of Passion: Women's Sexual Culture in the Afro- Surinamese Diaspora* (finish)

Group Discussion 1

Monday, February 18: Erotic Islands: Queer Calypso

- Lyndon K. Gill**, 2018. excerpt from *Erotic Islands: Art and Activism in the Queer Caribbean*
Group Discussion 2

Wednesday, February 20: Erin Durban visit

readings – TBD

Lecture: 4:30pm in Allbritton 311, “Plastic Animacies: Queer Reframings of Haitian Ecologies”**2. The Categories Themselves****Monday, February 25: “Ritualized homosexuality” in Melanesia**

- Gil Herdt, 1984. “Semen Transactions in Sambia Culture” *Ritualized Homosexuality in Melanesia*
- Deborah Elliston, 1995. “Erotic Anthropology: ‘Ritualized Homosexuality’ in Melanesia and Beyond” *American Ethnologist*
- Ellen Lewin, 2016. “Who’s Queer? What’s Queer? Queer Anthropology through the Lens of Ethnography” *Cultural Anthropology*

Wednesday, February 27: *Travesti*

- Begin Don Kulick, 1998. *Travesti* (Intro - Chapter 3)

Group Discussion 3

Friday, March 1: Short Paper 1 due**Monday, March 4: *Travesti***

- Finish Don Kulick, 1998. *Travesti*

REC: Judith Butler, 1988. “Performative Acts and Gender Constitution” *Theatre Journal* (on Moodle only)

Group Discussion 4

Wednesday, March 6: Queering Categories

- David Valentine**, 2007. “‘I know what I am’: Gender, Sexuality, and Identity” *Imagining Transgender*
- C. Jacob Hale, 1997. “Leatherdyke Boys & Their Daddies: How to Have Sex without Women or Men” *Social Text*
- Rosalind C. Morris, 1994. “Three Sexes and Four Sexualities: Redressing the Discourses on Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary Thailand” *positions* (skim to get a sense)

REC: Michel Foucault, 1977. “The Repressive Hypothesis” *History of Sexuality* (on Moodle only)**SPRING BREAK SPRING BREAK SPRING BREAK SPRING BREAK SPRING BREAK****3. Tradition and Modernity, Remixed****Monday, March 25: African Homophobia?**

- Dagmawi Woubshet, 2010. “New World Alphabet” *Transition*
- Kendall, 1999. “Women in Lesotho and the (Western) Construction of Homophobia” *Female Desires*
- Ashley Currier** and Thérèse Migraine-George, 2016. “Queer Studies / African Studies: An (Im)possible Transaction?” *GLQ*
- Tavia Nyong'o, 2012. “Queer Africa and the Fantasy of Virtual Participation” *WSQ: Women's Studies Quarterly* (skim)

Wednesday, March 27: Allah Made Us

- Rudolf Gaudio (2009) *Allah Made Us: Sexual Outlaws in an Islamic African City* (begin)
Group Discussion 5

Monday, April 1: Allah Made Us

- Rudolf Gaudio (2009) *Allah Made Us: Sexual Outlaws in an Islamic African City* (finish)
Group Discussion 6

Wednesday, April 3: Martin Manalansan

readings – TBD

- Martin F Manalansan IV, 2018. "Messing up sex: The promises and possibilities of queer of color critique" *Sexualities*
- Martin F Manalansan IV**, 2003. excerpts from *Global Divas: Filipino Gay Men in the Diaspora*
- REC: Amber Hollibaugh and Margot Weiss, 2015. "Queer Precarity and the Myth of Gay Affluence" *New Labor Forum* (on Moodle only)

Lecture: Thursday, April 4, 2019, "Enmeshment: Queer Togetherness and Caring"
4:30pm in Russell House

Friday, April 5: Short Paper 2 due**Monday, April 8: Local Lives, Global Desires: Queer Emergences**

- Tom Boellstorff**, 2003 "Dubbing Culture: Indonesian 'Gay' and 'Lesbi' Subjectivities and Ethnography in an Already Globalized World" *American Ethnologist*
- Naisargi N. Dave**, 2011. "Indian and Lesbian and What Came Next" *American Ethnologist*
- Robert Lorway**, 2008. "Defiant Desire in Namibia" *American Ethnologist*

Wednesday, April 10: Troubling Culture/Tradition vs. Globalization/Modernity

- Evan Towle and Lynn M. Morgan, 2002. "Romancing the Transgender Native: Rethinking the Use of the 'Third Gender' Concept" *GLQ*
- Bobby Benedicto**, 2008. "The Haunting of Gay Manila: Global Space-Time and the Specter of *Kabaklaan*" *GLQ*
- Evelyn Blackwood**, 2008. "Transnational Discourses and Circuits of Queer Knowledge in Indonesia" *GLQ*

4. Circuits of Queer Mobility**Monday, April 15: Global Gays?**

- Dennis Altman, 1997. "Global Gaze/Global Gays" *GLQ*
- Martin Manalansan. 1995. "In the Shadows of Stonewall: Examining Gay Transnational Politics and the Diasporic Dilemma" *GLQ*
- Lisa Rofel**. 1990. "Qualities of Desire: Imagining Gay Identities in China" *GLQ*
- REC: Paola Bacchetta, 2002. "Rescaling Transnational 'Queerdom': Lesbian and 'Lesbian' Identity-Positionalities in Delhi in the 1980s" *Antipode*

Wednesday, April 17: Queer Women in Urban China

- Elisabeth Engebretsen, 2013. *Queer Women in Urban China*
- Rec: Kath Weston, 1995. "Get Thee to a Big City" *GLQ* (on Moodle only)
- Group Discussion 7

Friday, April 19: Final Paper Proposal Due**Monday, April 22: Queer Women in Urban China**

- Elisabeth Engebretsen, 2013. *Queer Women in Urban China*

REC: Lauren Berlant and Michael Warner, 1998. "Sex in Public" *Critical Inquiry* (on moodle only)

Lisa Duggan, 2001. "The New Homonormativity" *Materializing Democracy* (on moodle only)

Group Discussion 8

Wednesday, April 24 – Harjant Gill

REC: Rohit K Dasgupta and Debanuj Dasgupta, 2018. "Intimate Subjects and Virtual Spaces: Rethinking Sexuality as a Category for Intimate Ethnographies" *Sexualities* (on Moodle only)

Screening and Q&A, Mardistan (Macholand), 5:00 in Film Studies 190 (Powell Family Cinema)**Monday, April 29: Circuits of Queer Mobility: Tourism**

- Jasbir Puar, 2002. "Circuits of Queer Mobility: Tourism, Travel, and Globalization" *GLQ*

- M. Jacqui Alexander, 2005. "Imperial Desire/Sexual Utopias: White Gay Capital and Transnational Tourism" *Pedagogies of Crossing*

- Gregory Mitchell**, 2011. "TurboConsumersTM in paradise: Tourism, civil rights, and Brazil's gay sex industry" *American Ethnologist*

REC: Noelle Stout**, 2015. "When a Yuma Meets Mama: Commodified Kin and the Affective Economies of Queer Tourism in Cuba" *Anthropological Quarterly* (on Moodle only)

Wednesday, May 1: Circuits of Queer Mobility: Migration

- David A.B. Murray**, 2014. "Real Queer: 'Authentic' LGBT Refugee Claimants and Homonationalism in the Canadian Refugee System" *Anthropologica*

- Francisca Yuenki Lai, 2018. "Sexuality at Imagined Home: Same-Sex Desires among Indonesian Migrant Domestic Workers in Hong Kong" *Sexualities*

- Jasbir K. Puar, 2007. "Introduction" to *Terrorist Assemblages*

Conclusions**Monday, May 6: Challenging the Gay International / Rethinking Global Queer Studies**

- Joseph Massad, 2007. "Re-Orienting Gay Desire: The Gay International and the Arab World" *Desiring Arabs*

- Jin Haritaworn, Tamsila Tauqir and Esra Erdem, 2008. "Gay Imperialism: Gender and Sexuality Discourse in the 'War on Terror'" *Out of place: Silences in queerness/raciality*

- Sara Ahmed, 2011. "Problematic Proximities: Or Why Critiques of Gay Imperialism Matter" *Feminist Legal Studies*

Wednesday, May 8: Wrap up

last class wrap up!

Final papers are due 5/15 by 5pm (moodle dropbox)