

Sociology of Gender and Sexuality
920:572:01 Wednesday 12-3
Professor Arlene Stein —arlenes@sociology.rutgers.edu
Office hours: W3-4 and by appointment — 045 Davison Hall

Gender encompasses bodies, subjectivities, social roles, kinship structures, sexualities, and more. The literature on gender and sexuality is now huge and interdisciplinary in scope; this course is by no means a comprehensive survey of it. We will focus on how sociologists have studied gender and sexuality, attuned to developments in other fields. Theoretically, we will mine the traditions of symbolic interactionism, psychoanalytic theory, feminism, and queer theory, looking at different approaches and what we can take from them. In the first part of the course, we will gain an understanding of the genealogy of the sex/gender distinction and consider different dimensions of gender and sexuality: selves, practices, states and markets. In the second part, we'll look at contemporary rethinking of sex, gender, and sexuality, focusing on such questions as: Is there a feminist sexuality? Is queer the opposite of normal? What does transgender tell us about gender/sexuality and race, and finally: why is the right mobilizing against the very idea of gender today? The course will be discussion oriented, and will hopefully include several guest speakers. Students will write a shorter essay on the course materials and a longer paper on a topic of their choice.

Learning Goals:

1. To acquire a broad understanding of different theoretical and empirical approaches to understanding sex, gender and sexuality.
2. To critically analyze conceptual and empirical underpinnings of research on sex, gender, and sexuality, and identify emerging debates and literatures.
3. To gain experience in writing an analytical paper and/or crafting an original research project.

Course requirements:

Class participation. You are expected to do all of the readings and come to class ready to discuss, ask questions, and engage the material in relevant and constructive ways. The success of the class depends upon the active participation of all students. Please be involved in class discussion *every week*. Be sure to read the memo distributed by the discussion leader sufficiently *before* class so that you are prepared to talk about the issues and questions posed in the memo. You should also have read and considered all of the assigned works so that you can raise your own questions and points for discussion.

Presentation/seminar leader. Read, meet with Arlene, prepare presentation and organize discussion for the day. Assignments will be decided during the first week. To promote productive discussion, the week's facilitator is required to write a brief analytic overview of the reading (2 – 3 double-spaced pages) that you will post on Sakai by 6pm on the Saturday prior to our session. ***You should upload your memo on Canvas and have e-mail notification sent to the class. Please be sure to put the Week and***

topic in the title of the document. These overviews should highlight the core themes and arguments, salient questions, and points of contention in the materials. This will help focus discussion on key points of argument and/or findings, assumptions of the work, strengths and weaknesses.

Post Two Thoughtful Questions Weekly on Canvas by 8pm the night before class. You don't have to post the day you are presenting.

Write an analytical essay on readings on the first half of the course (5-10 pages), Due March 8.

Write a 15-20 page paper on a topic of your choice (which must be approved by Arlene in advance) and present a brief summary of it during the final week of the course. (50%) Each student will choose a topic that **must be approved by me by the 3rd week of the semester**. You may choose from the following three types of papers: a critical review and evaluation of the literature; a research proposal; or a paper that includes empirical analysis. Each student will make a 15 minute presentation of his or her paper to the class. Due May 9.

Required Books

Hoang, Kimberly, 2015, *Dealing in Desire: Asian Ascendancy, Western Decline, and the Hidden Currencies of Global Sex Work*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
<https://www-jstor-org.proxy.libraries.rutgers.edu/stable/10.1525/j.ctt13x1hcz>

Tobias, Sarah and Stein, Arlene, 2021. *The Perils of Populism*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

Recommended, especially if you don't have a background in gender studies: Raewyn Connell, *Gender: Short Introductions, 4th edition, Polity Press*.

All other readings are available where specified online, or on Canvas

Academic Misconduct: I encourage all students to familiarize themselves with the Rutgers University policies and procedures on academic honesty, available at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers>. All violations of academic integrity, for example, copying or plagiarizing others' work for your written assignments, will be referred to the appropriate authorities and sanctioned accordingly.

Students With Disabilities: In accordance with University policy, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please contact me at the beginning of the semester. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Week Office of Student Disability Services and must provide verification of their eligibility for such accommodations.

Diversity Statement: The Rutgers Sociology Department strives to create an environment that supports and affirms diversity in all manifestations, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, social class, disability status, region/country of origin, and political orientation. We also celebrate diversity of theoretical and methodological perspectives among our faculty and students and seek to create an atmosphere of respect and mutual dialogue. We have zero tolerance for violations of these principles and have instituted clear and respectful procedures for responding to such grievances.

I. Theorizing Gender

Jan. 18. Introduction: Introduction and Overview

Connell, Raewyn, 2020. "The Question of Gender," in *Gender* (4th ed.)
<https://www.google.com/books/edition/Gender/Xt4IEAAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=Polity+Press+Fourth+Edition+Connell&printsec=frontcover>

Rosenberg, Karen and Judith A. Howard, 2008. "Finding Feminist Sociology: A Review Essay," *SIGNS*.

Butler, Judith, "Why is the Idea of Gender Provoking Backlash the World Over?" *The Guardian*, Oct. 23, 2021.

January 25. Genealogies of Sex and Gender

Freud, Sigmund, 1925. "Some Psychological Consequences of the Anatomical Distinction Between the Sexes," *SE 19*, p. 243-258 (or other edition).

De Beauvoir, Simone, 1949. *The Second Sex*, 33-86.

Money, John and Patricia Tucker, 1975. *Sexual Signatures*, excerpt.

Oakley, Ann, (2016 [1972]), "Sex and Gender," 1-20, *The Ann Oakley Reader*.

[optional: January 27. Book launch, Tobias and Stein, *Perils of Populism*, Zoom, details TBA.]

Feb.1. Gender Identities and Subjectivities

Chodorow, Nancy, 1974. "Family Structure and Feminine Personality," in Rosaldo and Lamphere, *Woman, Culture and Society*.

Benjamin, Jessica, 1988. "Intersubjectivity," in *The Bonds of Love*

Collins, Patricia Hill, 1990. "The Power of Self-Definition," in *Black Feminist Thought*.

O'Brien, Jodi, 1999. "Writing in the Body: Gender (Re)production in Online Interaction," *Communities in Cyberspace*.

Feb. 8. "Doing" Gender

West, Candace and Don Zimmerman, 1987. "Doing Gender," *Gender & Society*.

Connell, Raewyn, 1995. Ch. 3, "The Social Organization of Masculinity," in *Masculinities*.
<https://www-taylorfrancis-com.proxy.libraries.rutgers.edu/books/mono/10.4324/9781003116479/masculinities-rw-connell>

Martin, Karin, 1998. "Becoming a Gendered Body," *American Sociological Review*

Gerson, Judith, 2012. "Family Matters: German Jewish Masculinities Among Nazi Era Refugees," in *Jewish Masculinities*, ed. Baader, Gillerman, Lerner

Stein, Arlene, 2018. ch. 6, *Unbound: Transgender Men and the Remaking of Identity*.

Feb. 15. Gendered States and Markets

Yuval-Davis, Nira. 1996. "Women and the Biological Reproduction of the Nation," *Women's Studies International Forum*.

Nagel, Joane, 1998. Masculinity and Nationalism: Gender and Sexuality in the Making of Nations," *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.

Canaday, Margot. 2011. Introduction, *The Straight State: Sexuality and Citizenship in 20th Century America*. Princeton University Press.

McMillan, Tressie Cottom, 2019. "In the Name of Beauty," in *Thick*.

Hoang, Kimberly. *Dealing in Desire* (pages TBA)

Feb. 22. States, Markets, Sex Work

Hoang, Kimberly. *Dealing in Desire* (pages TBA)

March 1. Rethinking the Sex/Gender Distinction

Laqueur, Tom. 1992, "Language and the Flesh," in *Making Sex: Body and Gender from the Greeks to Freud*.

Magubane, Zine, 2014. "Spectacles and Scholarship, Caster Semenya, Intersex Studies, and the Problem of Race in Feminist Theory," in *SIGNS*.

Patil, Vrushali, 2018. "Heterosexual Matrix as Imperial Effect," *Sociological Theory*.

Risman, Barbara, 1998. "Gender as Structure," from *Gender Vertigo*.

March 8. First paper due. No reading. Come ready to pose questions, offer summary statements, reflect upon the readings we've discussed, and begin to discuss your proposed research.

SPRING BREAK

PART II: DEBATES AND QUESTIONS

March 22. Is There a Feminist Sexuality?

Mackinnon, Catherine, 1989. "Sexuality," in *Toward a Feminist Theory of the State*

Lorde, Audre, 1978. "The Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power," in *Sister Outsider*.

Rubin, Gayle, 1993. "Thinking Sex," in *The Lesbian/Gay Studies Reader*, ed. Abelove et al.

Patricia Zavella, 1997, "Playing with Fire: The Gendered Construction of Chicana/Mexicana Sexuality."

Stein, Arlene, 1997. "Sisters and Queers: The Decentering of Lesbian Feminism," *Socialist Review*.

March 29. Is Queer the Opposite of Normal? [class starts at 12:30 today, after Soc. Dept. colloquium]

Butler, Judith, 1993. "Critically Queer," in *Bodies That Matter: On the Discursive Limits of 'Sex.'*

Berlant, Lauren, and Warner, Michael, 1998, "Sex in Public," *Critical Inquiry*.

Ward, Jane. 2020. "Let's Call it What it is: The Tragedy of Heterosexuality," in *The Tragedy of Heterosexuality*

https://books.google.com/books?id=NL5HEAAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false

Moussawi, Ghassan, and S. Vidal-Ortiz, 2020. A Queer Sociology: On Power, Race, and Decentering Whiteness, *Sociological Forum*.

**March 29. Janice Irvine-- Sociology Department colloquium.

April 5. What does Transgender Tell Us (about Sex, Gender, Sexuality, and Race)?

Rubin, Henry, 2003, *Self-Made Men: Identity and Embodiment Among Transsexual Men*, excerpt.

<https://muse-jhu-edu.proxy.libraries.rutgers.edu/book/2829>

Meadow, Tey, 2011, "Deep Down Where the Music Plays: How Parents Account for Child Gender Variance," *Sexualities*.

Corbett, Ken, 2009. "Boyhood Femininity," in *Boyhoods*.

Recommended: Schilt, Kristen and Danya Lagos, 2017, "The Development of Transgender Studies in Sociology," *Annual Review of Sociology*.

April 12. Transgender--continued

Brubaker, Rogers, 2016. "Categories in Flux," in *Trans*.

<https://www-jstor-org.proxy.libraries.rutgers.edu/stable/j.ctt1wf4ckd>

Fausto-Sterling, Anne, 2002. "The Five Sexes: Why Male and Female are Not Enough," in Williams, C. and Stein, A., *Sexuality and Gender*. Blackwell.

Stock, Kathleen. 2021. "The New Network for Gender-Critical Academics," *The Critic*.

<https://thecritic.co.uk/the-new-network-for-gender-critical-academics/>

Chapkis, Wendy and Hugh English, 2022, "Destabilising Cisgender," *The Routledge Companion to Gender, Sexuality, and Culture*.

Recommended: Currah, Paisley, 2022, Preface and Introduction, *Sex is as Sex Does, Governing Transgender Identity*.

April 19. Why Is the Right Mobilizing Against the Idea of Gender (and What Can We do About It)?

Stern, Alexandra Minna. 2020. "Cat Ladies, Wolves, and Lobsters: A Menagerie of Biological Essentialism," in *Proud Boys and the White Ethnostate*.

Hark, Sabine. 2021. "Dispossession: Gender and the Construction of Us/Them Dichotomies," in Tobias and Stein, *Perils of Populism*.

Basu, Amrita. 2021. "Ascetic Masculinity and Right-Wing Populism in Hindu Nationalist India," in Tobias and Stein, *Perils of Populism*.

Gill-Peterson, Jules. 2021. "The Anti-Trans Lobby's Real Agenda," Jewish Currents. <https://jewishcurrents.org/the-anti-trans-lobbys-real-agenda>

Booth, Heather, J. Josephson, and S. Nakagawa, 2021. "Organizing for Power: The Grassroots Struggle for Inclusive Democracy," in Tobias and Stein, *Perils of Populism*.

April 26. Presentations

FINAL PAPER DUE – May 9 (UPLOAD BY 5:00 PM)