GSWS 321-5: Special Topics in GSWS: Queering Borders: Exploring Sexuality in Migration, Transnationalism, and Globalization

Professor: Katherine Fobear
Email: TBA
Lecture: Wednesdays 13:30 – 17:20; WMC 2202

Course Description:
The aim of this undergraduate course is to explore the intersections of race, gender, and sexuality through queer migration, globalization, and border crossings. Throughout the course, we will investigate the concept of queering borders in which the categories of identity and subjectivity are deconstructed and reformed as individuals situate themselves in multiple locations physically, emotionally, and discursively. Students will be able to gain from this course a thorough understanding of the intersections of race, gender, and sexuality in regards to globalization, transnationalism, and migration, as well as a strong understanding of critical queer studies, critical race, and queer indigenous studies. The course is designed to draw upon multiple disciplines in order to connect diverse theories, engage students in critical discussion, and introduce students to a wide venue of both empirical and creative works on processes of queer migration, transnationalism, border crossings, and globalization.

Educational Goals:
• To be able to critically assess international legal and political norms in regards to nation, nationalism, citizenship, migration, and belonging through the intersectional lens of sexuality, gender, and race. To understand how space and borders are both racialized, gendered, and sexualized.
• To develop analytical and writing skills of university level quality. To be able to read a variety of texts (academic, creative literature, and activist writing) and engage in constructive dialogue.
• To foster critical, reflective, and creative thinking.

Course Texts and Courseware:
• Custom Courseware

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Student evaluations are based on four components: 1) Class Participation; 2) Presentation; 3) Two Critical Reflection Pieces (3-4 pages, double spaced); and 4) Final Research Paper (6-8 pages, double spaced). The course grade will be distributed as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
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<td>Critical Reflection (1)</td>
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<td>Critical Reflection (2)</td>
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<td>Final research paper</td>
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Prerequisite: 15 units
Class Readings

WEEK ONE: Queering Migration

Key questions: How does sexuality shape migration processes? How has mass migration in the past quarter century transformed queer communities, cultures, and politics? How can we “queer” the migration process?


Special Guest: Representative from Our City of Colours

WEEK TWO: Sexualizing the State and Queer Nationalism

Key questions: How has the sexualized state intersected with race, gender, and class? How has nationalism been used for queer visibility? Can one talk about a queer nationalism without silencing differences and other forms of belonging? How can other forms of collective belonging to the land and desire challenge (queer) nationalism?


WEEK THREE: Sexual Citizenship

Key questions: How is the construct of “sexual citizenship” deployed, reconfigured, or contested in specific national and cultural constructions? How is sexuality and sexual orientation considered part of citizenship? What are the benefits and limits of sexual citizenship in regards to legal rights, social recognition, and public acceptance? Is there a “transnational” sexual citizenship?


WEEK FOUR: Crossing Borders and Unsettling the Border

Key questions: How do we frame borders? How do we frame those who cross borders? What does it mean to unsettle national and geographic borders? How can we talk about borders outside the framework of state and nation?


WEEK FIVE: Global Gays and “Glocal”-queering

Key questions: How can queer studies better incorporate differences toward global engagements and coalitions around sexuality that are more respectful of different queer cultures and lives? How are understandings of sexual identity challenged through glocal-queering?


WEEK SIX: When Place Becomes Race

Key questions: How is the nation racialized? What goes into the creation of a national space? How does this effect individuals attachment to the nation? How do queer migrants negotiate racialized spaces?


Special Guest Speaker: Representative from No One is Illegal
WEEK SEVEN: Decolonizing Migration Studies

Key questions: What does it mean to take seriously not only the land one comes from, but the land and the indigenous people of the place where one arrives? How is migration shaped by settler-colonialism? What does it mean to “unsettle” migration? What does bringing an indigenous perspective to queer migration accomplish?


WEEK EIGHT: "Theories of the Flesh": Feminist-meztizaje Borderland Theory

Key questions: How does a gendered, sexed, and racialized body intersect into geographical, historical, and cultural borders? What is a “theory of the flesh”? How can the body be a site for research on immigration?

3. UNDOCUQUEER! I EXIST! http://juliosalgado83.tumblr.com/page/2

WEEK NINE: Home Belongings and “Un”Belongings

Key questions: How does subjective experience and consciousness shape spaces and the bodies that inhabit or are rejected from different spaces such as the home? How do emotions construct bodily experiences and their relations to different spaces? How does the idea of home become (re)constructed in racialized, gendered, and sexualized narrations and experiences of migrancy?


WEEK TEN: Homonationalism

Key questions: How do different constructions of race and sexuality inform notions of national belonging, patriotism, and militarism? How are borders constructed through discourse on race, identity, and sex?


WEEK ELEVEN: Patrolling the Borders: Queer Refugees & Immigrants

Key questions: How are refugee rights challenged when confronted with non-linear and non-Western sexual experiences, identities, and subjectivities? How do sexual and gender minorities resist, adapt, and re-invent identity(s) as they cross over borders?


Special Guest: Representative from Rainbow Refugee

WEEK TWELVE: Migrating Desires: Sex Tourism

Key questions: How does desire shape migration and globalization? What are the relationships between global sexual identities and local sexualities?


WEEK THIRTEEN: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS