GSWS 431-4: Local Sex On Global Screen

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Office hours: TBA
Lecture: Tuesdays 8:30 - 12:20; AQ 5118

Course Description:
This course examines the globalization of sexual cultures and the emergence of queer screen culture outside of North America and Europe. We will analyze the impact of globalization on local, diasporic, and postcolonial expressions of sexual practice and gender identity. In turn, we will also explore the various ways in which these mediatized expressions reframe our understanding of LGBTQ issues from transcultural and comparative perspectives.

Educational Goals:
Students are expected to:
- gain a comprehensive understanding of current theoretical perspectives on queer cinema, its relation to the globalization of sexual cultures and to LGBTQ identities
- acquire literacy in the aesthetics and politics of global queer cinemas through in-depth case studies of representative films
- learn research techniques and critical skills in writing film analysis
- develop creative and interdisciplinary perspectives on sexuality and screen culture
- experience collaborative work and cultivate self-reflective awareness of the collaborative process

Course Texts and Courseware:
All articles will be available through the SFU library. We will read articles on queer, transnational, diasporic, and postcolonial cinemas by authors including B. Ruby Rich, Jose Neil Garcia, Gayatri Gopinath, Özgür Yaren, Nick Rees-Roberts, Song Hwee Lim, Hamid Naficy, and others.

Films (screened in class)
- I Can’t Think Straight (Shamim Sarif, 2008, U.K.)
- Children of God (Karim Mortimer, 2010, Bahamas)
- Wild Side (Sébastien Lifshitz, 2004 France)
- The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros (Auraeus Solito, 2005, The Philippines)
- Drifting Flowers (Zero Chou, 2008, Taiwan)

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Attendance: 10%
Class Participation: 10%
Film Discussion Participation on Canvas: 10%
Film Critique (3-4 pages): 20%
Final Research Paper (8-10 pages): 30%
Collaborative Group Project + Self-Reflection (1 page): 20%

Prerequisite: 45 units including six units in GSWS or WS or GDST.