GSWS 820-5: Danger Zones and Border Crossings: Gender, Space and Spectacle in Comparative Gender and Women’s History

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Lecture: Fridays 9:30 – 13:20 Harbour Centre 2290
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Course Description:
This course will examine selected topics in North American gender and women’s history in the 19th and 20th centuries, with a close analysis of the ways in which gender intersects with identity and power located in class, race, ethnicity, region and sexualities. By examining a range of topics, from the class history of the department store to the politics of race in the civil rights movement, from the structuring of gay urban space to the impact of disco on American culture, we will examine the ways in which gendered bodies moved through time, space and place in Canada and the United States. We will supplement our historical readings with current feminist and postcolonial theory, and with work on the methods of historical inquiry.

Learning Outcomes:
By the end of this course, students will be able to discuss and think critically about the permeable and constantly shifting boundaries between public and private space, the contested constructions of race and ethnicity, the creation, maintenance and enforcement of sexual practices and identities, and the making of “civilized” subjects in the framework of Western imperialism.

Course Texts and Courseware:
- Sean Mills, *The Empire Within: Postcolonial Thought and Political Activism in Sixties Montreal*
- George Chauncey, *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940*
- Donica Belisle, *Retail Nation: Department Stores and the Making of Modern Canada*
- Christoper Dummitt, *The Manly Modern: Masculinity in Postwar Canada*
- Steven Watts, *Mr. Playboy: Hugh Hefner and the American Dream*
- Tim Hodgdon, *Manhood in the Age of Aquarius*
- Sarah Carter, *The Importance of Being Monogamous: Marriage and Nation Building in Western Canada to 1915*
- Alice Echols, *Hot Stuff: Disco and the Remaking of American Culture*

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Paper Proposal: 10%
Historiography: 30%
Seminar Presentation: 25%
Seminar Participation: 25%
Panel Presentation: 10%