WS820-5: Danger Zones and Border Crossings: Gender, Space and Spectacle in Comparative Gender and Women’s History

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Lecture: Mondays 9:30 – 14:20 - HC
Office hours: TBD

Course Description:
This course will examine selected topics in women’s and gender history, with a particular focus on the permeable and constantly shifting boundaries between public and private space, the contested constructions of race and ethnicity, and the creation, maintenance and enforcement of sexual practices and identities. We will look at how ideals of femininity and masculinity have changed over time and place; the making of “civilized” bodies in the framework of Western imperialism, and the interaction of structure and agency within various national and colonial projects. We will supplement our historical readings with current feminist and postcolonial theory, and with work on methods of historical inquiry.

This course seeks to help graduate students to:
- identify the key theoretical approaches and debates in feminist history
- place a range of gendered experiences within diverse national contexts
- read historical work within an understanding of how historians approach primary research
- engage in constructive critique with other graduate students

This course is comparative in perspective and thematic in structure, and will introduce you to current historical literature. Those of you who arrive without a historical background are encouraged to read outside of the course when necessary. I can recommend several good, basic textbooks that might be useful for you.

Course Texts and Courseware:
Tara McPherson, *Reconstructing Dixie*
Cecilia Morgan, *A Happy Holiday*
Inderpal Grewal, *Home and Harem*
Angus McLaren, *Trials of Masculinity*
George Chauncey, *Gay New York*
Christopher Dummitt, *The Manly Modern*
Adele Perry, *On the Edge of Empire*
Kirsten McKenzie, *Scandal in the Colonies*
Clifton Crais and Pamela Scully, *Sara Baartman and the Hottentot Venus*
Ann Laura Stoler, *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power*

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

The Department of Women’s Studies encourages clarity of thought and expression and good writing. Students will be evaluated on these skills in all courses given by the Department. In addition, the Department will follow policy T10.02 with respect to “Intellectual Honesty,” and “Academic Discipline” (WWW.SFU.CA/POLICIES/TEACHING)