History of Sexuality in Europe
Spring 2017
Location: Copenhagen
Credits: 3
Major Disciplines: Gender Studies, History, Sociology
Faculty Member: Sara Gjermandsen, sgj@dis.dk
Program Director: Iben De Neergaard, V10. idn@dis.dk
Assistant Program Director: Sara Gjermandsen, sgj@dis.dk
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Mondays and Thursdays, 13.15-14.35
Location: V10 A32

“I dream of the day when every newborn child is welcome, when men and women are equal, and when sexuality is an expression of intimacy, joy and tenderness.”

-Elise Ottesen-Jensen, Cofounder of the Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (1933)

Course description: The past “century of sex” in Europe has taken us from prudish morals to assumed sexual liberation in the 1960s, recognition of same sex partnerships, internet dating and heated debates about sexual norms and rights in a multicultural Europe. While sexuality is often considered a private matter, state regulations, church teachings, mass media, and popular culture regulate and shape our sexuality in various ways. Looking at topics like prostitution, reproductive rights, and sexual liberation, we will learn how sexual norms and behaviours are intimately woven into twentieth century European history, and explore how our own sexualities are shaped by history.

Today, sexual behaviors and attitudes structure public discussions ranging from sex education to parental leave to citizenship examinations. Historically, sexual politics played a prominent role as well. How were racial policies during European imperialism shaped by inter-ethnic sexual relations in the colonies? What type of sexual utopia did Hitler promise in his appeal to German men and women? The lens of sexuality is a powerful tool for rethinking conventional histories, as well as finding new applications for the theories of Freud, Foucault, Butler and Nussbaum. We will examine questions like: Is sex political? Are fantasies innate?

Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian case studies will be central to understanding European changes in sexual behaviors, values, discussions and laws. Scandinavian countries were on the forefront of European discussions of sexuality during the “first” sexual revolution of the 1920s/30s, the decriminalization of homosexuality, the regulation of abortion, and the legalization of pornography.

Throughout the course, we will engage with primary material (magazines, movies, artwork, sexuality educational material) and work with analysis of various cultural products in preparation for your final projects.

Required texts:
- Additional texts will be available digitally through Canvas.
Learning objectives of the course:
Upon completing the course, you will be able to...
1. Demonstrate the various ways sexuality was central to the formation of European history in the 20th Century, and how history was central to the formation of the concept(s) of sexuality.
2. Apply theories of gender and sexuality to historical moments, geographies, and settings
3. Determine the unique position of Scandinavia in the writing of European sexual histories
4. Historicize current activist movements (e.g. for LGBT rights, reproductive rights, sexual liberation)
5. Critically reflect upon the relationship between historical context and the formation of cultural norms and concepts (related to sexuality) in relation to present-day events and cultural products
6. Critically explore your own sexual norms and behaviors and understand how they are shaped by history

Course Faculty: Sara Gjermandsen has an M.A. in English and Gender Studies and a B.A. in English and Minority Studies (University of Copenhagen 2014 and 2010). She has worked as a research Assistant at the Co-ordination for Gender Research at The University of Copenhagen, as an editorial assistant at the research journal ‘Women, Gender & Research’ and as board member at The Danish Women’s Society. With DIS since 2015. Currently the Assistant Program Director of the Gender & Sexuality Studies program at DIS.

Approach to Teaching: 
This course relies heavily on in-class participation. Class time will be largely discussion-based, with some lecture and interactive activities. You should read all material prior to class. Some assignments will require independent fieldwork.

Late work will be deducted a third of a grade point per day it is late.

The class as a SAFE SPACE: 
Please note the class is discussion-based and it is very important that we all contribute to creating and maintaining a safe space throughout the semester. Your peers will come from a variety of backgrounds which we seek to use as an added value – be open, curious and respectful during your own and other’s learning process. Remember to challenge ideas, not people.

Expectations of the students: 
In order to pass the class, you must:
1. Read all material before the class.
2. Actively participate in discussions of your readings.
3. Be active participants in group work.

Evaluation/Grading: 
To be eligible for a passing grade in this class you must complete all of the assigned work:
20% : Group presentation – 10 minute module summaries + 2 pages.
40% : Final Paper: (3-4 pages) Analysis of a relevant cultural product.
40% : Active and engaged In-Class Participation
Field Studies and Guest lecturers:
- Editor, writer and activist Nazila Kivi will come and talk to us about the sexualization and pathologization of the bodies of immigrant women.
- "Meeting with a trans activist" where trans activist and founder of trans-political forum, Elvin Pedersen-Nielsen talks about his work and explains the state of trans rights in Denmark.
- Feminist activist Emma Holten will talk to us about revenge porn and consent.
- Gender-Bending End-of-Year Workshop: Learn the art of burlesque, drag or queering tango, and in a safe environment share the experience with your fellow gender studies students in other classes, at this end-of-semester workshop.

Disability and resource statement:
Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Academic Support (acad supp@dis.dk) to coordinate this. In order to receive accommodations, students should inform the instructor of approved DIS accommodations within the first two weeks of classes.

DIS Policies:
Attendance – You are expected to attend all DIS classes when scheduled. If you miss multiple classes the Director of Teaching and Learning, and the Director of Student Affairs will be notified and they will follow-up with you to make sure that all is well. Absences will jeopardize your grade and your standing at DIS. Allowances will be made in cases of illness, but in the case of multiple absences you will need to provide a doctor’s note.

Academic Honesty (Plagiarism) – DIS expects that students abide by the highest standards of intellectual honesty in all academic work. DIS assumes that all students do their own work and credit all work or thought taken from others. Academic dishonesty will result in a final course grade of “F” and can result in dismissal. The students’ home universities will be notified. DIS reserves the right to request that written student assignments be turned in electronic form for submission to plagiarism detection software. See the Academic Handbook for more information, or ask your instructor if you have questions.

Schedule of classes:
Schedule is subject to change if necessary with as much notice as possible. Do all readings BEFORE CLASS

Modul A: Conceiving sexuality

1. Jan 19: What Does SEX Have to Do with European HISTORY?

Readings:
A: Your syllabus

2. Jan 23: What is Sexuality?

Readings:
A: Herzog 1-5
C: That obscure subject of desire – Freud’s female homosexual revisited, 1-9


Readings:
A: Michel Foucault, *History of Sexuality*, 3-13 + Theoretical framework on Foucault
B: Understanding Foucault with hipsters.
C: Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble*: 1-22 + Theoretical Framework on Butler

**Modul B: Prostitution and sexuality norms**

4. Jan 30: Prostitution at the turn of the century

Readings:
A: Herzog 6-18

5. Feb 2: The sex trade in Scandinavia

Readings:
A: Herzog, 205-209
B: Don Kulick, “Four Hundred Thousand Swedish Perverts,” *GLQ* 11:2, 2005
C: Smaadal: “Radical feminists and the dispute about how to view prostitution”

**Core course week – No class!**

**Modul C: Sexuality during- and after Wartime**

6. Feb 13: WWI – Fascism and idealized hyper-masculinity

Readings:
A: Herzog, 45-63, 67-75
B: Raewyn Connell, Male roles, masculinities and violence - A culture of peace perspective 21-32

7. Feb 16: WWII – Nazism, sexual violence and a return to Domesticity

Readings:
A: Herzog 83-94, Herzog, 96-99, 102, 105-106
B: Nicole Loroff, *Gender and Sexuality in Nazi Germany*
C: Herzog, *Sex after Fascism* (Canvas)
Modul D: Conceiving homosexuality


Readings:
A: Martha Nussbaum, Hiding From Humanity: Disgust, Shame and the Law, 71-87 + 107-117
B: Herzog, 28-41, 77-81

Wednesday Feb. 22, 08:30-12:30: Movie time: Watch “Never Dry Tears Without Gloves” – a three episode mini-series about the aids crisis in 1980s Stockholm


Readings:
A: Compare: Herzog, 117-126 (1950s/early 1960s) and Herzog, 168-172 (late 1960s/1970s)
B: Watch “Politics of queer sexuality”:
https://www.facebook.com/novaramedia/videos/1332142660160231/
C: Watch “Ending the straight world order”: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eosTHMwVhyk

No Class – Travel break 1!

10. Mar 6: The Aids crisis in the 80s

Readings:
A: Herzog, 176-183
B: TBA

Modul E: Sexual reform and Sex education in Scandinavia

11. Mar 9: The first sexual revolution in Europe

Readings:
A: Herzog, 50-61
B: International sexual reform and sexology in Europe, 1897-1933

Readings:
A: Herzog, 133-146 + Herzog, 212-215+ 18-24

13. Mar 16: Sexual education in Scandinavia

Readings:
A: Policies for Sexuality education in Europe, 10-12, 16, 19, 24-26, 30-33
B: The case for starting sex ed. In kindergarten
C: Sex your way, Swedish Association for Sexuality Education
D: Swedish sex education has time for games and mature debate
E: Podcast – This American Life, Birds and Bees: https://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/557/birds-bees

No Class – Study break 2!

Mar 27: No class!

Modul F: Sexuality and violence


Readings:
A: Herzog, 152-161, 165-168
B: Case Closed: Rape and Human Rights in the Nordic Countries, 1-7, 8-10
C: Sielke, “Rape Crisis” or “Crisis in Sexual Identity”? The Feminist Rhetoric of Rape

15. Apr 3: The issues of revenge porn and consent - Guest Lecture with feminist activist Emma Holten

Readings:
A: http://ceciliebodker.com/consent/

16. Wednesday, Apr. 5: Seminar night: Meeting with a trans activist (18-20 pm in V23 201)

Readings:
A: Raun, Denmark a transgender paradise?
B: Serano, Detransition, desistance and disinformation

17. Apr 6: Group work and peer-review on final papers.

Readings:
A: Final paper examples – grade them yourself
C: Read and bring a full draft of your paper + read group members drafts

18. Apr. 10: Preparation for Gender Bender Workshop

Readings:
A: Closets and Disclosure
B: Watch “The pain and empowerment of choosing your own gender + Female drag queens in London:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7Gh2n9kPuA +
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJYaq_XnjaQ

No class – Travel break 3

Wednesday, Apr 19, 1-5 pm: Field study: Female Sexuality in Scandinavian Cinema: “Turn me on, God dammit!”


Modul G: Sexuality, borders and National identity

20. Apr 20: Empire and Sexuality

Readings:
A: Rikke Andreassen: “The ‘exotic’ as mass entertainment: Denmark 1878-1909”
B: Edward Said, 1-31
C: Audre Lorde, The Masters Tools


Readings: TBA

22. Apr 27: TBA

Readings:
A: Watch: Mykki Blanco, High School never ends: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cNGR4ciDmTA
23. May 1: Wrapping up – evaluation and goodbyes.

Readings:

Hand in final paper on Canvas before 10 am, Thursday, May 4.