Sex Education and Sexual Reform in Europe

Summer 2017 - Session 3
Copenhagen
4 Credits
Study Tour: Berlin

Major Disciplines: Gender Studies, Youth Studies, History and Sociology.

Faculty Member: Sara Gjermandsen, saragjermandsen@hotmail.com
Program Director: Iben De Neergaard, idn@dis.dk
Program Assistant: Jenny Han: yh@dis.dk

Class time: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Course description: This course will give you an insight to the way in which sexual reform and sex education has shaped, not only the history of sexuality in Europe but the very core of the various national identities. We will look into the different movements, campaigns, policies and public debates regarding sexuality. We will discover the ways in which sex and sexuality are conveyed in sex ed. aimed at children and youth, by reading and watching examples of sex educational material. What sexual behavior is deemed socially acceptable, or normal? We will discuss the framing of a nation’s collective sexual identity through state intervention and sexual reform and the implications for its citizens. Our theoretical approach will largely be norm critical and you will learn how to apply theoretical perspectives by Foucault, Butler, Ponzetti and others. By doing so we will critically reflect on the history of sexual categorization of human beings, as well as understand sexual norms as dynamic and closely tied to other historical movements and events. We will ask norm critical questions such as: “Is sex political?” and “are sexual practices and preferences innate?” What socializing role could and should sex education have? At the end of the course you will make group presentations in which you present your own version of “the perfect sex education”.

Required texts:
- Additional texts will be available digitally through Canvas.

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 previously worked as a research Assistant at the Coordination for Gender Research at The University of Copenhagen and as an editorial assistant at the research journal ‘Women, Gender & Research. With DIS since 2015. Currently working as the assistant program director of Gender & Sexuality.

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 and will be expected to actively participate in both all class discussions and group work.
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 at using 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.

Computers and phones are NOT allowed in class unless specifically agreed with Sara. You are therefore NOT allowed to keep your phone on the table throughout class. You are expected to take notes throughout the semester in a notebook, which you yourself are responsible of getting before the course begins. Please be aware that failure to comply with these rules will negatively affect your participation grade.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage of final grade</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation:</td>
<td>40 %</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<td>Attendance, preparation, and your active and engaged participation</td>
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<td>Final group presentation:</td>
<td>40 %</td>
<td>July 27-28</td>
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<td>The perfect Sex. ed.</td>
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<td>Berlin reflection journal, including interview exercise</td>
<td>20 %</td>
<td>July 24</td>
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Schedule of classes:
Schedule is subject to change if necessary with as much notice as possible. Do all readings BEFORE CLASS unless the readings are in (parentheses).

1: July 3: Welcome, presentations and introduction to the syllabus

Readings:
A: Your syllabus
2: July 4: **State interventions and the early history of sexual reform in Europe**

Readings:
- B: Sexual Liberalism in Sweden, Lena Lennerhed
- C: Herzog pp 45-61 + 75-82 + 117-131

3: July 5: **Intervention and reform during and after WW I and II**

Discussing and analyzing campaigns, propaganda and commercials from this period

Readings:
- A: Herzog pp. 61-75, 96-99, 102, 105-106
- B: Gender and Sexuality in Nazi Germany
- C: Sex after Fascism

4: July 6: **De- and re-criminalizing sexuality: the 1970s Sexual liberation movement and 1980s Aids crisis**

Watch and discuss clip from Danish Bedside Movie + part of the mini-series “Never Dry Tears Without Gloves”

Readings:
- A: Herzog pp. 117-126, 133-173
- B: TBA

5: July 7: **Theory medley + Visit by Normstormerne** – Experience Norm Critical Sex Education for 7th-10th graders from the student perspective.

Readings:
- A: Judith Butler and Performativity for beginners + theoretical framework
- B: Foucault: The Repressive Hypothesis in a Nutshell + theoretical framework

6: July 10: **Sex education in Europe – Comparing national models**

Readings:
- A: Ponzetti, Sexuality during adolescence 218-237
- B: Policies for Sexuality Education in the European Union
- B: Sex your way, RFSU.
- C: Wake Up and Smell the Condoms: An Analysis of Sex Education Programs in the United States, the Netherlands, Sweden, Australia, France, and Germany.
- D: “Swedish sex education has time for games and mature debate”
7: July 11: **Children and sexual education – When, where and what?**

Readings:
- A: Ponzetti, Early Childhood Sexuality education, 201-218
- B: The case for starting sex ed. In kindergarten
- C: How a German Elementary School Taught Sex Ed

9: July 12: **Youth and sexuality in Scandinavian cinema**

Readings:
- A: Stevenson, Scandinavian Blue, 3-26 + 68-71
- B: TBA

Movie time!: Turn me on, Goddammit (SV. Film) – Trailer: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eySFZRvchYM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eySFZRvchYM)

8: July 13: **Visit Sex and Society**

We will be introduced to the organization’s efforts to create greater awareness of issues concerning sexuality, pregnancy, contraceptive methods and sexually transmitted diseases, as well as their work towards ensuring that health and sex education are recognized worldwide as human rights, irrespective of age, gender, religion, marital or social status.

Readings:
- B: TBA

9: July 14: **Preparation for Study tour + Interview exercise – Interview Danes about their experiences with Sex education**

**Study tour to Berlin**

10: July 24: **Sex ed. and Islam**

We’ll get a visit from film maker Mehrnoush Parve who will show us her Iranian sex. ed. film “The Beloved
Companion” and discuss what significance it has for Europe’s Muslim population.

Readings:
TBA

11: July 25: Queer in Europe

Readings:
A: Herzog, 176-183
C: Sexuality with LGBT Young People, 249-261
D: Figures reveal a ‘shocking’ rise in homophobic hate crimes (UK)

Movie time!: Skam season 3 (SV. TV-series)

12: July 26: Workshop and group work on final project - Creating the perfect Sex ed.

13: July 27: Exam: In-class presentations of the perfect sex education.

14: July 28 Last presentations + wrapping up.