



McGill Institute  
for Gender, Sexuality,  
and Feminist Studies

Institut Genre,  
sexualité  
et féminisme

**The McGill Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies  
presents a seminar by:**

**Marc Epprecht**

Graduate Chair of Global Development Studies, Department of History

**Sexual Rights by Covert Means: Advancing the Right to Sexual  
Orientation in Africa through Public Health Narratives**

Same-sex sexuality is criminalized to various degrees in 39 countries in Africa, often with laws inherited from the colonial era. South Africa alone has enshrined the principle of non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in its constitution, and from there has moved (fitfully) to bring its laws – and national HIV/AIDS prevention education – in line with global best practices. Elsewhere, however, sexual rights activists still risk their jobs, family, and even lives to speak publicly and explicitly in favour of such rights. A strategy has consequently emerged whereby sexual rights are promoted under cover of euphemism or implicit language within sexual health campaigns ostensibly aimed at the heterosexual majority (or at-risk minorities therein such as truck-drivers or fishermen). Can such a secretive or covert strategy succeed in a project which seemingly by definition must demand an end to stigmatization inherent in the prevalent homophobic "closeting" culture?

**DATE: Tuesday, 1 February, 2011, 4:00 pm**

**PLACE: IGSF Seminar Room, 3487 Peel Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**

*Registration is encouraged:*

514-398-3911 or [info.igsf@mcgill.ca](mailto:info.igsf@mcgill.ca)



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