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

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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, 2nd floor

Registration is encouraged:
514-398-3911 or info.igsf@mcgill.ca