

POSC/ SWAGS 160

Fall 2017

## Sexualities in international relations

Monday & Wednesday, 2pm-3:20pm- Chapin 203



**Art by Eric Lanuit**

Professor Manuela Picq  
Keefe-Health Center 206  
[mpicq@amherst.edu](mailto:mpicq@amherst.edu)

Phone: x 5917

Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 4-5pm and by appointment

Sexuality is deeply entangled in international relations. Women's rights have long been entangled in shaping the world system, not only when Latin American feminists pushed for a UN Charter securing the "rights of men *and women*" but also when Balkan wars were fought on women bodies. The same is true for gay rights. As LGBT rights become human rights principles, they not only enter the rights structure of the EU and the UN but also become a barometer of political modernity. If the recognition of gay rights indicates political emancipation in Latin America, the repression of homosexuality in northern Africa has been used to defend national emancipation against western imperialism. The results of sexuality politics are often contradictory, with some countries enabling same-sex marriage but criminalizing abortion, and others cutting aid in the name of human rights. Why and how do sexualities influence world politics? This course considers sexualities in their broadest spectrum, from Simone de Beauvoir's *Second Sex* to the homo-sexualities of gay pride celebrations. We analyze how women and gay rights *take shape* in the international system, from the UN to security agendas. Further, the course explores how sexuality *shapes* the modus operandi of contemporary politics.

**Proposed grading structure:**

15% Class participation - Attendance, reading, participation in class discussions.

5%- FB postings- students must contribute weekly postings related to class on our FB page- every news link posted must be accompanied by a short comment

10%- Writing workshop assignment

10%- Public speaking workshop assignment

20% Film & Talk collaborative essay- Groups of two students will attend a public lecture and watch film to write a collaborative essay (800 words) analyzing how the two relate.

**Due by Nov 1.**

10% Surprise quiz - in-class

10% Naming sexualities- identify wording for non-heteronormative sexualities (to present in class within 2 min; email about 200 words to professor with sources).

20% Final research projects - Original research project on a topic of your choice.

Individual or collaborative projects on open format- multimedia, essay, report, art performance. Students must discuss the content, format, and evolution of their projects with the professor. **Due December 11.**

Syllabus subject to change depending on current events and collaborative dynamics.  
Students are invited to contribute suggestions for course contents and assignments

Suggested books:

Cynthia Weber. 2016. *Queer International Relations*. Oxford University Press.

Manuela Picq and Markus Thiel. 2015. *Sexualities in world politics*. New York: Routledge.

## Course Outline

### **September 6 – Syllabus overview and introductions**

### **September 11 – A history of heterosexuality**

Brandon Ambrosino. 2017. “The invention of heterosexuality” BBC ([Here](#))

Video: Sexual diversity in nature: Joan Roughgarden ([here](#))

### **September 13 – Film**

“Laerte-se” on Netflix with English sub-titles ([trailer](#))  
(alternative: “Transparent,” Series)

### **September 18- Writing workshop**

### **September 20- Public speaking workshop**

### **September 25- De-regulating same-sex: legalizing gay marriage**

Danielle Renwick. 2015. “Same sex marriage: global comparisons” *Council on Foreign Relations* ([here](#))

Fernando Seffner. 2016. “Rio 2016: the “Sexual Games”?” in *Sexuality Policy Watch, Aug 28 2016* ([here](#))

Omar Encarnación. 2016. *Out in the periphery: Latin America’s gay rights revolution*. Oxford University Press. (introduction)

### **September 27 - Over-regulating the reproductive body**

Film: “When Abortion Was Illegal: Untold Stories” ([here](#))

Guttmacher Institute. 2016. *Facts on Abortion Worldwide* ([here](#))

Sneha Barot. 2017. “When antiabortion ideology turns into foreign policy: how the global gag rule erodes health, ethics, and democracy” *Guttmacher Institute* ([here](#))

Lynn Morgan. 2015. "Reproductive rights or reproductive justice? Lessons from Argentina." *Health and Human Rights* 17(1):136-147. ([here](#))

Art- Paula Regos desacralizes abortion ([here](#))

### **October 2 – Sex and world peace**

Valerie Hudson. 2012. "What Sex Means for World Peace." *Foreign Policy*. 24 April 2012.

Maria Eriksson Baaz and Maria Stern. 2009. "Why Do Soldiers Rape? Masculinity, Violence, and Sexuality in the Armed Forces in the Congo (DRC)," *International Studies Quarterly* 53(2): 495-518.

Eileen L. Zurbriggen. 2010. "Rape, War, And The Socialization Of Masculinity: Why Our Refusal To Give Up War Ensures That Rape Cannot Be Eradicated." *Psychology of Women Quarterly* ([here](#))

Film: "Mission Rape"

### **October 4- Queer armies**

Stephen Bourne. 2017. *Fighting Proud*. (introduction) ([here](#))

Jack Moore. 2017. "The queer insurrection" ([here](#))  
Response AJE ([here](#))

Masha Gessen. 2017. Why autocrats fear LGBT rights? *New York Review of Books*. ([here](#))

### **October 7 - October 10: Mid Semester Break**

### **October 11- Native sexualities**

Mark Rifkin. 2011. *When did Indians become straight?* Oxford University Press. (introduction)

Will Roscoe. *Changing Ones*. (introduction)

Film: "Fire Song")

Assignment: Naming non-heterosexual in Native Indigenous languages

### **October 13 - Racializing the body**

Ann L. Stoler. 1989. "Making empire respectable: the politics of race and sexual morality in 20th-century colonial cultures." *American Ethnologist*, 16: 634–660. ([here](#))

Barragan. 2017. "Gendering mastery: female slaveholders in the Colombian pacific lowlands" *Slave and Abolition* ([here](#))

In Class Video: Black Pride 2017- Black Lives Matter Toronto Returns to Pride ([here](#))

### **October 16 – Compulsory monogamy**

Angela Willey. 2015. "Constituting compulsory monogamy: normative femininity at the limits of imagination," *Journal of Gender Issues* 24(6): 621-633. ([here](#))

Orna Donath. 2015. "Choosing motherhood? Agency and regret within reproduction and mothering retrospective accounts". *Women's Studies International Forum*, 53 (2015):200-209,

### **October 18 – Trans-lations**

Kimberly Tower. 2016. "Third Gender and the Third World: Tracing Social and Legal Acceptance of the Transgender Community in Developing Countries" *Concept* Vol. 39 ([here](#))

Sjoberg, Laura, and Laura Shepherd. 2012. "Trans-Bodies in/of Wars: Cis-privilege and Contemporary Security Strategies." *Feminist Review* 101: 5–23.

Short Video: Third Gender: An Entrancing Look at Mexico's Muxes ([here](#))  
Ted Talk: This Is What LGBT Life Is Like Around the World ([here](#))

### **October 23 – A genealogy of sodomy laws**

Human Rights Watch. 2008. "This Alien Legacy: The origins of sodomy laws in British colonialism" ([here](#))

### **October 25 – Colonial redux: anti-gay laws today**

Jyoti Puri. "Sexualizing the State: Sodomy, Civil Liberties and the Indian Penal Code" in *Contesting Nation* (eds) Chateerji and Chowdhurri. ([here](#))

Wahab, Amar 2016. "Homosexuality/Homophobia is un/African?": Unmapping transnational discourses in the context of Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Bill/Act' *Journal of Homosexuality* 63(5), pp. 685-718.

Film: "Call me Kuchu" ([here](#))

### **October 30 - Global homophobia**

Katarzyna Korycki & Abouzar Nasirzadeh. 2013. "Homophobia as a Tool of Statecraft: Iran and Its Queers" in *Global Homophobia: States, Movements, and the Politics of Oppression* (Chapt 8, pp. 174-195)

Mike Bosia. 2014. "Strange fruit: Homophobia, the state, and the politics of LGBT rights and capabilities" *Journal of Human Rights* 13(3):256-273 ([here](#))

### **November 1 – Hypermasculinity in world politics**

Cynthia Enloe. 2005. "Masculinity as a Foreign Policy Issue" *Foreign Policy In Focus* ([here](#))

Elizabeth Wood. 2016. "Hypermasculinity as a Scenario of Power: Vladimir Putin's Iconic Rule 1999-2008" *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 18(3): 329-350 ([here](#))

### **November 6 – Pinkwashing and homonationalism**

Jasbir Puar. 2013. "Rethinking Homonationalism". ([here](#))

Cynthia Weber. Chapter 3 "The Perverse Homosexual in international relations: the underdeveloped and undevelopable"

Video: What is Queer BDS? Pinkwashing, Intersections, Struggles, Politics (Angela Davis) ([here](#))

### **November 8 – Muslim/homo-phobias**

Momin Rahman. 2015. "Sexual Diffusions and Conceptual Confusions: Muslim Homophobias and Muslim Homosexualities in the context of modernity" in Manuela Picq and Markus Thiel (eds) *Sexualities in World Politics*, Routledge.

Cynthia Weber. 2017. "The Terrorist: the Out-of-Place and On-the-Move "Perverse" Homosexual in International Relations" *Critical Studies on Terrorism* 10(2): 240-252.

### **November 13 - Pride at the margins**

Manuela Picq. 2015. "Peripheral Prides: Amazon perspectives on LGBT politics" in Manuela Picq and Markus Thiel (eds) *Sexualities in World Politics*, Routledge.

Sinan Birdal. 2015. "Between the Universal and the particular: the politics of recognition of LGBT rights in Turkey" in Manuela Picq and Markus Thiel (eds) *Sexualities in World Politics*, Routledge.

### **November 15 – Debate**

(Thanksgiving Break)

### **November 27 – Homocapitalism**

Rahul Rao. 2015. "Global Homocapitalism", *Radical Philosophy*: 38-49 ([here](#))

Markus Thiel. 2015. "Exploring transversal and particularistic politics in the European Union's anti-discrimination policy: the role of LGBT politics" in Manuela Picq and Markus Thiel (eds) *Sexualities in World Politics*, Routledge.

Video: Gay Pride & Capitalism ([here](#))

### **November 29 – Sovereignty and sexuality**

Cynthia Weber. 2016. "The Eurovisioned Bearded Drag Queen" (Chapter 6)

#### December 4 – Queering international relations

Cai Wilkinson. 2017. “Queering in/security” *Critical Studies* ([here](#))

Melanie Richter-Montpetit. 2017. “Everything you always wanted to know about sex in IR but were afraid to ask: The queer turn in International Relations” *Millenium*.

#### December 6 – Special session at the Mead Art Museum

#### December 11 – Presentation of Final projects

Assignment: final projects

#### December 13 – Conclusions and evaluations

Jack Halberstam (2011) “The queer art of failure” (chapt 3)

Final assessment: “what has changed?”

.: December 13 last day of classes .:



Art by Derek Gores

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