HITO 165/265: Topics-LGBT History

“Queer Formations and the Global Sexual Revolution” (Winter 2015)

Tuesday, 1:00-3:50 PM

Humanities and Social Sciences 6008

Instructor: Professor Todd A. Henry (History)

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Office Hours: T/TH, 11AM-12PM, or by appointment

Course Description

Since the late 1960s, the world has changed dramatically, especially in making visible (if not legitimizing) gender variance and non-normative sexualities. This observation is the starting point for an exploratory seminar on the global history of the sexual revolution. By examining a myriad of social, cultural, and economic transformations across different culture-areas, the class will investigate this phenomenon in comparative and transnational terms. Was there a sexual revolution for the people we now call lesbian, gay, transgender, and bisexual? How can we compare changes across nation-states and along other spatial scales, such as urban versus rural or within regions (i.e., Latin America, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East)? What specific processes help explain the cross-border movement of ideas, practices, and goods as they relate to sexual revolutions? These are just some of the questions that the participants of this reading seminar will explore as we trace one important legacy of our incessantly politicized present.

Requirements/Grading

Attendance and Participation 28%

6 Reaction Papers (3 double-spaced pages) and 1 Group Presentation (6% each) 42%

Final Paper (9-10 double-spaced pages) 30%

Week 1: Introduction (Global) – Jan. 6

Screen Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton’s Cafeteria (2005; 57 minutes; US); Clips from Funeral Procession of the Roses (1969; 107 minutes; Japan)
PART I: UNITED STATES AS EPICENTER

Week 2: Historical Background (United States) – Jan. 13


Week 3: The Urbaneity of the Sexual Revolution (United States) – Jan. 20


Week 4: The Mediated Sexual Revolution (United States) – Jan. 27


PART II: REVOLUTIONS ACROSS THE COLD WAR
Week 5: Capitalist Engagements (Japan) – Feb. 3

Required Reading: Katsuhiko Suganuma, Contact Moments: The Politics of Intercultural Desire in Japanese Male-Queer Cultures (Hong Kong: University of Hong Kong Press, 2012) [chapters 2 and 3]; Jonathan D. Mackintosh, Homosexuality and Manliness in Postwar Japan (London: Routledge, 2011) [chapters 1 and 2]; and Mark McLelland, Queer Japan from the Pacific War to the Internet Age (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2005) [chapters 4 and 5]


Week 6: Communist Upheavals (Cuba) – Feb. 10


PART III: EUROPE AND ITS FORMER EMPIRE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Week 7: Inter-Continental Formations (Europe) – Feb. 17

Required Reading: Gert Hekma and Alain Giami (eds.), Sexual Revolutions (New York: Palgrave, 2014) [selections]

Additional Reading: See “Select Bibliography” in Sexual Revolutions (279-283)

Week 8: Muslim Revolutions (Middle East) – Feb. 24


PART IV: TOWARD A COMPARATIVE AND TRANSNATIONAL HISTORY
Week 9: Final Project Proposals – March 3

Week 10: Rough Drafts and Peer Review – March 10

Exam Week: Submission of Final Paper and House Party– March 17?