

History 608  
LGBT & Queer History in 20<sup>th</sup>-century U.S. Historiography

Fall 2019

Tues. and Thurs. 12:00 pm-2:20 pm

McKenzie 375

Office hours: Tuesdays 1:30-3:30 pm, **and by appointment**

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Over the last few decades, the field of queer history has become one of the most robust and rapidly expanding fields of historical inquiry. Its boundaries continue to shift and grow amidst inspiration and contestation. Historians have expanded their investigations from self-identifying gay or lesbian communities to a wide range of sexual and gender identities and behaviors that existed outside gender and sexual binaries or transgressed the norms of their time and place. The field increasingly emphasizes intersectional approaches toward race, gender, and sexuality and overlaps with queer theory. Much of this now-global field was originally ignited by investigations into modern U.S. history, which remains both overrepresented and a productive engine for scholarship.

In this graduate colloquium, we will critically engage with recent scholarship that engages with themes that have historically driven the field – community studies and political organizing – with new additions such as a transnational lens and approaches informed by critical race and queer theory. In addition, we will examine histories that remain underrepresented – particularly lesbian and trans histories – and their methodological opportunities and challenges.

I'd like us to embrace the idea of a workshop model for our class. Our discussions will be spaces to workshop ideas – to try things out, build on others' ideas, challenge ourselves and each other, and push toward growth through genuine engagement and risk-taking.

In that spirit, the assignments in this class will use writing as a process of thinking to build an intellectual community. They aim to facilitate intellectual growth, foster essential skills of collaboration, and be enjoyable as well. The two types of assignments are: a weekly reading journal and response, and a historiographical essay. (See "Assignments" document.)

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**UO has resources for you:**

Please talk to me if you'd like additional support for graduate writing and for reading strategies.

*The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center in 155 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or [uoaec@uoregon.edu](mailto:uoaec@uoregon.edu)*

### **Week 1: Introductions**

- Elizabeth Reis, "Teaching Transgender History, Identity, and Politics," *Radical History Review* Issue 88, Winter 2004, pp. 166-177
- Margot Canaday, "LGBT History," *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*, Vol. 35: No. 1 (2014), pp. 11-19
- Horacio Roque Ramírez, "Homoerotic, Lesbian, and Gay Ethnic and Immigrant Histories," *Journal of American Ethnic History*, Vol. 29, No. 4 (2010), pp. 5-21
- Estelle Freedman, "'The Burning of Letters Continues': Elusive Identities and the Historical Construction of Sexuality," *Journal of Women's History*, Vol. 9, No. 4 (1998), pp. 181-200

#### **Recommended:**

John D'Emilio and Estelle Freedman, *Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America* (1988, 2012)

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### **Week 2: Oral history**

- Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy and Madeline D. Davis, *Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold: The History of a Lesbian Community* (1993) –**20<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition (2014)**

#### **Recommended:**

John Howard, *Men Like That: A Southern Queer History* (1999)

E. Patrick Johnson, *Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South – An Oral History* (2008)

E. Patrick Johnson, *Black. Queer. Southern. Women – An Oral History* (2018)

Nan Alamilla Boyd and Horacio Roque Ramírez, eds. *Bodies of Evidence: The Practice of Queer Oral History* (2012)

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### **Week 3: Regional Studies – the particular and the universal on the West Coast**

- Peter Boag, *Same-Sex Affairs: Constructing and Controlling Homosexuality in the Pacific Northwest* (2003)
- **Due:** Your *annotated bibliography* of chosen works. Include a schedule for completion (order of readings and timeline of reading and writing; be aware of time to access specific texts, etc.) Your bibliography should identify which of the course readings you plan to include as well. Of your 3-5 outside readings, at least 3 need to be books. Additional significant articles (i.e. historiographical essays, influential articles, or articles that emerged from important books) are also welcome. I'd be happy to help; please feel free to contact me with questions in advance.

**Recommended:**

- Nan Alamilla Boyd, *Wide Open Town: A History of Queer San Francisco to 1965* (2003)
- Amy Sueyoshi, *Discriminating Sex: White Leisure and the Making of the American "Oriental"* (2018)
- Lillian Faderman and Stuart Timmons, *Gay L.A.: A History of Sexual Outlaws, Power Politics, and Lipstick Lesbians* (2006)
- Documentary film: Susan Stryker and Victor Silverman, dir. "Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton's Cafeteria" (2005)
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**Week 4: Transnational urban history**

- Julio Capó Jr., *Welcome to Fairyland: Queer Miami before 1940* (2017)

**Recommended:**

- George Chauncey, *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World 1890-1940* (1994)
- Chad Heap, *Slumming: Sexual and Racial Encounters in American Nightlife 1885-1940* (2009)
- Hugh Ryan, *When Brooklyn Was Queer: A History* (2019)
- Leila Rupp, "The Persistence of Transnational Organizing: The Case of the Homophile Movement," *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 116, No. 4 (2011), pp. 1014-1039
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**Week 5: Intersectional trans history**

- C. Riley Snorton, *Black on Both Sides: A Racial History of Trans Identity* (2017)
- Lisa Duggan, "The Discipline Problem: Queer Theory Meets Lesbian and Gay History," *GLQ* Vol. 2, No. 3 (1995), pp. 179-191
- **Due:** A short review essay (5-7 pages) based on your 3-5 outside books. Come prepared to discuss your texts and analysis. Be sure to link your outside reading to the shared course material. This essay should be workshop-ready but does not need to be perfectly polished.

**Recommended:**

- Emily Skidmore, *True Sex: The Lives of Trans Men at the Turn of the Twentieth Century* (2017)
- J. Halberstam, *Female Masculinity*, 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition (1998, 2018)
- Susan Stryker, *Transgender History* (2008)
- Joanne Meyerowitz, *How Sex Changed: A History of Transsexuality in the United States* (2002)
- Siobhan B. Somerville, *Queering the Color Line: Race and the Invention of Homosexuality in American Culture* (2000)
- Mary Ryan, *Mysteries of Sex: Tracing Women and Men through American History* (2006)
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### **Week 6: *The state as actor***

- Margot Canaday, *The Straight State: Sexuality and Citizenship in Twentieth-Century America* (2009)
- Jacqueline Dirks, "The Straight State of Oregon: Notes Toward Queering the History of the Past Century," *Oregon Historical Quarterly* Vol. 113, No. 3 (2012), pp. 382-391

#### **Recommended:**

David Johnson, *The Lavender Scare: The Cold War Persecution of Gays and Lesbians in the Federal Government* (2004)

Regina Kunzel, *Criminal Intimacy: Prison and the Uneven History of Modern American Sexuality* (2008)

Sarah Haley, *No Mercy Here: Gender, Punishment, and the Making of Jim Crow Modernity* (2016) K

Kevin Mumford, "Untangling Pathology: The Moynihan Report and Homosexual Damage, 1965-1975," *Journal of Policy History* 24, No. 1 (2012), pp. 53-73.

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### **Week 7: *Home spaces***

- Steven Vider, "'Oh Hell, May, Why Don't You People Have a Cookbook?': Camp Humor and Gay Domesticity," *American Quarterly* 65, no. 4 (2013): 877-904
- Lauren Jae Gutterman, "'The House on the Borderland': Lesbian Desire, Marriage, and the Household, 1950-1979." *Journal of Social History* 46, no. 1 (2012): 1-22.
- **Due:** *Working draft* of essay (7-10 pages). Include a 1-2 page self-evaluation/reflection and questions for your readers.

#### **Recommended:**

Martin F. Manalansan, "The 'Stuff' of Archives: Mess, Migration, and Queer Lives," *Radical History Review*, 2014, pp. 94-107

Christina Hanhardt, *Safe Space: Gay Neighborhood History and the Politics of Violence* (2013)

Saidiya Hartman, *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments: Intimate Histories of Social Upheaval* (2019)

Anne Enke, *Finding the Movement: Sexuality, Contested Space, and Radical Activism* (2007)

Clayton Howard, "Building a 'Family-Friendly' Metropolis: Sexuality, the State, and Postwar Housing Policy," *Journal of Urban History* Vol. 39, No. 5, pp. 933-955

Daniel Rivers, *Radical Relations: Lesbian Mothers, Gay Fathers, and Their Children in the United States Since World War II* (2015)

Colin Johnson, *Just Queer Folks: Gender and Sexuality in Rural America* (2013)

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### **Week 8: Labor**

- Phil Tiemeyer, *Plane Queer: Labor, Sexuality, and AIDS in the History of Male Flight Attendants* (2013)
- **Due:** *Return peer reader responses* for working drafts.

#### **Recommended:**

Miriam Frank, *Out in the Union: A Labor History of Queer America* (2015)

Allan Bérubé, *My Desire for History: Essays in Gay, Community, and Labor History* (2011)

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### **Week 9: Thanksgiving holiday**

**Optional:** Email me your revised historiographic essay for in-depth feedback

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### **Week 10: Political organizing**

- Timothy Stewart-Winter, *Queer Clout: Chicago and the Rise of Gay Politics* (2017)
- Please also come prepared to talk about your main ideas and findings with the class.

#### **Recommended:**

Kevin Mumford, *Not Straight, Not White: Black Gay Men from the March on Washington to the AIDS Crisis* (2016)

Kevin Mumford, "The Trouble with Gay Rights: Race and the Politics of Sexual Orientation in Philadelphia, 1969-1982," *Journal of American History*, Vol. 98, No. 1 (2011), pp. 49-72

Jennifer Brier, *Infectious Ideas: Political Responses to the AIDS Crisis* (2009)

Marc Stein, *Rethinking the Gay and Lesbian Movement* (2012)

Emily Hobson, *Lavender and Red: Liberation and Solidarity in the Gay and Lesbian Left* (2016)

John D'Emilio, *Lost Prophet: The Life and Times of Bayard Rustin* (2003)

John D'Emilio, *Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities: The Making of a Homosexual Minority in the United States, 1940-1970* (1983, 1998)

Martin Meeker, *Contacts Desired: Gay and Lesbian Communications and Community, 1940s-1970s* (2005)

Marcia Gallo, *Different Daughters: A History of the Daughters of Bilitis and the Rise of the Lesbian Rights Movement* (2007)

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**Week 11:** Email me your *final historiographical essay (10-15 pages)*. Attach a substantive "writer's report" explaining how you considered and addressed your readers' feedback. Make sure to reflect on your self-guided revision process.