

GENDERS AND SEXUALITIES IN ASIA
MA Level Elective Class, 2 Credits (Synchronous Online)
Winter 2020

Course Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr Hannah Loney

Email: loneyh@ceu.edu

Virtual Office Hours: Mondays, 11.00am–1.00pm (email for appointment)

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description:

This online course examines how genders and sexualities are imagined, performed, reproduced, and contested across and beyond Asia. It investigates how colonialism and nation-state formation, sociocultural change, and transnational flows impact on everyday notions of gender and sexuality within, and in discourses about, Asia. Drawing upon historical and anthropological perspectives – with insights from postcolonial, feminist, and queer theories – the course considers the influence of histories, languages, religions, and popular culture on gender and sexual subjectivities in the Asian region and Asian diasporas. While the course is attentive to regional and transnational dynamics that inform the production and transformation of gender and sexual subjectivities, it seeks to locate these subjectivities within particular local contexts and social formations.

Each week, the course engages with a key topic related to genders and sexualities in Asia, such as colonialism, nationalism, kinship, the family, religion, race, class, intimacy, labour, the body, mobility, and activism. Case studies discussed within the readings span across the Asian region and Asian diasporas, with a specific focus on Southeast Asia (the instructor's area of expertise). Students are invited to draw comparisons across the region, as well as to reflect upon how these topics relate to their own knowledge and experiences.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- identify and discuss key topics related to genders and sexualities in Asia;
- reflect upon how these topics relate to their own knowledge and experiences;
- converse with a range of theoretical approaches to these topics;
- critically engage with literature concerning genders and sexualities in Asia;
- interact with colleagues in respectful, productive, and collaborative online learning environments; and

- gather evidence and formulate convincing arguments, and clearly communicate these arguments in written form.

REQUIREMENTS & EXPECTATIONS

This course will be taught **entirely online**. All materials will be made available via the course e-learning site (Moodle). Each week, students are required to complete the readings and participate in an **online class discussion** (1 hour 20 mins) via Zoom.

The online class discussion will be held on **Tuesdays from 9.00am–10.20am**. If you are concerned that you may not be able to participate in the online class in any given week – due to illness, serious unavoidable matters, religious observances, or if emergency childcare obligations arise – please contact the instructor in advance, so that alternate arrangements can be made. In these circumstances, and conditional upon the approval of the instructor, you may write a 1-page (approx. 250-word) response to the weekly discussion questions. This response must be submitted via email to the instructor within one week of the missed class.

Where appropriate, students with a disability, medical condition, or carer responsibilities should contact the instructor prior to the start of term to discuss suitable **adjustments** to their participation or assessment.

If you are auditing the course, you are welcome to attend class as often as possible, and to participate as an active member of the discussion. You are not required to submit any written assignments, and you will not receive credit for the course.

ASSESSMENT

Your final grade for this course will be based on:

- Online Class Attendance and Participation: 30%
- Reflective Journal: 30%
- Research Project: 40%

Online Class Attendance and Participation (30%)

Students are expected to regularly attend, prepare for, and participate actively in weekly online class discussions. Students may have one excused absence; beyond that, each unexcused absence will negatively affect your grade. In order to prepare for class discussions, students should: read the short introduction to the weekly topic; complete the required readings; and make some notes in response to the discussion questions posed. We will also complete a reading round at the start of each class, during which time each student will be asked to spend a few minutes reflecting upon the readings and highlighting key points or questions raised. Students will receive interim feedback on their Online Class Attendance and Participation via email in Week 6.

Online Class Attendance and Participation will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Regular attendance
- Evidence of preparation

- Active participation
- Quality of comments and reflections
- Listening skills

Reflective Journal (30%)

Students are required to write a concise reflective summary (approx. 200 words) of the topic and readings introduced each week. The aim of this task is to encourage you to engage in an ongoing process of critical reflection; to make sense of the material discussed within the course in relation to your own knowledge and experiences. In writing your reflective summary, you should consider: what was the most striking point that emerged from the readings and class discussion? How did it add to / enrich your understanding of genders and sexualities in Asia? Entries should be submitted to the “Reflective Journal” submission link on Moodle within one week of the online class discussion. Feedback will be provided, at a minimum, on a bi-weekly basis.

Reflective Journals will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Understanding of topic and readings
- Quality of analysis and critical reflection
- Use of relevant evidence and examples
- Quality of written expression

Research Project (40%)

Students are required to complete a Research Project that engages with key themes discussed within the course. For this project, you are required to develop a research question and select one case study of a practice, an event, a person, a film, a performance, an exhibition, or a novel that relates to genders and sexualities in Asia. The aim of this task is to provide you with an opportunity to research a topic of interest that relates to genders and sexualities in Asia; as well as to practice proposing, planning, and carrying out small research projects.

There are two components to this task:

1. Topic Proposal (10%) – due Thursday March 4, 11.59pm

Students are required to write a Topic Proposal (approx. one page) and submit it to the “Research Project: Topic Proposal” submission link on Moodle. The Topic Proposal should include: a title; a research question; a short description of your case study; an indication of how the case study connects with key themes discussed within the course; and an indicative bibliography (min. 6 sources). Your Topic Proposal will need to be approved by the instructor *before* you proceed further with your research; approval will be granted by Monday March 8, 11.59pm.

Topic Proposals will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Selection of relevant and original topic
- Feasibility of research plan
- Quality of indicative bibliography

2. Final Paper (30%) – due Thursday April 1, 11.59pm

Students are required to write a Final Paper on their research topic of 1,500 words (approx. 4–5 pages, 1.5 spacing). The Final Paper should be fully researched and referenced and, where appropriate, incorporate any feedback from your Topic Proposal. The Final Paper should be submitted to the “Research Project: Final Paper” submission link on Moodle.

Final Papers will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Critical engagement with the key themes
- Quality of research and analysis
- Clarity and relevance of argument
- Quality of written expression and essay structure
- Correct referencing and formatting

Note: Students must submit and pass all pieces of assessment in order to pass this course.

Writing and Submission Guidelines:

All written work must be uploaded to the relevant submission link on Moodle as a **Word document, 1.5 spaced, 12-point font, with standard 2.5cm margins and page numbers in the bottom right-hand corner.** Hard copy submission is *not* required. Applications for extensions should be submitted to the instructor in writing, attaching supporting documentation where relevant. Late assignments are subject to a 2% deduction per calendar day. Papers should be referenced in accordance with the Harvard Manual of Style.

Student papers will be returned in a timely manner (two weeks during term); final papers with grades and comments will be returned within two weeks after the deadline for final grades.

Academic Misconduct:

Academic misconduct involves acts which may subvert or compromise the integrity of the educational process at CEU. Any form of **plagiarism**, i.e., representing the ideas or words of another without proper attribution to the source of those ideas or words, whether intentional or not, is considered a serious form of academic misconduct. Students should consult the instructor or the Centre for Academic Writing if they are unclear about the difference between appropriate citation and plagiarism. **Acts of academic misconduct, including plagiarism, will result in serious consequences, such as a failing grade for the assignment or course.** Students are assumed to be fully aware of plagiarism and its consequences. For more information, please refer to CEU’s Policy on Plagiarism, CEU Code of Ethics, or the Centre for Academic Writing.

Student Evaluations:

Student feedback is welcome at any time during the course of study. Informal midterm evaluations will be conducted in Week 5, and formal online evaluations of courses and instructors are collected by CEU at the end of term. These evaluations are **anonymous**. Students are encouraged to complete these evaluations as they are

important for the continuous improvement of the course, as well as for faculty and TA assessments.

Please ensure that you regularly check your CEU email, the course Moodle site, as well as the CEU Covid-19 Advice and Updates site, for any relevant updates.

A GUIDE TO ONLINE LEARNING

Before the first class, students should access the “Getting Started” section on Moodle and complete the following tasks:

- Post a short biography on the “Introduce Yourself!” discussion forum. Please indicate your preferred name and pronoun(s), your thesis topic, and interest in the course.
- Download Zoom in preparation for online class discussions: <https://zoom.us>.
- Read carefully through the syllabus. If you have any questions, please ask!

Good Practices and Appropriate Behaviours:

There are some clear differences between online and onsite classes, but our behaviours should show a similar level of respect, inclusivity, and politeness. Racist, sexist, bullying, and discriminatory behaviour will not be tolerated. A few points to keep in mind:

- Be careful with humour and sarcasm; tone can be difficult to read on screen.
- Respect others’ points of view, even if you do not agree.
- Be aware of cultural differences, without making over-generalizations.
- Be polite; acknowledge responses to your posts or comments, and respond to others’ posts or comments.

For the online classes, try to find a setting where you will not be disturbed. If required, use a headset with headphones and a microphone. Connect with video, if possible. Mute your audio until you wish to speak; this reduces background noise. Raise your hand if you wish to speak or ask a question: do this on the video or use the “participants” tab in Zoom to raise a “virtual hand”.

Support during the COVID-19 Pandemic:

In situations that are uncertain and evolving such as the COVID-19 pandemic, it is normal to experience stress, anxiety or sadness. Please reach out to your classmates, the instructor should you require any additional support or assistance. CEU also offers a range of support services that you may find useful:

- **Student Counselling Services** offers confidential student psychological counselling services.
- Emergency financial support is available to students whose studies have been interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic via the **COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Fund**.
- The **Centre for Academic Writing** provides students with guidance and support, including courses in academic writing and individual consultations.

- The CEU Library offers online support.

For policies, regulations and procedures, please refer to the student Handbook; the Code of Ethics of the Central European University; Student Rights, Rules and Academic Regulations; Equal Opportunities Policy; the Central European University Policy on Harassment; and the Student Disability Policy.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week:	Date Starting:	Topic:
1	January 11	Introduction to Genders and Sexualities in Asia
2	January 18	Governing Race and Gender in Colonial Asia
3	January 25	Sexual Politics in Postcolonial Indonesia
4	February 1	Regulating Desire: Kinship, Marriage, and the Family
5	February 8	Gender Norms and Subjectivities
6	February 15	Sexual Subcultures and Communities
7	February 22	The Intimate Labor of Capitalist Markets
8	March 1	Technologies of Embodiment: Beauty, Sex, and Power
<i>Research Project: Topic Proposal due: Thursday March 4, 11.59pm</i>		
9	March 8	Negotiating Race and Sexuality in the Diaspora
10	March 15	Transnational Genders and Sexualities
11	March 22	Queer Activism in Global Asia
12	March 29	Reflections and Future Directions
<i>Research Project: Final Paper due: Thursday April 1, 11.59pm</i>		

Week 1: Introduction to Genders and Sexualities in Asia

- Ahmed, Sara. 2014. "White Men." *feministkilljoys*. <https://feministkilljoys.com/2014/11/04/white-men/>.
- Clare, Eli. 2017. "A Note on Reading This Book: Thinking about Trigger Warnings." In *Brilliant Imperfection: Grappling with Cure*, x–xxi. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Ang, Ien. 2001. "Introduction: Between Asia and the West." In *On Not Speaking Chinese: Living between Asia and the West*, 1–17. London: Routledge.

Week 2: Governing Race and Gender in Colonial Asia

- Stoler, Ann Laura. 1997. "Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power, in Gender, Race, and Morality in Colonial Asia." In *The Gender/Sexuality Reader: Culture, History, Political Economy*, edited by Roger N. Lancaster and Micaela di Leonardo, 51–88. New York: Routledge.
- Blackwood, Evelyn. 2005. "Gender Transgression in Colonial and Postcolonial Indonesia." *The Journal of Asian Studies* 64 (4): 849–879.

Week 3: Sexual Politics in Postcolonial Indonesia

- Suryakusuma, Julia. 1996. "The State and Sexuality in New Order Indonesia." In *Fantasizing the Feminine in Indonesia*, edited by Laurie J. Sears, 92–119. Durham and London: Duke University Press.
- Utami, Ayu. *Saman: A Novel*. 2005 [1998], 110–128. Translated by Pamela Allen. Jakarta: Equinox Publishing Indonesia.

Week 4: Regulating Desire: Kinship, Marriage, and the Family

- Earl, Catherine. 2014. "Life as Lived and Life as Talked About: Family, Love and Marriage in Twenty-First-Century Vietnam." In *Routledge Handbook of Sexuality Studies in East Asia*, edited by Mark McLelland and Vera Mackie, 230–243. London: Routledge.
- Reddy, Gayatri. 2005. "'Our People': Kinship, Marriage and the Family." In *With Respect to Sex. Negotiating Hijra Identity in South India*, 142–185. Chicago and New York: The University of Chicago Press.

Week 5: Gender Norms and Subjectivities

- Graham Davies, Sharyn. 2007. "Hunting Down Love: Female Masculinities in Bugis, South Sulawesi." In *Women's Sexualities and Masculinities in a Globalizing Asia*, edited by Saskia E. Wieringa, Evelyn Blackwood, and Abha Bhaiya, 139–157. Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan.
- Sinnott, Megan. 2007. "Gender Subjectivity: Dees and Toms in Thailand." In *Women's Sexualities and Masculinities in a Globalizing Asia*, edited by Saskia E. Wieringa, Evelyn Blackwood, and Abha Bhaiya, 119–138. Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan.

Week 6: Sexual Subcultures and Communities

- *Shinjuku Boys*. 1995. Directed by Kim Longinotto and Jano Williams (53 mins).
- Maree, Claire. 2014. "Queer Women's Culture and History in Japan." In *Routledge Handbook of Sexuality Studies in East Asia*, edited by Mark McLelland and Vera Mackie, 230–243. London: Routledge.

Week 7: The Intimate Labor of Capitalist Markets

- Parreñas, Rhacel Salazar. 2010. "Cultures of Flirtation: Sex and the Moral Boundaries of Filipina Migrant Hostesses in Tokyo." In *Intimate Labors: Cultures, Technologies, and the Politics of Care*, edited by Eileen Boris and Rhacel Salazar Parreñas, 132–147.
- Wilson, Ara. 2004. "The Economies of Intimacy in the Go-Go Bar." *The Intimate Economies of Bangkok: Tomboys, Tycoons, and Avon Ladies in the Global City*, 68–101. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Week 8: Technologies of Embodiment: Beauty, Sex, and Power

- Hoang, Kimberly Kay. 2015. "Constructing Desirable Bodies". In *Dealing in Desire: Asian Ascendancy, Western Decline, and the Hidden Currency of Global Sex Work*, 126–153. Oakland: University of California Press.

- Saraswati, L. Ayu. 2013. "Cosmopolitan Whiteness: The Effects and Affects of Skin-Whitening Advertisements in a Transnational Women's Magazine." In *Seeing Beauty, Sensing Race in Transnational Indonesia*, 83–107. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

Week 9: Negotiating Race and Sexuality in the Diaspora

- *China Dolls*. 1997. Directed by Tony Ayres. SBS (29 mins).
- Ayres, Tony. 1999. "China Doll: The Experience of Being a Gay Chinese Australian." *Journal of Homosexuality* 36 (3–4): 87–97.

Week 10: Transnational Genders and Sexualities

- Wilson, Ara. 2006. "Queering Asia." *Intersections: Gender, History and Culture in the Asian Context* 14 (November): <http://intersections.anu.edu.au/issue14/wilson.html>.
- *Ex Nilalang*. 2014. Produced by Club Ate (Justin Shoulder and Bhenji Ra). <http://phasmahammer.com/exnilalang>.
- O'Hara, Kate. 2016. "APT 8: Interview with Justin Shoulder and Bhenji Ra." *Peril: Asian-Australian Arts and Culture* 23: <https://peril.com.au/topics/apt8-interview-with-justin-shoulder-and-bhenji-ra/>.

Week 11: Queer Activism in Global Asia

- Bao, Hongwei. 2018. "Introduction" and "Imagined Cosmopolitanism: Queer Spaces in Shanghai." In *Queer Comrades: Gay Identity and Tongzhi Activism in Postsocialist China*, 1–63. Copenhagen: Nordic Institute of Asian Studies.

Week 12: Reflections and Future Directions

- Zihan, Loo. 2019. "Queer Objects: An Archive for the Future." In *Queer Asia: Decolonising and Reimagining Sexuality and Gender*, edited by J. Daniel Luther and Jennifer Ung Loh, 147–163. London: Zed Books Ltd.
- *Queer Objects: An Archive for the Future*. 2016. <http://www.loozihan.com/queer-objects-2016>.

FURTHER READING

- Aoyama, Kaoru. 2009. *Thai Migrant Sex Workers: From Modernisation to Globalisation*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Bao, Hongwei. 2020. *Queer China: Lesbian and Gay Literature and Visual Culture under Postsocialism*. Abingdon: Routledge.
- Bhaskaran, Suparna. 2004. *Made in India: Decolonization, Queer Sexualities, Trans / National Projects*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Blackburn, Susan. 2004. *Women and the State in Modern Indonesia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Blackwood, Evelyn. 2010. *Falling into the Lesbi World: Desire and Difference in Indonesia*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.
- Blackwood, Evelyn, Saskia E. Wieringa, and Abha Bhaiya. 2007. *Women's Sexualities and Masculinities in a Globalizing Asia*. Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan.
- Boellstorff, Tom. 2005. *The Gay Archipelago*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

- Boellstorff, Tom. 2007. *A Coincidence of Desires: Anthropology, Queer Studies, Indonesia*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Bose, Brinda and Subhabata Bhattacharyya, eds. 2007. *The Phobic and the Erotic: The Politics of Sexuality in Contemporary India*. London: Seagull Books.
- Chen, Kuan-Hsing and Beng Huat Chua. 2014. *The Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Reader*. New York: Routledge.
- Davies, Sharyn Graham. 2007. *Challenging Gender Norms: Five Genders among Bugis in Indonesia*. Belmont: Thomson Wadsworth.
- Davies, Sharon Graham. 2010. *Gender Diversity in Indonesia: Sexuality, Islam and Queer Selves*. London: Routledge.
- Gopinath, Gayatri. 2005. *Impossible Desires: Queer Diasporas and South Asian Public Cultures*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Gupta, Charu. 2001. *Sexuality, Obscenity, Community: Women, Muslims, and the Hindu Public in Colonial India*. Delhi: Permanent Black.
- Hinchy, Jessica. 2019. *Governing Gender and Sexuality in Colonial India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Huang, Hans Tao-Ming. 2011. *Queer Politics and Sexual Modernity in Taiwan*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
- Jackson, Peter, ed. 2011. *Queer Bangkok: 21st Century Markets, Media, and Rights*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
- Jackson, Peter and Nerida Cook. 1999. *Genders and Sexualities in Modern Thailand*. Chiang Mai: Silkworm Books.
- John, Mary E. and Janaki Nari, eds. 1998. *A Question of Silence? The Sexual Economies of Modern India*. New Delhi: Kali for Women.
- Johnson, Mark. 1997. *Beauty and Power: Transgendering and Cultural Transformation in the Southern Philippines*. Oxford: Berg.
- Lindquist, Johan. 2009. *The Anxieties of Mobility: Migration and Tourism in the Indonesian Borderlands*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.
- Mackie, Vera. *Feminism in Modern Japan: Citizenship, Embodiment and Sexuality*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- Manalansan, Martin. 2003. *Global Divas: Filipino Gay Men in the Diaspora*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Manderson, Lenore and Margaret Jolly, eds. 1997. *Sites of Desire / Economies of Pleasure: Sexualities in Asia and the Pacific*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Martin, Fran. 2004. *Situating Sexualities: Queer Representation in Taiwanese Fiction, Film, and Public Culture*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
- Martin, Fran, Peter Jackson, Mark McLelland and Audrey Yue, eds. 2008. *AsiaPacificQueer: Rethinking Genders and Sexualities*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.
- McLelland, Mark. 2005. *Queer Japan from the Pacific War to the Internet Age*. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield.
- McLelland, Mark and Romit Dasgupta, eds. 2005. *Genders, Transgenders and Sexualities in Japan*. London: Routledge.
- McLelland, Mark and Vera Mackie, eds. 2014. *Routledge Handbook of Sexuality Studies in East Asia*. London: Routledge.
- Nanda, Serena. 1999. *The Hijras of India: Neither Man nor Woman*. Belmont: Wadsworth.
- Nguyen, Hoang Tan. 2014. *A View from the Bottom: Asian American Masculinity and Sexual Representation*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Ong, Aihwa and Michael Peletz, eds. 1995. *Bewitching Women, Pious Men: Gender and Body Politics in Southeast Asia*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.
- Parreñas, Rhacel Salazar. 2011. *Illicit Flirtations: Labor, Migration, and Sex Trafficking in*

- Tokyo. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Peletz, Michael. 2007. *Gender, Sexuality, and Body Politics in Modern Asia*. Ann Arbor: Association for Asian Studies.
- Reddy, Gayatri. 2005. *With Respect to Sex. Negotiating Hijra Identity in South India*. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press.
- Robertson, Jennifer. 1998. *Takarazuka: Sexual Politics and Popular Culture in Modern Japan*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Robinson, Kathryn. 2009. *Gender, Islam and Democracy in Indonesia*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Sang, Tze-Ian D. 2003. *The Emerging Lesbian: Female Same-Sex Desire in Modern China*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Sears, Laurie, ed. 1996. *Fantasizing the Feminine*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Sinnott, Megan. 2004. *Toms and Dees: Transgender Identity and Female Same-Sex Relationships in Thailand*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.
- Stoler, Ann Laura. 2002. *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Race and the Intimate in Colonial Rule*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.
- Stoler, Ann Laura. 1995. *Race and the Education of Desire: Foucault's History of Sexuality and the Colonial Order of Things*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Srivastava, Sanjay. 2007. *Passionate Modernity: Sexuality, Consumption, and Class in India*. New Delhi: Routledge.
- Tam, Siumi Maria, Wai Ching Angela Wong and Danning Wang, eds. 2014. *Gender and Family in East Asia*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Thu-Huong, Nguyen-Vo. 2008. *The Ironies of Freedom: Sex, Culture, and Neoliberal Governance in Vietnam*. Seattle: University of Washington Press.
- Vanita, Ruth, ed. 2003. *Queering India: Same-Sex Love and Eroticism in Indian Culture and Society*. New York: Routledge.
- Wieringa, Saskia. 2003. *Sexual Politics in Indonesia*. Houndmills: Palgrave MacMillan.
- Wilson, Ara. 2004. *The Intimate Economies of Bangkok: Tomboys, Tycoons, and Avon Ladies in the Global City*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Zheng, Tiantian, ed. 2016. *Cultural Politics of Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary Asia*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.