queer anthropology: anthropology 252a
course code 60850 (winter 2014)

Tom Boellstorff | Professor, Department of Anthropology
Meets Fridays, noon–2:50am, SBSG 3320 (except for a couple Tuesdays; see the syllabus)
Office Hours: see online signup (http://tinyurl.com/9eff6uc)
First Meeting: Friday, January 10, noon, SBSG 3320
NOTE: there are readings for the first day of class!

course description

In this course we will explore historical and contemporary scholarship that addresses the discursive construction of sexuality. The focus is on thinking through disciplinarity via an engagement with queer anthropology, but we will engage significantly with queer studies work in other disciplines (e.g., history, literary criticism), as well as ethnographic work in other disciplines (e.g., sociology). We will also examine how the discipline of anthropology has been constitutively shaped by engagements with questions of sexuality. Readings and course discussions will address questions of intersectionality and sexuality, including but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, labor, disability, religion, colonialism, and globalization. There is extensive attention to contexts outside the United States.

The course is meant to be focused on reading and discussion, rather than writing. There is what appears to be a heavy reading load, but I will provide guidance on how to improve your ability to engage productively with large amounts of reading and the amount of writing you must do is reduced. Note: I will not allow any student to take an incomplete for this course under any circumstances. The seminar discussions will follow three basic guidelines:

> *Generosity*. With a ten-week course there simply is not time for substandard texts. All readings selected for the syllabus are insightful and theoretically innovative. Critiquing aspects of the readings is fine, but if you find yourself rejecting an argument in toto, this indicates your reading is insufficiently generous.
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> *Provisionality*. You are allowed (indeed, encouraged) to think out loud, say something and then take it back, and generally speak in a provisional manner, knowing that those around you will be patient, supportive, and slow to take offense.
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> *Community*. Some individuals are quite comfortable speaking at length: this is desirable, but the instructor reserves the right to ask persons to wrap up their

comments, or to solicit comments from persons who have not yet participated in any particular course meeting.

course requirements

1) Seven two-page précis

The primary requirement of the course is that you do seven (7) two-page précis. This means you can choose three weeks in which you do not have to do a précis. Each précis should take the form of critical questions, commentary and analysis about at least two of the readings for that week. They can link the readings to earlier readings from the course or readings from outside the course, but particularly the latter of these is discouraged due to limits of space. I discourage negative critiques; you should focus on generous engagement, linking the readings to our discussions. You may do a précis for the first day of class if you wish.

A précis must be turned in within the first five (5) minutes of class in triplicate, with the two pages stapled together (not paper-clipped or folded). They can never be turned in late. You must be in attendance for any day in which you turn in a précis (someone else can not turn it in for you). If you leave class early on the day you turn in a précis, that précis will not be counted. Each précis counts for 10 percent of your overall grade, so the seven précis together constitute 70% of the overall grade. Please note that falling even one précis short will thus severely impact your grade.

2) The final paper

You must write a course paper, which will be 30% of your overall grade. It must be emailed by the deadline as a single Word document (not pdf) to tboellst@uci.edu. Due to the emphasis on reading and précis, the final paper is relatively short. It should be 4,000–5,000 words long, inclusive of title, endnotes, and references (I will use the word count function of Word to confirm this). The paper can be on any topic that relates to the course, so long as you obtain my approval and so long as you cite and draw upon course texts and discussions in an extensive manner. I encourage you to engage in some way with your own research interests. You must use either American Anthropological Association formatting (see http://www.aaanet.org/ publications/guidelines.cfm) or some other style you prefer (e.g., MLA style), so long as you are consistent. You must include full bibliographic references to course texts as they are used. You may bring in outside readings, but it is not necessary to do so and they should not overwhelm or substitute for course readings.

The course grade will thus be calculated as follows:

Seven précis times ten points per précis	= 70 points
Final paper	= 30 points
Total	= 100 points

You will then be assigned a letter grade as follows: A+ 96.7–100; A 93.4–96.6; A- 90–93.3; B+ 86.7–89.9; B 83.4–86.6; B- 80–83.3; C+ 76.7–79.9; C 73.4–76.6; C- 70–73.3; D 65–69.9; F 64.9 and below.

Students with Disabilities: it is the policy of the University of California, Irvine to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students, however, are responsible for registering with the Disabilities Services Center, in addition to making requests known to me in a timely manner. If you require accommodations in this class, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made. The procedures for registering with Disabilities Services Center can be found at http://www.disability.uci.edu/.

Course texts

The following books are available at the bookstore, online, or on reserve. I will explain how to access the other readings during the first course meeting.

[Tom Boellstorff] *The Gay Archipelago: Sexuality and Nation in Indonesia.* Princeton University Press, 2005.

[Carlos Ulises Decena] *Tacit Subjects: Belonging and Same-Sex Desire among Dominican Immigrant Men*. Duke University Press, 2011.

[Naisargi Dave] *Queer Activism in India: A Story in the Anthropology of Ethics*. Duke University Press, 2012.

[Michel Foucault] *The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1: An Introduction*. Vintage Books, 1978.

[Cymene Howe] *Intimate Activism: The Struggle for Sexual Rights in Postrevolutionary Nicaragua.* Duke University Press, 2013.

[Andrew Lyons and Harriet D. Lyons, editors] *Sexualities in Anthropology: A Reader*. Blackwell, 2011. Note: this book appears as "SA" on the course schedule below.

[Mignon Moore] *Invisible Families: Gay Identities, Relationships, and Motherhood among Black Women*. University of California Press, 2011.

[Margot Weiss] *Techniques of Pleasure: BDSM and the Circuits of Sexuality*. Duke University Press, 2011.

ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

[Paul Amar] Middle East Masculinity Studies: Discourses of "Men in Crisis," Industries of Gender in Revolution. *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies* 7(3):36–70, 2011.

[Tom Boellstorff] Playing Back the Nation: Waria, Indonesian Transvestites. *Cultural Anthropology* 19(2):159–195, 2004.

[Tom Boellstorff] The Emergence of Political Homophobia in Indonesia: Masculinity and National Belonging. *Ethnos* 69(4):465–486.

[Tom Boellstorff] Queer Studies in the House of Anthropology. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 36:1–19, 2007.

[Tom Boellstorff] When Marriage Falls: Queer Coincidences in Straight Time. *GLQ: A Journal of Gay and Lesbian Studies* 13(2/3):227–248, 2007.

[Tom Boellstorff] But Do Not Identify As Gay: A Proleptic Genealogy of the MSM Category. *Cultural Anthropology* 26(2):287–312, 2011.

[Judith Butler] Introduction to *Bodies that Matter* (excerpts). In *The Gender/Sexuality Reader: Culture, History, Political Economy*. Roger Lancaster and Michaela di Leonardo, eds. Pp. 531–542. New York: Routledge, 1997.

[Margot Canaday] Building a Straight State: Sexuality and Social Citizenship under the 1944 G.I. Bill. *Journal of American History* 90(3):935–957, 2003.

[Cathy Cohen] Punks, Bulldaggers, and Welfare Queens: The Radical Potential of Queer Politics. *GLQ* 3(4):437–465, 1997.

[Kimberle Crenshaw] Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color. *Stanford Law Review* 43(6):1241–1299, 1991.

[Christina Crosby, Lisa Duggan, Roderick Ferguson, et al.] Queer Studies, Materialism, and Crisis: A Roundtable Discussion. *GLQ* 18(1):127–147, 2011.

[Ashley Currier] Political Homophobia in Postcolonial Namibia. *Gender & Society* 24(1):110–129, 2010.

[[Grace Hong]] Existentially Surplus: Women of Color Feminism and the New Crises of Capitalism. *GLQ* 18(1):87–106, 2011.

[[Roderick Ferguson]] Of Our Normative Strivings: African American Studies and the Histories of Sexuality. *Social Text* 23(3–4):85–100, 2005.

[[Kyle Harper]] Culture, Nature, and History: The Case of Ancient Sexuality. *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 55(4):986–1016, 2013.

[[Sharon Holland]] The Beached Whale. *GLQ* 17(1):89–95, 2011.

[[Alison Kafer]] Desire and Disgust: My Ambivalent Adventures in Devoteeism. In *Sex and Disability*. Robert McRuer and Anna Mollow, eds. Pp. 331–354. Duke University P., 2012.

[[Don Kulick]] A Man in the House: The Boyfriends of Brazilian Travesti Prostitutes. *Social Text* 15(3–4):133–60, 1997.

[[Adi Kuntsman]] The Soldier and the Terrorist: Sexy Nationalism, Queer Violence. *Sexualities* 11(1–2):142–170, 2008.

[[Martin Manalansan]] Race, Violence, and Neoliberal Spatial Politics in the Global City. *Social Text* 23(3–4):141–155, 2005.

[[Robert McRuer]] Contemporary Able-Bodiedness and Queer/Disabled Existence. In *Crip Theory: Cultural Signs of Queerness and Disability*. Pp. 1–32. NYU Press, 2006.

[[Scott Morgensen]] Settler Homonationalism: Theorizing Settler Colonialism within Queer Modernities. *GLQ* 16(1/2):105–131, 2010.

[[Sharif Mowlabocus, Justin Harbottle, and Charlie Witzel]] Porn Laid Bare: Gay Men, Pornography, and Bareback Sex. *Sexualities* 16(5–6):523–547, 2013.

[[Miguel Muñoz-Laboy, R. Parker, A. Perry, and J. Garcia]] Alternative Frameworks for Examining Latino Male Bisexuality in the Urban Space: A Theoretical Commentary Based on Ethnographic Research in Rio de Janeiro & New York. *Sexualities* 16(5–6):501–522, 2013.

[[Esther Newton]] *Mother Camp: Female Impersonators in America*. U. Chicago P., 1979.

[[Marcia Ochoa]] Perverse Citizenship: Divas, Marginality, and Participation in "*Loca*-Lization." WSQ: Women's Studies Quarterly 36(3-4): 146–169, 2008.

[[Gayle Rubin]] Studying Sexual Subcultures: Excavating the Ethnography of Gay Communities in Urban North America. In *Out in Theory: The Emergence of Lesbian and Gay Anthropology*, E. Lewin & W. Leap, eds. Pp. 17–68. Univ. of Illinois Press, 2002.

[[Gayle Rubin]] Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality. In *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader*. Henry Abelove, Michele Aina Barale, and David M. Halperin, eds. Pp. 3–44. Routledge, 1993 {1984}.

[[Gayle Rubin, with Judith Butler]] Sexual Traffic. *Differences* 6(2/3):62–99, 1994.

[[Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick]] Paranoid Reading and Reparative Reading: Or, You're So Paranoid, You Probably Think This Essay is About You. In *Touching Feeling: Affect, Pedagogy, Performativity*. Pp. 121–151. Duke University Press, 2003.

[[Tobin Siebers]] A Sexual Culture for Disabled People. In *Sex and Disability*. Robert McRuer and Anna Mollow, eds. Pp. 37–53. Duke University Press, 2012.

[[Susan Stryker]] Transgender Studies: Queer Theory's Evil Twin. *GLQ* 10(2):

[[David Valentine]] Sue E. Generous: Toward a Theory of Non-Transexuality. *Feminist Studies* 38(1):185–211, 2012.

[[Kath Weston]] Lesbian/Gay Studies in the House of Anthropology. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 22:339–367, 1993.

[[Robyn Wiegman]] The Vertigo of Critique. In her *Object Lessons.* Pp. 301–343. Duke University Press, 2012.

[[Sylvia Yanagisako and Carol Delaney]] Naturalizing Power. In their edited *Naturalizing Power: Essays in Feminist Cultural Analysis*. Pp. 1–22. Routledge, 1995.

course schedule

week one, 1/10.

1) Kath Weston, Lesbian/Gay Studies in the House of Anthropology.
2) Tom Boellstorff, Queer Studies in the House of Anthropology.
3) Gayle Rubin, Studying Sexual Subcultures.
4) Esther Newton, *Mother Camp* (Preface, Chapter 1, & Chapter 2).

Recommended:
Kyle Harper, Culture, Nature, and History.

week two, 1/17.

1) Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Volume 1: An Introduction.*
2) Roderick Ferguson, Of Our Normative Strivings.
3) Friedrich Engels, Origins of the Family (SA, Ch. 3).
4) Edward Westermarck, Homosexual Love (SA, Ch. 8).

Recommended:
Kath Weston, The Bubble, the Burn, and the Simmer (SA, Ch. 1).
Zine Magubane, Which Bodies Matter? (SA, Ch. 2).
A. Lyons and H. Lyons, The Reconstruction of Primitive Sexuality (SA, Ch. 4).
Havelock Ellis, The Sexual Instinct in Savages (SA, Ch. 5).
Richard Burton, Pederasty (SA, Ch. 7).
Bronislaw Malinowski, Ignorance of Physiological Paternity (SA, Ch. 15).

week three, 1/24.

1) Tom Boellstorff, *The Gay Archipelago.*
2) Margot Canaday, Building a Straight State.
3) Sharon Holland, The Beached Whale.
4) Gayle Rubin, Thinking Sex.

Recommended:
Gayle Rubin with Judith Butler, Sexual Traffic.

week four, 1/31.

1) Mignon Moore, *Invisible Families.*
2) Cathy Cohen, Punks, Bulldaggers, and Welfare Queens.
3) Kimberle Crenshaw, Mapping the Margins.
4) Sylvia Yanagisako and Carol Delaney, Naturalizing Power.

Recommended:
Robyn Wiegman, The Vertigo of Critique.

week five, 2/7.

1) Carlos Ulises Decena, *Tacit Subjects.*
2) Tom Boellstorff, But Do Not Identify As Gay.
3) Martin Manalansan, Race, Violence, and Neoliberal Spatial Politics.
4) Miguel Muñoz-Laboy et al., Alternative Frameworks.

week six—no course meeting

week seven part one, 2/18, 11am (NOTE: Tuesday not Friday, and one hour earlier)

1) Naisargi Dave, *Queer Activism in India.*
2) Paul Amar, Middle East Masculinity Studies.
3) Tom Boellstorff, The Emergence of Political Homophobia in Indonesia.
4) Ashley Currier, Political Homophobia in Postcolonial Namibia.

week seven part two, 2/21.

1) Tom Boellstorff, When Marriage Falls.
2) Grace Hong, Women of Color Feminism and the New Crises of Capitalism.
3) Alison Kafer, Desire and Disgust.
4) Robert McRuer, Contemporary Able-Bodiedness and Queer/Disabled Existence.
5) Tobin Siebers, A Sexual Culture for Disabled People.

Recommended:
Christina Crosby et al., Queer Studies, Materialism, and Crisis.

week eight, 2/28.

1) Cymene Howe, *Intimate Activism.*
2) Judith Butler, Bodies that Matter (excerpt from Introduction).
3) Adi Kuntsman, The Soldier and the Terrorist.
4) Scott Morgensen, Settler Homonationalism.

week nine, 3/4, 11am (NOTE: Tuesday not Friday, and one hour earlier).

1) Tom Boellstorff, Playing Back the Nation.
2) Don Kulick, A Man in the House.
3) Marcia Ochoa, Perverse Citizenship.
4) Susan Stryker, Transgender Studies.
5) David Valentine, Sue E. Generous.

week ten, 3/14.

1) Margot Weiss, *Techniques of Pleasure*.
2) Laura Bellows, The Aroused Public.
3) Sharif Mowlabocus, Justin Harbottle, and Charlie Witzel, Porn Laid Bare.
4) Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, Paranoid Reading and Reparative Reading.

Course paper due Friday 3/21, 5pm, emailed to tboellst@uci.edu.