

**To XY and Beyond:
Sexual Difference and Sexuality in the History of Science
FRS 151, Fall 2008**

Prof. Angela N. H. Creager
Office hours, Monday, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Department of History, 125 Dickinson Hall

Hargadon Hall G101A
Thursdays, 1:30-4:20 pm
Whitman College

Course Description

This seminar will examine how biologists, physicians, sexologists, and other researchers have sought to explain sexual difference and sexuality in scientific terms. Rather than focus on current perspectives, we will examine the succession of theories and approaches that have been proposed during the past three hundred years, seeking to understand each on its own terms and in its own time. Topics will include the emergence of a two-sex model in the early modern period, nineteenth-century medical interest in hermaphroditism and sexual inversion, explanations of sex determination in terms of chromosomes and hormones, the study of animals and their mating patterns (in species from *Drosophila* to chimpanzees) with analogy to human sexual behavior, and twentieth-century understandings of sexual orientation, intersexuality, bisexuality, and transsexuality. We will pay attention to how ideas of sexual identity and expression have changed over time, and compare how meanings vary according to discipline. For example, we will see how and under what conditions researchers have differentiated between the categories of sex, gender, and sexuality. Our readings will also trace how scientific conceptions have shaped popular understandings of what it is to be male or female, straight or gay—as well as how cultural notions and norms have influenced researchers. The seminar will draw together scholarship in history of biology and medicine, feminist theory, and LGBT studies, with an aim to help students think historically about both science and culture.

Course Requirements

We will read both primary sources, most by physicians and scientists from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and secondary sources, most by contemporary historians and theorists offer interpretations of past developments and perceptions. The seminar portion of the grade will be based on the quality and vociferousness of one's contributions to discussion and several short responses to the readings posted on Blackboard prior to class. Two short mid-term papers will be assigned during the fall. The final paper (15 pages, due 3 p.m. Dean's Date, Jan. 13, 2009; extensions *only* through Dean's Office) will be more open-ended; students are expected to engage the scholarship on sex and science analytically, choosing a topic of interest related to the course theme or materials.

1 st paper	20%
2 nd paper	25%
Final paper	30%
Seminar participation	25%

Readings and Class Schedule

Please note that assigned readings must be completed before the seminar session. Readings marked by an asterisk are from required books available at Labyrinth. These books are also on 3-hour reserve in Firestone Library. The other readings can be found on the Blackboard site for FRS 151 under E-Reserves.

Week 1. (9/11) Introduction to the Seminar

Alice Dreger, "Sex Beyond the Karyotype," in *Controversies in Science & Technology: From Climate to Chromosomes*, vol. 2, eds. Daniel Lee Kleinman, Karen A. Cloud-Hansen, Christina Matta, and Jo Handelsman (New Rochelle, NY: MaryAnn Liebert, 2008), pp. 481–492.

Week 2. (9/18) Sexuality as a Historical Problem

*Anne Fausto-Sterling, "Dueling Dualisms" and "'That Sexe Which Prevaileth'," in *Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality* (New York: Basic Books, 2000), pp. 1–44.

Robert A. Padgug, "Sexual Matters: On Conceptualizing Sexuality in History (1979)," in *Culture, Society and Sexuality: A Reader*, 2nd edition, eds. Richard Parker and Peter Aggleton (London: Routledge, 2007), pp. 17–30.

*Michel Foucault, "We 'Other Victorians'" and "Scientia Sexualis," in *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction*, trans. Robert Hurley (New York: Vintage Books, 1978), pp. 3–13, 53–73. (If you have the time and the patience, also read "The Repressive Hypothesis," pp. 17–49 to get the full argument.)

Week 3. (9/25) Perceptions of Sexual Difference from the Greeks to Early Modern Europe: The Emergence of the Two-Sex Model

Patrick Geddes and J. Arthur Thompson, "Preface to the Second Edition" and "Chapter 2: The Sexes, and Criticism of Sexual Selection," in *The Evolution of Sex* (1889; repr. London: Walter Scott, 1908), pp. i–viii, 16–33.

*Thomas Laqueur, "Of Language and the Flesh," "New Science, One Flesh," and "Discovery of the Sexes," Chapters 1, 3, and 5 of *Making Sex: Body and Gender from the Greeks to Freud* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1990), 1–24, 63–113, 149–192.

Ludmilla Jordanova, "Natural Facts: A Historical Perspective on Science and Sexuality," in *Nature, Culture and Gender*, eds. Carol McCormach and Marilyn Strathern (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1980), pp. 42–69.

Weeks 4. (10/2) The Two-Sex Model's Misfits: Inverts and Hermaphrodites

Vernon A. Rosario, "Turn-of-the-Century Sexual Inverts," *Homosexuality and Science: A Guide to the Debates* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio, 2002), pp. 39–57.

Jennifer Terry, "Anxious Slippages between 'Us' and 'Them': A Brief History of the Scientific Search for Homosexual Bodies," in *Deviant Bodies: Critical Perspectives on Difference in Science and Popular Culture*, eds. Jennifer Terry and Jacqueline Urla (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1999), pp. 129–169.

Lisa Duggan, "The Trials of Alice Mitchell: Sensationalism, Sexology, and the Lesbian Subject in Turn-of-the-Century America," *Signs* 18 (1993): 791–814.

Christina Matta, "Ambiguous Bodies and Deviant Sexualities: Hermaphrodites, Homosexuality, and Surgery in the United States, 1850-1940," *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine* 48 (2003): 74–83.

Library Session with Dr. Elizabeth Bennett, 2-6-F Firestone, 3:00-4:20 pm

Week 5. (10/9) Freud's Theory of Sexuality

Sigmund Freud, "Some Psychological Consequences of the Anatomical Distinction Between the Sexes," (1925) in *Sexuality and the Psychology of Love*, ed. Philip Reiff (New York: Collier Books, 1963), pp. 183–193.

Roger Horrocks, "Freud I: From Biology to Psychology," and "Freud II: Male and Female Sexuality," in *An Introduction to the Study of Sexuality* (London: Macmillan, 1997), pp. 25–67.

October 13, 2008 First Paper Due, 3 p.m., 127 Dickinson Hall, "To: Creager" box

Week 6. (10/16) Sexual Behavior Surveyed: Kinsey

Alfred C. Kinsey, et al., Table of Contents and selected pages from Chapter 21, "Homosexual Outlet," *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* (Philadelphia, PA: W. B. Saunders, 1948); Alfred C. Kinsey, et al., Table of Contents, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female* (Philadelphia, PA: W. B. Saunders, 1953).

Janice M. Irvine, "From Difference to Sameness: Gender Ideology in Sexual Science," *The Journal of Sex Research* 27 (1990): 7–24.

Stephanie H. Kenen, "Who Counts When You're Counting Homosexuals? Hormones and Homosexuality in Mid-Twentieth-Century America," in *Science and Homosexualities*, ed. Vernon Rosario (New York: Routledge, 1997), pp. 197–218.

Class screening of "Kinsey," 2004.

Week 7. (10/23) Gender Trumps Sex?: Gender Identity and Transsexuality

Robert J. Stoller, "A Contribution to the Study of Gender Identity," *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis* 45 (1964): 220–226.

Joanne Meyerowitz, "Sex Research at the Borders of Gender: Transvestites, Transsexuals, and Alfred C. Kinsey," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 75 (2001): 72–90.

Bernice L. Hausman, "Introduction," *Changing Sex: Transsexualism, Technology, and the Idea of Gender* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1995), pp. 1–20.

Anne Fausto-Sterling, "How to Build a Man," in *Science and Homosexualities*, ed. Vernon Rosario (New York: Routledge, 1997), pp. 219–225; or, for a more detailed and illustrated account, "Of Gender and Genitals: The Use and Abuse of the Modern Intersexual," in *Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality* (New York: Basic Books, 2000), pp. 46–77.

Fall Break (10/30)

Week 8. (11/6) Hormones and Chromosomes

*Anne Fausto-Sterling, "Sex Glands, Hormones, and Gender Chemistry," and "Do Sex Hormones Really Exist?" in *Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality* (New York: Basic Books, 2000), pp. 146–194.

Nelly Oudshoorn, "Female or Male: The Classification of Homosexuality and Gender," *Journal of Homosexuality* 28:1/2 (1995): 79–86.

Angela M. L. Pattatucci and Dean Hamer, "The Genetics of Sexual Orientation: From Fruit Flies to Humans," in *Sexual Nature /Sexual Culture*, eds. Paul R. Abramson and Steven D. Pinkerton (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995), pp. 154–174.

Sarah S. Richardson, "When Gender Criticism Becomes Standard Scientific Practice: The Case of Sex Determination Genetics," in *Gendered Innovations in Science and Engineering*, ed. Londa Schiebinger (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2008), pp. 22–42.

Week 9. (11/13) Sexuality in Cross-Cultural Perspective

*Margaret Mead, *Coming of Age in Samoa: A Psychological Study of Primitive Youth for Western Civilization* (1928; repr. Perennial Classics, 2001), esp. "Introduction," "Formal Sex Relations," and "The Experience and Individuality of the Average Girl."

Ruth Benedict, "Sex in Primitive Society," *The American Journal of Orthopsychiatry* 9 (1939): 570–575.

Micaela di Leonardo, "Margaret Mead vs. Tony Soprano," *The Nation*, May 21, 2001.

Wah-Shan Chou, "A World Without Homo-HeteroDuality: Rewriting the Traditional Chinese History of Same-Sex Eroticism," excerpt from chapter 1 of *Tongzhi: Politics of Same-Sex Eroticism in Chinese Societies* (New York: Haworth Press, 2000), pp. 13–26.

Week 10. (11/20) Transgenderism

Janice M. Irvine, "Boys Will Be Girls: Contemporary Research on Gender," in *Disorders of Desire: Sexuality and Gender in Modern American Sexology* (Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 2005 [1990]), pp. 185–224.

Ben A. Barres, "Does Gender Matter?" *Nature* 442 (July 13, 2006), pp. 133–136. *International Journal of Transgenderism*, Special Issue: What is Transgender?, Vol. 4, No. 3 (July/September 2000). Peruse.

Viewing of excerpts from 20/20's "My Secret Self" and "Transgenerations," followed by mock talk show panel in which each student acts as a scientist or researcher we have studied and explains transgender behavior from his or her perspective.

November 26, 2008 Second Paper Due, 3 p.m., 127 Dickinson Hall, "To: Creager" box

Thanksgiving holiday (11/27)

December 3, 2008 Joanne Meyerowitz speaking for the Modern America Workshop, Department of History, "How Common Culture Shapes the Separate Lives': Sexuality, Race, and the History of Social Constructionist Thought." 12:00-1:20 pm, 210 Dickinson Hall

Week 11. (12/4) Primates and Sociobiology

Sarah Blaffer Hrdy, "The Primate Origins of Female Sexuality" and "A Disputed Legacy," in *The Woman that Never Evolved* (1981; repr. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999), pp. 131–188.

Adrienne Zihlman, "Gathering Stories for Hunting Human Nature," *Feminist Studies* 11:2 (1985): 365–377.

Mildred Dickemann, "Wilson's Panchreston: The Inclusive Fitness Hypothesis of Sociobiology Re-Examined," *Journal of Homosexuality* 28:1/2 (1995): 147–183.

Week 12. (12/11) Humans and Creatures: Comparative Understandings of Sex

*Joan Roughgarden, *Evolution's Rainbow: Diversity, Gender, and Sexuality in Nature and People* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004), Part I, pp. 1–188.

Judith Halberstam, "Finding Nemo and Transgender Creatures," in *21st Century Sexualities: Contemporary Issues in Health, Education, and Rights*, eds. Gilbert Herdt and Cymene Howe (London: Routledge, 2007), pp. 63–66.

January 13, 2009 Third Paper Due, 3 p.m., 127 Dickinson Hall, "To: Creager" box