

Colloquium in Women's and Gender History: Gender & Imperialism
Fall 2016
M 4:30-7:30
Van Dyck Hall 308

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Introduction to the Course:

This colloquium examines comparatively the nature and impact of European, American, and Japanese colonial empires in the 19th to 20th centuries, with particular emphasis on how gender has influenced the policies, practices, and legacies of these overlapping and competing imperial powers. Recent scholarship on imperialism has shown that gender was an integral element of almost every aspect of the political, social, and economic structures and cultures of modern colonial empires. European, American, and Japanese imperial regimes all deployed gender hierarchy in creating and sustaining the kind of social order that yielded the labor and resources on which they depended. Across different colonies in the Asia-Pacific, Indian Ocean, Africa, and North and South America, gender, together with race, religion, sexuality and other intersecting categories of difference, served to rationalize, naturalize, and legitimize colonial oppression and exploitation. These scholarly insights will guide our exploration of both shared and divergent historical experiences of modern colonial empires. Focusing on select case studies, mainly though not exclusively, from the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean worlds, we will seek to understand the various and specific ways that gender shaped the goals, strategies, and achievements of modern imperial powers and the marks they left on their respective colonies. Sub-themes will include: conversion, transgenderism, labor migration, orientalism, family law, intermarriage, miscegenation, eugenics, sexology, the narco-sexual-military complex, nationalism, feminism, and decolonization.

This colloquium is intended as a general introduction to the history and historiography of gender and empire, as well as an aid to help graduate students prepare for comprehensive exams. It will introduce students to some of the key concepts, questions, texts, and historiographical and theoretical approaches used to study imperialism in various geographies. It aims to not only help students define their research interests but also prepare them for future teaching about geographical regions both within and beyond their field of expertise. While it is envisioned as a follow-up to the Spring 2016 WGH colloquium on Gender & Colonialism, students are neither required nor expected to have taken the Spring 2016 colloquium. All graduate students—whether majoring in women's and gender, global and comparative, European, or US history—are welcome.

All the readings will be available on Sakai unless indicated otherwise.

Week 1 (Sep 12): Introduction

Week 2 (Sep 19): Imperial Transitions: Company Rule, Inter-marriage, and Miscegenation

- Jean G. Taylor, *The Social World of Batavia: European and Eurasian in Dutch Asia* (University of Wisconsin Press, 1983; revised edition 2009), xxv-134.
- William Dalrymple, "White Mughals: The Case of James Achilles Kirkpatrick and Khair un-Nissa, in Indrani Chatterjee, ed., *Unfamiliar Relations: Family and History in South Asia* (Rutgers University Press, 2004), 122-160.
- Indrani Chatterjee, "Colouring Subalternity: Slaves, Concubines and Social Orphans under the East India Company," in Gautam Bhadra, Gyan Prakash and Susie Tharu eds. *Subaltern Studies*, vol. X (Oxford University Press, 1999), 49-97.
- Ann Laura Stoler, "Making Empire Respectable: The Politics of Race and Sexual Morality in 20th century Colonial Cultures," *American Ethnologist* 16.4 (November 1989): 634-660.

Week 3 (Sep 26): Imperial Masculinities and Femininities: "Saving Brown Women" in the British Raj

- Lata Mani, "Contentious Traditions: The Debate on Sati in Colonial India," *Cultural Critique* 7 (Fall 1987): 119-156.
- Mrinalini Sinha, "Reconfiguring Hierarchies: The Ilbert Bill Controversy, 1883 – 84," in *Colonial Masculinity: The 'Manly Englishman' and the 'Effeminate Bengali' in the Late Nineteenth Century* (Manchester University Press, 1995), 33-68.
- Tanika Sarkar, "A Prehistory of Rights: The Age of Consent Debate in Colonial Bengal," *Feminist Studies* 26.3 (Autumn 2000): 601-622.
- Antoinette M. Burton, "The White Woman's Burden: British Feminists and the Indian Woman," and Barbara N. Ramusack, "Cultural Missionaries, Maternal Imperialists, Feminist Allies: British Women Activists in India, 1865–1945," *Women's Studies International Forum* 13.4 (1990): 295-308, 309-21.
- Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, "Can the Subaltern Speak?" in Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman, eds., *Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory: A Reader* (Columbia University Press, 1994), 66-111.

Week 4 (Oct 3): The Colonial/Modern Gender System

- Michael G. Peletz, "Transgenderism and Gender Pluralism in Southeast Asia since Early Modern Times," *Current Anthropology* 47. 2 (April 2006): 309-340.
- Howard Chiang, "How China Became a 'Castrated Civilization' and Eunuchs a 'Third Sex,'" in Howard Chiang, ed., *Transgender China* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012), 23-66.
- Peter Jackson, "Performative Genders, Perverse Desires: A Bio-History of Thailand's Same-Sex and Transgender Cultures," *Intersections: Gender, History and Culture in the Asian Context* 9 (August 2003).
<http://intersections.anu.edu.au/issue9/jackson.html>
- María Lugones, "Heterosexualism and the Colonial/Modern Gender System," *Hypatia* 22.1 (2007): 186-209.

Week 5 (Oct 10): The Colonial/Modern Family and Domesticity

- Jean and John L. Comaroff, "Home-Made Hegemony: Modernity, Domesticity, and Colonialism in South Africa," in Karen Tranberg Hansen, ed., *African Encounters with Domesticity* (Rutgers University Press, 1992), 37-74.
- Durba Ghosh, "Household order and colonial justice," in *Sex and the Family in Colonial India: The Making of Empire* (Cambridge University Press, 2005), 170-205.
- Mytheli Sreenivas, "Conjugalities and Capital: Gender, Families, and Property under Colonial Law in India," *Journal of Asian Studies* 63.4 (November 2004): 937-960.
- Janaki Nair, "The Illicit in the Modern: Banning the *Devadasi*," *Mysore Modern: Rethinking the Region under Princely Rule* (Orient BlackSwan, 2012), 197-218.
- Mitra Sharafi, "The Semi-Autonomous Judge in Colonial India: Chivalric Imperialism meets Anglo-Islamic Dower and Divorce Law," *Indian Social and Economic History Review* 46:1 (2009): 57-81.

Week 6 (Oct 17): Missionaries, Medicine, and Reproduction in the Belgian Congo

- Nancy Rose Hunt, *A Colonial Lexicon of Birth Ritual, Medicalization, and Mobility in the Congo* (Duke University Press, 1999). [*Rutgers Digital Library \(Online\)*](#)

Week 7 (Oct 24): US Imperialism (I): Labor, Migration, and Sexuality

- Ann Laura Stoler, "Tense and Tender Ties: The Politics of Comparison in North American History and (Post) Colonial Studies," *Journal of American History* 88.3 (December 2001): 829-865.
- Nayan Shah, *Stranger Intimacy: Contesting Race, Sexuality, and the Law in the North American West* (University of California Press, 2011). [*Rutgers Digital Library \(Online\)*](#)

Week 8 (Oct 31): US Imperialism (II): Sex, Reproduction, and Science

- Laura Briggs, *Reproducing Empire: Race, Sex, Science, and U.S. Imperialism in Puerto Rico* (University of California Press, 2002).

Week 9 (Nov 7): Japanese Imperialism (I): Labor, Migration, and Sexuality

- Mark Driscoll, *Absolute Erotic, Absolute Grotesque: The Living, Dead, and Undead in Japan's Imperialism, 1895-1945* (Duke University Press, 2010), 1-224.

Week 10 (Nov 14): Japanese Imperialism (II): Total War and the Narco-Sexual-Military Complex

- Mark Driscoll, *Absolute Erotic, Absolute Grotesque: The Living, Dead, and Undead in Japan's Imperialism, 1895-1945* (Duke University Press, 2010), 227-end.
- Hyunah Yang, "Re-membering the Korean Military Comfort Women: Nationalism, Sexuality, and Silencing," in Elaine H. Kim and Chungmoo Choi, eds., *Dangerous Women: Gender and Korean Nationalism* (Routledge, 1998), 123-140.
- Sarah C. Soh, "Aspiring to Craft Modern Gendered Selves: 'Comfort Women' and Chongsindae in Late Colonial Korea," *Critical Asian Studies* 36.2 (2004): 175-198.

Week 11 (Nov 21): No Class (Professor Ikeya away for a conference)

Please email me a 3-5 page précis of your project and a list of sources by the end of the day.

Week 12 (Nov 28): Decolonization in Fanon's Algeria

- Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks* (1952), translated by Charles Lam Markmann (Pluto Press, revised edition, 2008).

Week 13 (Dec 5): Illegible Intimacies of Empire

Required

- Chie Ikeya, "Illegible Intimacies: Inter-Asian Crossings, Belongings, and Otherings in Colonial Burma, Southeast Asia, and Beyond" (manuscript in progress)

Week 14 (Dec 12): Project Discussions

Please come prepared to discuss your writing project. You will be expected to circulate a 3-5 page précis of your project to share with the rest of the class in advance so that you will have useful feedback on your project.

Course Requirements:

I. Attendance and engaged participation are basic expectations of the course.

II. During *Weeks 3-10*, the class will be divided into 2 groups. Each week one group of students will post approximately 400-500 words on the week's readings to the discussion board of the Sakai site by 6 pm on Sunday. Please take this opportunity to discuss critical and meaningful thoughts and questions that arise in response to the readings for the week. Your comments should be analytic, not a summary of the readings. They should identify key questions for further exploration or discussion in class and, where appropriate, explore connections between the different authors. You will also read all of your classmates' postings before Monday's class.

Students in the second group will prepare 1 key question each to submit to the discussion board (also by 6 pm Sunday) for everyone to think about.

III. In addition to contributing substantially to the running of the course you will each write a major piece of writing (on the order of 12-15 pages) related to the topic of the course. How you choose to use this writing opportunity may vary from student to student—we will discuss your preferences and options individually—but you are strongly encouraged to choose from the following three options:

1. Write an essay that helps you prepare for your comprehensive exams. Select a domain from the Women's and Gender List that is germane to the course and prepare a historiographical essay using readings from the course. Your essay will pose a broad exam question, and then go on to answer it in essay form. Please feel free to draw on readings from outside the course that you have already read and want to link to and synthesize with the readings here. You are encouraged to consult questions asked in previous comprehensive exams in preparing your essay (Dawn maintains a file of all past doctoral exams which you can review).
2. Pick up on a theme from the course that is germane to your own research interests, and write a review essay of secondary literature on that theme as a way to situate and further your own research questions.
3. Identify and select a single primary source (a text, image, object etc) and then explicate and situate this source building on insights from the course and its readings.

You will need to provide me with evidence of your progress on this writing project during Week 11. You will be expected to circulate by email a 3-5 page précis of your project during Week 13, and discuss your project in class during Week 14. The project is due on Dec 19, 2014.

Grades will be based on your writing project (40%) and your bi-weekly reading responses & questions (30%), and thoughtful, engaged, and consistent participation in class discussion each week (30%).