

GNDS 445 Feminist and Queer Ethnography

Fall 2019 • Tuesdays 2:30 – 5:20 pm • Mac-Corry A-309

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*Ne Queen's University e'tho noñwe nikanónhsote tsi noñwe ne Haudenosaunee tánon
Anishinaabek tehatihsnónhsahere ne óhontsa*

Gimaakwe Gchi-gkinoomaagegamig atemagad Naadowe miinwaa Anishinaabe aking

Queen's University sits on the lands of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples

Course Description

Ethnography is an interdisciplinary method of knowledge production in which researchers learn about people and culture by attending to everyday life. Gender studies scholars use ethnography to create critical feminist, queer and trans knowledge, and scholars across the social sciences and other fields use ethnography to examine gender, sexuality, race, class, nation, disability and all modes of social difference and power.

This seminar introduces feminist and queer ethnography as distinct yet linked scholarly subfields, which constitute bodies of critical theory, literary genres, and methods for creating ethical relationships in research and social life. We will learn how scholars advance trans, queer, and feminist theories by practicing ethnography, as well as how ethnography is understood once taken up with these theoretical lenses. We study the histories of feminist and queer ethnography in anthropology and other social sciences; the ways in which the colonial and racial histories of anthropology and ethnography are confronted and transformed by feminist, queer, and trans researchers; and the importance of critically ethnographic relationships, writing, interpretation, and ethics to theories and methods in gender studies.

Given that many students may be unfamiliar with the scope of these two subfields, we begin by reading a recent textbook in feminist ethnography that bridges into queer ethnography. Ethnographies realize their fullest extent in extended case studies, so we then focus our work on reading ethnographic monographs (single-authored books). Students will read three ethnographies – two assigned, one individually selected – as well as supplementary articles and book chapters.

Required Texts (at Campus Bookstore and Stauffer Library Reserves)

Students read four required books. Books marked with ** are online at the Queen's Library website.

Three books will be read by the entire class:

Feminist Ethnography: Thinking Through Methodologies, Challenges, and Possibilities,
Dana-Ain Davis and Christa Craven, Ed. (2016) **

In/Divided Unity: Haudenosaunee Reclamation at Grand River, Theresa McCarthy
(2016)

Butch Queens Up In Pumps: Gender, Performance and Ballroom Culture in Detroit, Marlon Bailey (2013)

The remaining book will be assigned from this list. Do not acquire one until one has been assigned to you, but please do review the books on Stauffer Reserves so that you can request your choices.

Black Women Against the Land Grab: The Fight for Racial Justice in Brazil, Keisha Khan-Perry (2013)

Filipino Crosscurrents: Geographies of Seafaring, Masculinities, and Globalization, Kale Fajardo (2011)

Global Divas: Filipino Gay Men in Diaspora, Martin F. Manalansan IV (2003) **

Queen for a Day: Transformistas, Beauty Queens and the Performance of Femininity in Venezuela, Marcia Ochoa (2014) **

Queer Activism in India: A Story in the Anthropology of Ethics, Naisargi Dave (2012) **

The River Is In Us: Fighting Toxics in a Mohawk Community, Elizabeth Hoover (2017)

Additional required readings for the Seminar appear on the syllabus.

Required Work

Participation (Attendance, Participation)	30%
Reading Responses	30% (3 @ 10%)
Final Paper	40%
- Summary Statement (required, not marked)	
- Rough Draft (5%)	
- Final Paper (35%)	

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COURSE SCHEDULE

Week One

Tuesday September 10

Introductions

Week Two

Tuesday September 17

Feminist Ethnography: Introduction, Chapter 1, Chapter 2 (pp 36-50)

Kamala Visweswaran, "Histories of Feminist Ethnography"

Lynn Bolles, "Telling the Story Straight"

Week Three

Monday September 23

Reading Response may be submitted: on *Feminist Ethnography* & Wolf

Tuesday September 24

Feminist Ethnography: Chapters 3-6 (Optional: Ch. 7)

Diane Wolf, "Situating Feminist Dilemmas in Fieldwork"

Week Four**Monday September 30****Reading Response may be submitted:** on October 1 articles (cite all, discuss at least three)**Tuesday October 1**

Selections from Trinh T. Minh-ha, "The Language of Nativism": pp. 47-53, 67-8, 74-6

Lila Abu-Lughod, "Can There Be a Feminist Anthropology?"

Kirin Narayan, "How 'Native' Is a Native Anthropologist?"

Patricia Zavella, "Feminist Insider Dilemmas"

Kamala Visweswaran, "Betrayal: An Analysis in Three Acts"

Week Five**Monday October 7****Final Paper Summary Statement Due** (see instructions)**Tuesday October 8**

Kath Weston, "Lesbian/Gay Studies in the House of Anthropology"

Evan Towle and Lynn Morgan, "Romancing the Transgender Native"

Tom Boellstorff, "Queer Studies in the House of Anthropology" SKIM pp. 20-23

Martin Manalansan, "Introduction: Points of Departure" pp. 1-18

Marcia Ochoa, "Introducing The Queen" pp. 1-14

Week Six**Monday October 14****Reading Response may be submitted:** on Queer Anthropology Retrospectives**Tuesday October 15**"Retrospectives: Queer Anthropology" *Cultural Anthropology* 31(4)

- Martin Manalansan, "Queer Anthropology: An Introduction"
- Ellen Lewin, "Who's Queer? What's Queer? Queer Anthropology through the Lens of Ethnography"
- Scott Morgensen, "Encountering Indeterminacy: Colonial Contexts and Queer Imagining"
- Jafari Sinclair Allen, "One View from a Deterritorialized Realm"
- Margot Weiss, "Always After: Desiring Queerness, Desiring Anthropology"

Faye Harrison, "Anthropology as an Agent of Transformation" pp. 1-7, 9-10

Jafari Allen and Ryan Jobson, "The Decolonizing Generation"

Week Seven**Monday October 21****Reading Response may be submitted:** on *In Divided Unity***Tuesday October 22***In Divided Unity****Week Eight*****Tuesday October 29**

Janet L Finn, "Ella Clara Deloria and Mourning Dove"

Beatrice Medicine, from “Ella C. Deloria: The Emic Voice”
 Graciela Hernandez, “Multiple Subjectivities and Strategic Positionality”
 Kamala Visweswaran, “Feminist Ethnography as Failure”

Week Nine

Monday November 4

Reading Response may be submitted: on *Butch Queens Up In Pumps*

Tuesday November 5

Butch Queens Up In Pumps

Review Allen, “One View from a Deterritorialized Realm”

Week Ten

Tuesday November 12

Essays to be assigned by instructor and class

Week Eleven

Monday November 18

Final Paper Rough Draft Due (see instructions)

Tuesday November 19

Final Paper Book Presentations

Week Twelve

Tuesday November 26

No Seminar

Reading Groups Meet (instructions TBD)

December 6-13

Final Paper Due

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