GNDS 836  Feminist and Queer Ethnography

Fall 2019  •  T 2:30 – 5:20 pm – MC A-309  •  occasional W 1:00 - 2:20 pm – MC D-503

Dr. Scott Morgensen, Associate Professor, Department of Gender Studies

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<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Office Hours: Occasional Tue/Wed, by appt.</td>
<td>Phone: 613 533 6000 x 79301</td>
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<td>Skype appointments available Mon afternoons</td>
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Ne Queen’s University e’tho noíwe nikanónhsote tsi noíwe ne Haudenasaunee 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, and a classic monograph on feminist ethnographic practice. 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.

Learning Outcomes
- Understand theories and debates in gender studies through their articulation with the distinct subfields of feminist ethnography and queer ethnography
- Understand ethnography -- its histories, methods, ethics, applications, and effects – by applying critically feminist, queer and trans perspectives
- Understand how ethnography may function as a research method, a writing genre, an arena of intellectual inquiry, a body of critical theory, or a model of ethical relationship
- Understand the importance of these qualities of ethnography to the field of gender studies
- Study and appreciate the complexities of ethical research and writing about people and interpersonal relationships
- Gain and practice skills in close, critical reading of academic texts; and, in reading comprehension of book-length arguments
- Develop and practice skills in advanced undergraduate or entry-level graduate analytical writing (short-form and long-form)
- Develop and practice skills in independent research, through the investigation, preparation, and writing of a major project

**Required Texts** (Campus Bookstore and Stauffer Library Reserves)
Students read four required books. Books marked with ** are online at the Queen’s Library website.

Four books will be read by the entire class:

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

*Fictions of Feminist Ethnography*, Kamala Visweswaran (1994)

*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)

One remaining book will be assigned from this list. Do not acquire a book until one has been assigned.


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

*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) **

*Spaces between Us: Queer Settler Colonialism and Indigenous Decolonization*, Scott Lauria Morgensen (2011)

Additional required readings for the Seminar appear on the syllabus.

**Required Work**

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<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Responses</td>
<td>20% (3 @ 6.67%)</td>
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<td>Ethnography Assignment</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Proposal</td>
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<td>- Revised Proposal</td>
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<td>- Recording and Transcript</td>
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<td>- Interpretive Analysis</td>
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<td>Paper</td>
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<td>- Summary Statement</td>
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COURSE SCHEDULE

Week One

Tuesday September 10
Introductions

Read and finish this week: Feminist Ethnography Introduction, Chapter 2 (pp 36-50), Chapters 3-6; Visweswaran “Histories of Feminist Ethnography”; Bolles “Telling the Story Straight”

Week Two

Tuesday September 17
Feminist Ethnography Introduction, Chapter 2 (pp 36-50) [undergraduates also read Chapter 1]
Kamala Visweswaran, “Histories of Feminist Ethnography”
Lynn Bolles, “Telling the Story Straight”

Wednesday September 18
GRAD MEETING 1, 1:00-2:15pm:
Review Feminist Ethnography Intro & Ch. 2; Visweswaran; Bolles
Trinh T. Minh-ha, “The Language of Nativism”
Lila Abu-Lughod, “Can There Be a Feminist Anthropology?”
Kirin Narayan, “How ‘Native’ Is a Native Anthropologist?”
Patricia Zavella, “Feminist Insider Dilemmas”
**Audra Simpson, “On Ethnographic Refusal”
Diane Wolf, “Situating Feminist Dilemmas in Fieldwork”
Feminist Ethnography Chs. 3-6

Week Three

Monday September 23
Reading Response may be submitted: on Feminist Ethnography & Wolf

Tuesday September 24
Review Feminist Ethnography Chs. 3-6; Wolf

Wednesday September 25
GRAD MEETING 2, 1:00-2:15pm:
**Fictions of Feminist Ethnography Introduction, Chs. 1-4, 6-7

Week Four

Monday September 30
Reading Response may be submitted: on Trinh, Abu-Lughod, Narayan, Zavella, Visweswaran (any chapter)

Tuesday October 1
Review Trinh, Abu-Lughod, Narayan, Zavella, and Visweswaran Ch. 3

**Wednesday October 2**
GRAD MEETING 3, 1:00-2:15pm :
Kath Weston, “Lesbian/Gay Studies in the House of Anthropology”
Evan Towle and Lynn Morgan, “Romancing the Transgender Native”
“Retrospectives: Queer Anthropology” Cultural Anthropology 31(4)
- Martin Manalansan, “Queer Anthropology: An Introduction”
- Scott Morgensen, “Encountering Indeterminacy: Colonial Contexts and Queer Imagining”
- Margot Weiss, “Always After: Desiring Queerness, Desiring Anthropology”

**Ethnography Assignment Proposal Due Thursday October 3**

**Week Five**
Required Instructor Meeting to discuss Ethnography Assignment (appt times will be circulated)

**Tuesday October 8**
Review Weston; Towle and Morgan
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

**Wednesday October 9**
GRAD MEETING 4 11:45-1pm :
Review Bolles; Trinh
**Johannes Fabian, “Taking Stock: Anthropological Discourse and the Denial of Coevalness”**
Faye Harrison, “Anthropology as an Agent of Transformation” pp. 1-7, 9-10
**Faye Harrison, “Decolonizing Anthropology: A Conversation with Faye Harrison”: links to Part I and Part II**

**Week Six**
**Monday October 14**
**Reading Response may be submitted**: on “Queer Anthropology” Retrospectives

**Tuesday October 15**
**Seminar Attendance Optional this week**
Review “Queer Anthropology” Retrospectives; Harrison “Anthropology as an Agent of Transformation”; Allen and Jobson

**Read and finish this week**: *In Divided Unity*
Submit Revised Ethnography Assignment Proposal (to potentially begin research in Week 7)
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
Class Cancelled

Begin reading this week: Butch Queens Up in Pumps

Week Nine
Monday November 4
Reading Response may be submitted: on Butch Queens Up In Pumps

Tuesday November 5
Review Allen
Butch Queens Up In Pumps

Wednesday November 6
GRAD MEETING 6, 1-2:15 pm:
Discussion of Ethnographic Research and Paper

Submit Revised Ethnography Assignment Proposal (to potentially complete research in Week 10)

Week Ten
Week 10-11 Instructor Meeting to discuss Paper (appt times will be circulated)

Tuesday November 12
Review Visweswaran Ch. 6 (“Feminist Ethnography as Failure”)
Beatrice Medicine, from “Ella C. Deloria: The Emic Voice”
Janet L Finn, “Ella Clara Deloria and Mourning Dove”
Graciela Hernandez, “Multiple Subjectivities and Strategic Positionality”

Wednesday November 13
GRAD MEETING 5, 11:45-1pm:
** Your assigned ethnography

Week Eleven
Week 10-11 Instructor Meeting to discuss Paper (appt times will be circulated)

Tuesday November 19
Ethnography Assignment / Paper Presentations

Thursday November 21
Paper Summary Statement Due

Week Twelve
Tuesday November 26
No seminar meeting – work on Ethnography Assignment and Paper

Ethnography Assignment Materials Due Wednesday December 4 - Friday December 6
- Interview recording and coded transcript must be submitted
- Interpretive analysis of the interview may be submitted, or may follow with the paper

Paper Due between Monday December 16 - Wednesday December 18

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